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File No. 15427.23

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BY EMAIL & RESS
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Mr. Ritchie Murray
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, 27th floor
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Mr. Murray:

**Re: Entegrus Powerlines Inc. (“Entegrus”) 2026 Cost of Service Application
Ontario Energy Board (“OEB”) File No. EB-2025-0044
Interrogatory Responses and Confidentiality Request**

We represent Entegrus in the above noted matter. On October 14, 2025, the OEB revised Procedural Order No. 1 ordering Entegrus to file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories by November 26, 2025. Please find enclosed Entegrus’ responses to interrogatories from OEB Staff, the School Energy Coalition, and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition.

Generative artificial intelligence (GAI) was used to generate certain content included in this filing. The accuracy and completeness of all portions of the filing where GAI was used have been verified by EPI without the assistance of GAI.

The interrogatory responses include certain information that is confidential. Entegrus is hereby requesting confidential treatment of the information in the table below pursuant to section 10.01 and 10.02 of the OEB’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (revised November 13, 2025) and sections 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 of the OEB’s Practice Direction on Confidential Filings (revised December 17, 2021, “**Practice Direction**”).

Interrogatory / Description	Rationale Supporting Redaction
1-SEC-4 MEARIE Group Management Survey –	While Entegrus acknowledges there have been prior confidentiality decisions addressing confidentiality of prior MEARIE reports, those decisions appear to have pertained to a confidentiality request over the entire MEARIE report.

<p>Prepared by Eckler Ltd.</p>	<p>Entegrus has narrowed its request to the particularly sensitive confidential information.</p> <p>Notably, this report was prepared by Eckler Ltd. (“Eckler”), an independent actuarial and consulting firm that is not affiliated with any local distribution company (“LDC”). The Eckler Report contains sensitive and proprietary confidential information of Eckler.¹ As summarized in Appendix A of the Eckler Report, it was Eckler that collected data, conducted quality assurance, and aggregated information to publish statistics. Participants used Eckler’s proprietary survey framework in order to benchmark job profiles and survey data. Furthermore, it was Eckler that submitted all survey packages and contacted participants to verify the data provided.²</p> <p>Entegrus submits that the prejudice that will result to the economic interests of Eckler are not outweighed by the probative value of public disclosure of the information. Ratepayer representatives will have access to the confidential materials provided a declaration and undertaking is signed by the representative.</p> <p>Confidentiality concerns have come into greater focus now for Eckler with the emergence of generative artificial intelligence that is able to scrape the OEB’s public databases for information. Generative artificial intelligence may use the proprietary intellectual property in the Eckler Report to train the model and unjustly benefit from Eckler’s many years of experience.</p> <p>While Entegrus recognizes that the OEB’s Practice Direction states that placing materials on the public record is the rule, the Practice Direction has not been updated for 4 years and did not contemplate generative artificial intelligence. Entegrus submits that the OEB must exercise strict caution when determining what proprietary intellectual property is placed on the public record. Once disclosed, such information becomes susceptible to unrestricted use by generative artificial intelligence tools, which may appropriate and replicate the material in a manner that undermines and devalues the commercially-developed expertise of third parties. The OEB should therefore be vigilant to ensure that its processes do not inadvertently facilitate the erosion of commercially valuable intellectual property rights. For example, access to information at the Alberta Utilities Commission is through a login portal where access is managed by the regulator.</p> <p>It is in the interests of the OEB, utilities, and ratepayers to ensure the continued financial viability of the consulting sector. Without a sustainable market for expert services, the OEB risks diminishing its own ability to access the</p>
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¹ See page 56 of Eckler Report.

² See page 31 of Eckler Report.

	<p>independent, qualified expertise necessary to inform sound regulatory decision-making.</p> <p><u>Page 8 – List of Participants – Presumptively Confidential</u></p> <p>Eckler’s list of participants is a fundamental component of the underlying dataset that was used to survey, collect data, conduct quality assurance and aggregate the information to publish the statistics. Importantly, the confidential information was supplied to Eckler who is an independent third party corporation³ that is not subject to either the <i>Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i> or <i>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i>.</p> <p>Underlying customer datasets are clearly fundamental to Eckler’s analysis, as stated in the following by Eckler:</p> <p><i>“Understanding compensation, and specialized fields and industries can be very challenging. As a result, many sectors opt to conduct surveys that are specific to their own sector to obtain a clearer picture of the available talent in the market, and the cost of that talent. With high inflation, and a shrinking labour pools and emergence of hot skill in Canada for many professions, and a growing trend of needing to compete on a regional or even national level when work is remote/hybrid enabled, organizations are facing unprecedented challenges to attract, recruit, and retain talent.</i></p> <p><i>We have supported many organizations in developing programs that recognize workforces being a significant asset and designing total rewards programs and communications plans that better position their total rewards strategically. <u>In all our projects, our insights and program development are based upon reliable industry data which is a core deliverable of this project.</u>”</i> [Emphasis added]</p> <p>As noted in the passage above, disclosure of the underlying dataset of participant lists Eckler used to generate the statistics in the Eckler Report could also undermine the competitive position of Eckler. The Eckler Report was prepared for the distribution sector and businesses competitive to Eckler may be able to leverage the underlying dataset to their benefit.</p> <p><u>Pages 5-7, 28-30 & Appendix C – Benchmark Positions Survey Results – Presumptively Confidential</u></p> <p>At noted above it was Eckler, not MEARIE, that collected data, conducted quality assurance, and aggregated information to publish statistics.⁴ The Eckler Report expressly states that it contains commercially sensitive and proprietary</p>
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³ See page 54 of Eckler Report.

⁴ See page 31 of Eckler Report.

	<p>confidential information (including intellectual property rights). Indeed, the first page is clearly marked “Confidential and Proprietary”.</p> <p>The model output on pages 28 to 30 is based on a confidential description of the proprietary benchmark job models set out on pages 5-7 and Appendix C of the Eckler Report. Taken together, the detailed categorization of benchmark job tables, model description and model output are a proprietary model of Eckler qualifying for presumptively confidential treatment under section 7 of Appendix B of the Practice Direction.</p> <p>Furthermore, public disclosure of the model details could prejudice Eckler’s competitive position and produce a significant loss. Disclosure of model categorization and descriptions consists of a commercial and/or technical material that is consistently treated in a confidential manner by Eckler.</p>
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Yours truly,

BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS LLP



Colm Boyle

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