

EB-2024-0115

Hydro Ottawa Limited

Application for electricity distribution rates and other charges beginning January 1, 2026

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 5 December 3, 2025

Hydro Ottawa Limited (Hydro Ottawa) filed a custom incentive rate-setting application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on April 15, 2025, under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998, seeking approval for changes to the rates that Hydro Ottawa charges for electricity distribution, beginning January 1, 2026.

Procedural Order No. 4 issued October 23, 2025, provided for, among other things, a settlement conference, submission of a settlement proposal, OEB staff submission on a settlement proposal and a tentative date for presentation of any settlement proposal to the OEB.

A settlement conference was convened between Hydro Ottawa and intervenors on November 4, 2025, to November 13, 2025. On November 13, 2025, Hydro Ottawa filed a letter advising that a tentative substantial partial settlement had been reached. OEB staff attended but is not a party to the settlement proposal.

Interim Rates

By letter dated December 2, 2025, Hydro Ottawa requested the OEB declare Hydro Ottawa's current rates interim, effective January 1, 2026.¹

The OEB declares Hydro Ottawa's rates interim as of January 1, 2026. This determination is made without prejudice to the OEB's decision on Hydro Ottawa's application, and should not be construed as predictive of the OEB's final determination with regards to the effective date for Hydro Ottawa's rates arising from this application. Despite granting an interim rate order at this time, the OEB retains the discretion to set the effective date later than the date of the interim rate order. The OEB will ultimately set the effective date of the final rate order to whatever date it determines to result in just and reasonable rates.

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¹ HOL Interim Rate Request 20251202

Electric Vehicle Charging Rates

By letter dated December 2, 2025, Hydro Ottawa requested the OEB's guidance on its understanding of the implementation of the Electric Vehicle Charging Rate (EVC Rate). Hydro Ottawa understands that the EVC Rate would only be effective as of the implementation date, irrespective of the effective date for Hydro Ottawa's other rates.²

Retail Transmission Service Rate must be determined before (or in conjunction with) the new EVC Rate. As a result, Hydro Ottawa's understanding appears correct as the EVC Rate could only be effective as of the implementation date for Hydro Ottawa's other rates. If necessary, the OEB will address this issue when rates are approved on a final basis based on the complete record in this proceeding.

Settlement Proposal

By letter dated December 2, 2025, Hydro Ottawa requested an extension to the deadline date for filing a settlement proposal from December 2, 2025, to December 12, 2025, stating that the parties were working diligently on a settlement proposal, but could not meet the initial deadline date.³

The OEB has considered Hydro Ottawa's request. The OEB approves the extension to December 17, 2025, to provide parties with some additional time at this crucial stage in the settlement process, hopefully to avoid the need for another extension request. As the new date affects the remaining steps in Procedural Order No. 4, specifically any submission for OEB staff on a settlement proposal and Hydro Ottawa's settlement proposal presentation, the dates for these steps will also be extended.

Further procedural steps will be communicated to parties pending the outcome of the settlement process.

The OEB is making provision for the following related to this proceeding. Further procedural orders may be issued by the OEB.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

Interim Rates

1. Hydro Ottawa Limited's current Tariff of Rates and Charges is declared interim as of January 1, 2026, and until such time as a Final Rate Order is issued by the OEB.

² HOL Interim Rate Request 20251202

³ HOL Settlement Proposal Extension 20251202

Settlement Proposal

- 2. If there is a settlement, any settlement proposal arising from the settlement conference shall be filed with the OEB on or before **December 17, 2025**. In addition to outlining the terms of any settlement, the settlement proposal should contain a list of any unsettled issues, indicating with reasons whether the parties believe those issues should be dealt with by way of oral or written hearing.
- 3. Any submission from OEB staff on a settlement proposal shall be filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **January 7, 2026.**
- 4. The OEB is setting a tentative date of **January 14, 2026**, starting at 9:30 a.m. for Hydro Ottawa to present to the OEB any settlement proposal and a summary of any unsettled issues in the case.

Parties are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB, such as applicant and intervenor evidence, interrogatories and responses to interrogatories or any other type of document, **do not include personal information** (as that phrase is defined in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*), unless filed in accordance with rule 9A of the OEB's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Please quote file number, **EB-2024-0115** for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the <u>OEB's online</u> filing portal.

- Filings should clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number and e-mail address.
- Please use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the <u>Regulatory Electronic Submission System (RESS)</u> <u>Document Guidelines</u> found at the <u>File documents online page</u> on the OEB's website.
- Parties are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet <u>set up an account</u>, or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact <u>registrar@oeb.ca</u> for assistance.
- Cost claims are filed through the OEB's online filing portal. Please visit the <u>File documents online page</u> of the OEB's website for more information. All participants shall download a copy of their submitted cost claim and serve it on all required parties as per the <u>Practice Direction on Cost Awards</u>.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar and be received by 4:45 p.m., on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Margaret DeFazio at Margaret.DeFazio@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Michael Millar at Michael.Millar@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

DATED at Toronto, **December 3, 2025**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Ritchie Murray Acting Registrar