



Ontario  
Energy  
Board | Commission  
de l'énergie  
de l'Ontario

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# **DECISION AND ORDER**

**EB-2026-0007**

**HYDRO ONE NETWORKS INC.**

**Application for the extension of an interim distribution licence issued in relation to distribution assets serving the Cat Lake community and amendment to licence ED-2006-0181.**

**BY DELEGATION, BEFORE: Ceiran Bishop**  
Director  
Critical Initiatives

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**January 29, 2026**

## DECISION AND ORDER

### 1. Introduction

This is a Decision and Order of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on an application filed on January 14, 2026, under section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) by Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) (Application) seeking the following relief:

- (a) Extension of the term of interim electricity distribution licence ED-2006-0181, which is set to expire on January 31, 2026, and an additional request to extend the term to a minimum of one year and preferably five years;
- (b) Modification of the interim electricity distribution licence ED-2006-0181 with respect to restrictions on the provision of information, specifically to permit customer information disclosure in certain circumstances.

This Decision and Order is being issued under delegated authority without a hearing pursuant to section 6(4) of the OEB Act.

The OEB amends the interim electricity distribution licence ED-2006-0181 to extend the term of the licence until July 31, 2026. For the reasons set out below, Hydro One's request for a longer extension of the term of its interim electricity distribution licence and the inclusion of a licence condition regarding restrictions on the provision of information are denied.

### 2. Background

Hydro One holds an interim licence issued by the OEB under section 59(2) of the OEB Act under which Hydro One has possession and control over the distribution assets that serve the Cat Lake community, specifically the deemed distribution assets owned by Cat Lake Power Utility Ltd. (Cat Lake Power) and the distribution assets in the Cat Lake community owned by the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation. The interim licence was first issued by the OEB on July 21, 2006 (proceeding EB-2006-0180), and its term has since been amended and extended as described in Appendix 1.

### 3. Application

In the Application, Hydro One provided the OEB with a written update on the status of its operations under the interim licence. Hydro One reported that it and Hydro One Remote Communities Inc. (HORCI) are continuing to work with the Cat Lake community and other stakeholders on various transfer issues, and that Hydro One has intended to

file an application to enable its purchase of the transmission assets (which have been deemed distribution assets) owned by Cat Lake Power.

Given the ongoing discussions and unclear timing on resolution, Hydro One requested that the OEB extend the term of its interim licence, ED-2006-0181. Further, Hydro One has requested the OEB to consider extending the term of the licence to a minimum of one year, and preferably five years. Hydro One noted that it has held the licence for approximately twenty years, and that it has required approximately sixty extension applications, reviews and approvals by the OEB over this term. Hydro One stated further that the duration of the interim licence will not have any effect on its and HORCI's efforts to achieve an agreement for the transfer of Cat Lake Power assets, and is intended to support industry aims of achieving regulatory efficiency.

Further, Hydro One requested to amend its interim electricity distribution licence regarding restrictions on the provision of information. Specifically, Hydro One requested that a condition be included that permits disclosure of customer information akin to the conditions found within HORCI's electricity distribution licence:

*“The Licensee shall not disclose information regarding a consumer, retailer, wholesaler or generator to any other party without the written consent of the consumer, retailer, wholesaler or generator, except where such information is required to be disclosed:*

*a) to a debt collection, band council or government agency for the processing of past due accounts of the consumer, retailer, wholesaler or generator.”*

Hydro One has stated that this relief is required to “support the necessary account maintenance activities, customer verification, and to support resolving outstanding arrears.” Hydro One stated further that this provision applies only to customers of Cat Lake and that it will confirm Cat Lake Power's acceptance and submit supporting correspondence at a later date.

#### **4. Decision**

The OEB is satisfied that Hydro One's management and operation of the distribution assets supplying the Cat Lake community and the associated businesses will help ensure the continued reliability of supply to consumers in that community.

The OEB finds it necessary and in the public interest to extend the term of Hydro One's interim licence to ensure the continuity of reliable electricity supply to consumers in the community of Cat Lake.

Regarding Hydro One's request that the term of the interim licence be for a minimum of one year and preferably for five years, this request is denied. Section 59(9) of the OEB Act states that "[A]n order made or licence issued under this section expires six months after it is made or issued unless the Board orders that it be extended." Hydro One's application does not include any information supporting that the OEB has the authority under section 59 to extend an interim licence for a term longer than six months. As such, the term of the licence is extended until July 31, 2026.

Regarding the request by Hydro One with respect to customer information disclosure, the OEB is of the view that the Application does not provide sufficient grounds to demonstrate that the proposed amendment would be in the public interest, and therefore the OEB denies the request. The Application does not provide sufficient information about how the proposed licence condition would support account maintenance activities, customer verification or support resolving outstanding arrears. There is insufficient information about the benefit or need to disclose information to "band council and government" agencies for the processing of past due accounts. No supporting correspondence from the Cat Lake community regarding this provision has been provided.

Should Hydro One provide further information in a future application for the proposed licence condition, the OEB will consider such information. Further, Hydro One is reminded that any request for a material change to its interim electricity distribution licence must be submitted with sufficient time prior to the expiry of the licence for the OEB to review and process it.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The term of interim electricity distribution licence ED-2006-0181 is extended to July 31, 2026. The interim electricity distribution licence set out in Appendix 1 is effective as of January 29, 2026.
2. Hydro One Networks Inc.'s request for extension of the licence term for a minimum of one year and a preferred term of five years is denied.
3. Hydro One Networks Inc.'s request to include a condition on restrictions on provision of information in the interim electricity distribution licence ED-2006-0181 is denied.
4. Hydro One Networks Inc. is to continue to remain in possession and control of the deemed distribution assets owned by Cat Lake Power Utility Ltd. and the distribution assets in the Cat Lake community that are owned by the Ontario

Electricity Financial Corporation and continue to comply with the provisions of the interim licence set out in Appendix 1.

5. Hydro One Networks Inc. is to continue collecting revenue from the customers in the Cat Lake community based on the applicable rates.
6. Hydro One Networks Inc. is to continue keeping track of revenues from the customers in the Cat Lake community and of the costs of operation and maintenance of the distribution assets in a deferral account (under the Uniform System of Accounts). Such account will be reviewed in a future rate proceeding. The OEB will determine at that point the cost responsibility in the event of a shortfall and the mechanism for that shortfall recovery.
7. Cat Lake Power Utility Ltd. is to continue surrendering possession and control of the deemed distribution assets and associated business. Cat Lake Power Utility Ltd. is not entitled to any compensation from the Crown, the OEB or any person for having surrendered possession and control of its deemed distribution assets and business.
8. Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation is to continue surrendering possession and control of the distribution assets and associated business serving the community of Cat Lake. The Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation is not entitled to any compensation from the Crown, the OEB or any person for having surrendered possession and control of its distribution assets and business.

**DATED** at Toronto January 29, 2026

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Ceirán Bishop  
Director, Critical Initiatives