



GrandBridge Energy Inc.

**Application for funding for Non-Wires Solution Program beginning
May 1, 2026**

**DECISION ON CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 2
February 27, 2026**

GrandBridge Energy Inc. (GrandBridge Energy) filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on December 1, 2025 under section 78(3) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B) seeking approval for funding its Non-Wires Solutions (NWS) program beginning May 1, 2026.

[Procedural Order No. 1](#) was issued on January 21, 2026, which among other things, established the proceeding schedule.

Request for Confidential Treatment of an Interrogatory Response

On February 17, 2025, GrandBridge Energy filed its interrogatory responses. In response to OEB Staff 7.a, GrandBridge Energy included a [letter from GridS2](#)¹ (Letter) requesting confidential treatment for specific portions of the Network Analysis Report, April 2025 (the Report). The Letter included a table outlining the references and rationale supporting the request for redactions to certain sections of the Report.

The Letter stated that the identified pages and sections of the Report should be redacted and held confidential because they fall primarily under Appendix B, Category 7 of the Practice Direction², as it constitutes the "underlying dataset and/or model of a consultant retained by a party". The Letter also indicates such in the following statement:

The tables, figures and analysis shown represents the core proprietary sensitivity modeling for Preston, Galt, and MTS1 TS. Full redaction is necessary to prevent competitors from reverse-engineering GridS2's methodology

¹ GridS2 is a third-party vendor. GBE engaged GridS2 to provide a turnkey technical solution for the design and technology platform of its NWS Program. Application, p.41.

² Ibid.

A redacted version of the interrogatory response was filed on the public record of this proceeding and un-redacted versions of the documents were filed confidentially with the OEB pursuant to the OEB's *Practice Direction on Confidential Filings* (Practice Direction).³

Submission on the Confidential Request

On February 23, 2026, OEB staff submitted that it has no concerns with GrandBridge Energy's proposed redactions. OEB staff also stated that "based on the reasons stated and the proposed redactions, OEB staff is satisfied that GrandBridge Energy's redaction request is consistent with the Practice Direction".⁴ No other party filed a submission.

Findings

The OEB finds that the redacted information is commercially sensitive and grants GrandBridge Energy's request for confidential treatment based on the considerations set out in the Practice Direction at Appendix A(a)(i) and (iii) and Appendix B, Category 7.

Extension Requests to File Submissions

In Procedural Order No. 1, the OEB indicated that OEB staff and Intervenors may file submissions on the application by March 3, 2026 and GrandBridge Energy may file a reply submission on March 17, 2026.

On February 23, 2026, School Energy Coalition filed a letter with the OEB on its own behalf, as well as on behalf of each of the other participating intervenors, the Concerned Manufacturers and Businesses of Canada, Environmental Defence, and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (collectively, the "Intervenors").

The letter requested that the date for intervenor submissions be extended by at least one week after the filing of OEB staff submissions. The letter stated that the GrandBridge Energy application is the first stand-alone application for NWS funding, and the first to apply the new Margin of Payment provisions of the Distribution System Code. As a result of these factors, among others, there is a significant policy component to this application. The Intervenors indicated that it would be helpful to understand the perspective of OEB staff before filing their own submissions, so that they may consider and engage with it in theirs.

³ Ontario Energy Board, [Practice Direction on Confidential Filings](#), December 17, 2021.

⁴ EB-2025-0265, [OEB staff Submission of Confidentiality](#), February 23, 2026.

On February 24, 2026, OEB staff filed a letter with the OEB and stated that this is the first application the OEB has received for a Margin on Payments incentive, and it engages significant policy considerations. OEB staff requested additional time to review applicant interrogatory responses and prepare a submission. OEB staff requested an extension of 2 weeks to file its submission to March 17, 2026. If the request is granted, OEB staff recommended that GrandBridge Energy's reply submission be due March 31, 2026. OEB staff stated that based on the application⁵ and the interrogatory response⁶, it was of the view that a 2-week extension would not negatively impact the NWS program, even if the OEB's decision were not issued in time for the planned May 1, 2026 NWS program implementation date.

On February 24, 2026, GrandBridge Energy filed a letter with the OEB and requested that the case schedule remain the same as specified in Procedural Order No. 1. GrandBridge Energy stated that maintaining the case schedule is important in light of the implications of the requested extensions for the 2026 NWS program implementation timeline.

GrandBridge Energy stated that under the proposed extended schedule, it would not receive a decision on the application with sufficient time to complete the critical capacity auction steps, including to issue and execute participant agreements prior to the commencement of the 2026 obligation period. Any reduction or deferral of that obligation period would, in turn, reduce and delay the anticipated customer benefits associated with the NWS program during the 2026 summer peak. GrandBridge Energy also highlighted potential funding issues with Natural Resources Canada if there is a delay in the issuance of the decision.

On February 25, 2026, the OEB issued a letter to GrandBridge Energy seeking additional information by February 26, 2026. On February 26, 2026, GrandBridge Energy filed its response to the letter.

Findings

The OEB agrees with OEB staff and Intervenors that this application is the first received regarding Margin on Payments and additional time is required to review the evidence and policy considerations. The OEB sees merit in the Intervenors request to have OEB staff file its submission in advance of Intervenor submissions.

⁵ Application, p.5.

⁶ OEB Staff-2b.

The OEB grants an extension to file submissions to **March 10, 2026**, for OEB staff and **March 17, 2026**, for Intervenors. GrandBridge Energy may file a written reply submission by **March 31, 2026**.

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:

1. The request by GrandBridge Energy Inc. for confidentiality and redaction of its interrogatory response to OEB Staff 7.a is granted.
2. Any written submission by OEB staff shall be filed with the OEB and served on GrandBridge Energy Inc. and intervenors by **March 10, 2026**.
3. Any written submission by intervenors shall be filed with the OEB and served on GrandBridge Energy Inc. and intervenors by **March 17, 2026**.
4. GrandBridge Energy Inc. may file a written reply submission with the OEB and serve it on intervenors and OEB staff by **March 31, 2026**.

Direction for preparing materials

- 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](#).
- Filings should clearly state the filing date and the sender's name, postal address, telephone number and e-mail address.
- Other than for applications or as otherwise required or directed by the OEB, parties are not required to submit a cover letter for materials that are self-evident (e.g., interrogatories, submissions) unless the cover letter includes a request or additional information not included in the materials themselves.
- Parties are strongly encouraged to use bookmarks in their filings to aid in navigation.
- Parties should not append to their evidence entire OEB documents (e.g., decisions, policy documents, guidelines). Rather, parties should provide citations

to the documents and a clear and concise summary of the relevant part(s) of the document. Parties are encouraged to use hyperlinks for complete, permanent, and publicly available versions of the documents, when possible.

- Parties should refrain from quoting material from documents unless it is essential to support their interrogatories or arguments.
- Parties are not required to provide a summary of the procedural history of a proceeding but may refer to that history where and to the extent needed for context to orient an issue or discussion.
- Parties must: (a) disclose where generative artificial intelligence was used to generate content included in a filing and (b) confirm that the accuracy of the portion of the filing generated by generative artificial intelligence has been verified by the party or its representative without the assistance of generative artificial intelligence.

How to file documents with the OEB

- Parties are required to quote file number **EB-2025-0265** for all materials filed and submit them in **searchable/unrestricted PDF format** (i.e., no printing or copying restrictions) with a digital signature through the [OEB's online filing portal](#).
- Parties should use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the [Regulatory Electronic Submission System \(RESS\) Document Guidelines](#) found at the [File documents online page](#) on the OEB's website.
- Parties are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet [set up an account](#), or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact registrar@oeb.ca for assistance.
- Cost claims are filed through the OEB's online filing portal. Parties are encouraged to visit the [File documents online page](#) of the OEB's website for more information. Parties that are eligible for a cost award and that do not currently have an account in the cost claim portal should create an account as soon as their cost award eligibility has been confirmed by the OEB. All parties shall download a copy of their submitted cost claim for the purposes of service on the party(ies) paying cost awards as per the [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).
- 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, Michael Bell at Michael.Bell@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, **February 27, 2026**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Ritchie Murray
Acting Registrar