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**BY EMAIL**

April 6, 2026

Ritchie Murray  
Registrar  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4  
[Registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:Registrar@oeb.ca)

Dear Mr. Murray:

**Re: Ontario Energy Board (OEB) Staff Submission on Confidentiality  
Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One)  
Leave to Construct and Expropriation Application – Welland-Thorold  
Project  
OEB File Number: EB-2025-0290**

Please find attached OEB staff's submission in the above referenced proceeding, pursuant to the OEB's Practice Direction on Confidential Filings, section 5.1.6.

Yours truly,

Katherine Wang  
Senior Advisor, Transmission

Encl.

cc: All parties in EB-2025-0290



# **ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

## **OEB Staff Submission on Confidentiality**

**Hydro One Networks Inc.**

**Leave to Construct and Expropriation Application – Welland-  
Thorold Project**

**EB-2025-0290**

**April 6, 2026**

## Introduction

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) applied to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on November 18, 2025 under section 92 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 (OEB Act) for an order granting leave to construct approximately 18.5 kilometres of electricity transmission line and associated facilities between Abitibi Consolidated Junction and Crowland Transformer Station in the Niagara area (Welland-Thorold Project or the Project). Hydro One has also applied to the OEB, pursuant to section 97 of the OEB Act, for approval of the form of land-use agreements offered, or to be offered, to affected landowners.

Hydro One further indicated in its application that if leave to construct is granted, it is also requesting relief under section 99(1) of the OEB Act for an order granting authority to expropriate certain interest in lands. In Procedural Order No. 2, dated March 5, 2026, the OEB ordered that the proceeding be bifurcated. Phase 1 of this proceeding will address leave to construct relief. Phase 2, the expropriation part of this proceeding, will be placed into abeyance, and will proceed if the OEB grants Hydro One leave to construct relief in Phase 1. Currently, Phase 1 of this proceeding is underway.

Procedural Order No. 2 also set out a timeline for the interrogatory process. Hydro One was required to file its responses to all interrogatories by March 26, 2026. On March 26, 2026, Hydro One submitted interrogatory responses. On March 30, 2026, Hydro One re-filed its interrogatory responses with updated documents.

In a letter dated March 26, 2026<sup>1</sup> (re-filed on March 30, 2026 with the updated materials), Hydro One requested that certain information contained in its responses to OEB Staff Interrogatory #8 - Attachment 1, and OEB Staff Interrogatory #11 (f), (g), (i), (j) and (k) be kept confidential, pursuant to the OEB's Practice Direction on Confidential Filings (Practice Direction) and the OEB's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules). Hydro One provided a table setting out the basis and rationale for the confidentiality request.

In the March 26, 2026 letter, Hydro One also proposed that the confidential versions of the aforementioned interrogatory responses be "disclosed to only counsel for OEB Staff from whom the OEB accepts a Declaration and Undertaking."

## OEB Staff Submission

OEB staff submits that it has no concerns with Hydro One's proposed confidential

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<sup>1</sup> EB-2025-0290, [Hydro One's Letter to the OEB](#), dated March 26, 2026

treatment of information contained in its responses to OEB Staff Interrogatory #8 - Attachment 1 and OEB Staff Interrogatory #11(f), (g), (i), (j) and (k). However, OEB staff wishes to address Hydro One's request that these interrogatory responses be "disclosed to only counsel for OEB Staff from whom the OEB accepts a Declaration and Undertaking."

It not clear to OEB staff whether Hydro One is proposing that the proposed confidential information only be accessible to OEB counsel, if they sign an Undertaking, and that other OEB staff, OEB commissioners and counsels for intervenors would not have access to the confidential information. Thus, OEB staff requests Hydro One to provide clarification on its proposal for disclosure of confidential information in its reply submission.

In any event, OEB staff also notes that according to section 6.1.1 of the Practice Direction, the OEB generally expects that confidential information should be disclosed to persons within one of the categories set out in section 6.1.2 that have signed the OEB's form of Declaration and Undertaking. The categories set out in section 6.1.2 are: (a) counsel for a party; and (b) an expert or consultant for a party. Section 6.1.2 provides further that the OEB will accept a Declaration and Undertaking from a person in either of these categories except where there are compelling reasons for not doing so.

~All of which is respectfully submitted~