



Hydro One Networks Inc.

**Application for leave to construct an electricity
transmission line and to expropriate interests in certain
lands in the Municipalities of Welland, Thorold and the
City of Niagara**

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 3

April 6, 2026

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.

On February 6, 2026, the OEB issued Procedural Order No. 1 (PO #1) which, among other things, provided for comments on the OEB's standard Issues Lists for electricity leave to construct and expropriation applications and whether the expropriation relief sought by Hydro One should be part of the scope of the application. PO #1 also granted intervenor status to 2853918 Ontario Inc. (2853918), the Corporation of the City of Welland (City of Welland) and Futecan Canada Inc. (Futecan).

On March 5, 2026, the OEB issued Scope of Proceeding, Decision on Issues List and Procedural Order No. 2 (PO #2). The OEB addressed the following main matters in PO #2:

- The OEB bifurcated the application into two phases. The scope of Phase 1 is limited to issues with respect to leave to construct the Project. If leave to construct is granted, Phase 2 will address Hydro One's expropriation request. The OEB determined that Phase 2 of the application be placed in abeyance, and Phase 2 will proceed¹ if the OEB grants Hydro One leave to construct relief.
- Decision on the Issues List for Phase 1 of this proceeding.
- Further procedural steps for Phase 1, including provision for intervenors wishing to file evidence to file a description of the evidence they intend to file, and provision for written interrogatories and responses to interrogatories.

On March 12, 2026, OEB staff and Futecon filed interrogatories related to Phase 1 of the application. Hydro One provided responses to the interrogatories on March 26, 2026.²

As part of its interrogatory responses, Hydro One filed a letter to the OEB requesting confidential treatment of its responses to OEB Staff Interrogatory #8 - Attachment 1 and OEB Staff Interrogatory #11(f), (g), (i), (j) and (k).³ The OEB will issue a decision on Hydro One's confidentiality request soon.

Next Steps

At this time, the OEB is making provision for written submissions in respect of Phase 1 of this proceeding. Further procedural orders may be issued by the OEB.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. OEB staff and intervenors shall file their written submissions with the OEB and serve them on all parties by **April 22, 2026**.
2. Hydro One shall file its reply submission with the OEB and serve it on intervenors by **May 6, 2026**.

¹ As stated in PO #2, at that time and as a matter of procedural fairness, Hydro One will be provided an opportunity to confirm their intention to pursue expropriation relief and, if they so choose, also to confirm the status of their application, having regard for the outcome of the leave to construct decision.

² Hydro One filed revised version of interrogatory responses on March 30, 2026.

³ EB-2025-0290, [Hydro One's Letter to the OEB](#), dated March 26, 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 (i.e., **EB-2025-0290**) 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, Katherine Wang at Katherine.Wang@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Stephanie Pope at Stephanie.Pope@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

DATED at Toronto, **April 6, 2026**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Ritchie Murray
Registrar