

Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.

**Application for electricity distribution rates and other
charges effective May 1, 2026**

**DECISION ON CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 3
April 29, 2026**

Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. (Lakeland Power) filed an incentive rate-setting mechanism application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on October 9, 2025, under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, seeking approval for changes to its electricity distribution rates to be effective May 1, 2026. Lakeland Power also applied for approval of two Z-factor fixed rate riders, one related to a severe ice storm that occurred between March 29 and March 30, 2025, and the other related to a lightning storm that occurred on June 13, 2024.

On March 31, 2026, the OEB issued a Partial Decision and Order, deferring its determination on Lakeland Power's Z-factor claims. The OEB indicated that a decision regarding the Z-factor claims, and any requirement for mitigation, would be issued in due course.

The OEB is issuing this Procedural Order in order to seek clarification from Lakeland Power on certain matters relating to Lakeland Power's Z-factor requests, and to render the OEB's decision on Lakeland Power's January 23, 2026 confidentiality request.

Decision on Confidentiality Request

Lakeland Power filed a letter with the OEB, dated January 23, 2026, requesting confidential treatment of specific information included in the utility's response to interrogatories filed by OEB staff. In its letter, Lakeland Power provided a table that included references, general descriptions of the information, and rationale for the requested redactions for portions of interrogatory responses to OEB Staff 7, 10(b), and 14(h).

Lakeland Power requested confidential treatment for the redactions in its response to OEB Staff 7, submitting that portions of its Emergency Response Plan (ERP), namely Appendices 3A-3E, are not relevant to the OEB's assessment of issues within this proceeding, and that disclosure of certain maps could affect the security of details of the ERP.

For OEB Staff 10(b) and 14(h), Lakeland Power submitted that the pricing information in invoices and / or quotes from its third-party contractors is presumptively confidential under sections 1 and 2 of Appendix B in the OEB's *Practice Direction on Confidential Filings* (Practice Direction). Further, Lakeland Power noted that the redacted information pertains to quotes regarding the replacement or repair of a transformer which were supplied by vendors on the basis that the quote contains proprietary information and may not be disclosed without written permission from the vendor.

No objection to the confidentiality request was filed by either OEB staff or intervenors.

Findings

The OEB approves the confidentiality request as filed. The OEB finds that the redacted information should be treated confidentially as the redactions in the ERP are not relevant to the OEB's assessment of issues within this proceeding, and that disclosure of certain maps may affect the security details of Lakeland Power's ERP. Further, the OEB finds that the redacted portions of OEB Staff 10(b) and 14(h) contain pricing information that is presumptively confidential. In accordance with Appendix B of the Practice Direction, the OEB finds that such information shall be treated as confidential.

Clarification on Further Matters Regarding the Lightning Z-factor Claim

To assist the OEB in making its decision on the Z-factor claims, provision is being made for further clarification from Lakeland Power on the following matters related to its Z-factor claim for the lightning storm:

1. Please provide a breakdown of the difference between Lakeland Power owning the rental transformer versus renting the transformer.
2. Please identify and provide commentary on the financial constraints that prevented Lakeland Power from buying the transformer, instead of Bracebridge Generation purchasing the transformer.

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. Lakeland Power Inc. shall file written responses to the questions set out in this Procedural Order with the OEB and serve them on all intervenors by May 11, 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-2025-0024**) 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, Kelli Benincasa at Kelli.Benincasa@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Julia Nowicki at Julia.Nowicki@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

DATED at Toronto, **April 29, 2026**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Ritchie Murray
Registrar