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June 25, 2026

EB-2024-0115 Hydro Ottawa 2026-2030 Custom Rate Application
Pollution Probe Cost Claim Reply

Dear Mr. Murray:

In accordance with OEB direction, the following are Pollution Probe's reply comments to the Ottawa Hydro comments on the Pollution Probe Cost Claim. Pollution Probe reviewed the analysis undertaken by Hydro Ottawa in its comments provided. The comparisons and analysis includes significant errors and extrapolations which are not relevant to Pollution Probe's Cost Claim. Pollution Probe submits that when it's individual Cost Claim is considered based on the corrected and relevant information, it is reasonable and should be approved as filed.

Each intervenor claim stands on its own merits and the details included in Pollution Probe's Cost Claim demonstrate responsible and efficient participation in the proceeding in accordance with all OEB direction provided. Small time variances in specific sub-activities between intervenors should be expected since intervenors and their consultants may split time between those sub-activities in slightly different manners. Overall, those difference balance out when viewing the cost claim as a whole.

Ottawa Hydro (Table 2¹) suggested a 9% decrease to the Pollution Probe Cost Claim, without actually providing any replicable calculation to show how it arrived at that estimated number. It appears that Table 1 influenced Hydro Ottawa's thinking, but Table 1 (and subsequent tables) includes some significant errors and adjustment made by Hydro Ottawa, that does not actually reflect Pollution Probe's Cost Claim.

The first error is in Hydro Ottawa's attempt to compare this proceeding to the previous proceeding five years ago. The OEB correctly handles each proceeding as discrete based on the specific details of that proceeding and this is for good reason; every proceeding is unique. The context, scope, process, budgets, approval requests, timing and issues in this proceeding do not

¹ HOL_Letter_Cost_Awards__20260618, Table 2.

compare to the 2021-2025 Hydro Ottawa proceeding. This proceeding was larger and more complex due to many factors including: larger Capital/OM&A budget request, a new custom IR proposal, an extended settlement process, more significant issues not settled by parties, an oral hearing (vs. a written process for one minor issue), incremental requests (including non-wires projects), etc. Hydro Ottawa explicitly recognized that the unsettled issues in the 2026-2030 application were more significant than in the past, ultimately resulting in an oral hearing and a substantial post-settlement written process².

Pollution Probe participated in the 2021-2025 Ottawa Hydro Rates proceeding five years ago. Pollution Probe's Cost Claim for this proceeding is \$39,951 (\$36,104 including HST), which is not much different from the OEB approved Cost Claim from five years ago (\$42,100 including HST), despite the larger scope of this proceeding. When adjusted for the current OEB inflation adjustment intervenor rate (\$395/hr vs. \$330/hr for the previous proceeding), Pollution Probe's relative costs were even lower for this proceeding. Hydro Ottawa did not make any of the required adjustments when comparing Pollution Probe's costs in Table 1 and mistakenly compared Pollution Probe historical costs against the sum of two intervenor cost claims for comparison purposes.

Hydro Ottawa provided a table (Table 4) as an attempt to show a comparison of hours spent in the proceeding up to the settlement process. Hydro Ottawa consolidated CAFES Ottawa and Pollution Probe cost claims for purposes of comparison, even though CAFES Ottawa was not a participant in the previous proceeding being used for comparison. This over-inflated all the analysis Hydro Ottawa conducted for Pollution Probe. Pollution Probe's Cost Claim should be assessed as an individual OEB approved intervenor, not modified in an asymmetrical manner. Pollution Probe's hours claim up to settlement (per the time docket submitted) are 44.75 hours (not 149 hours as noted by Hydro Ottawa), which is the lowest of all intervenors listed in Table 4. The same applies to Table 5 which used the same incorrect information carried over from Table 4.

Table 6 in the Hydro Ottawa letter was meant to compare intervenor questions in comparison to the 2021-2025 proceeding. It is quite reasonable to expect greater number of questions on Hydro Ottawa's current application since the scale and scope was materially larger than the 2021-2025 Hydro Ottawa application. As noted above, Pollution Probe submits that comparing this proceeding to a separate proceeding five years ago is not relevant, useful or appropriate. Errors occur in the information used by Hydro Ottawa for Table 6, as well. Pollution Probe submitted 18 interrogatories (67% lower than the incorrectly inflated value used by Hydro Ottawa for its analysis).

A fundamental issue in Hydro Ottawa's analysis is the combination of Pollution Probe and CAFES Ottawa into one approved intervenor in this proceeding. This is contrary to Procedural Order No. 1 which approved each intervenor participating in the proceeding. Hydro Ottawa notes in its letter that it's analysis relates to the individual costs submitted by each approved

² HOL_Letter_Cost_Awards__20260618, page 4.

intervenor, but then did not use that approach to assess Pollution Probe's individual Cost Claim. If Hydro Ottawa believed that any intervenors should not have been approved as an individual intervenor, those submissions should have been made prior to the issuance of Procedural Order No. 1, not during review of the cost claims for the proceeding. The only condition that the OEB noted for Pollution Probe was³:

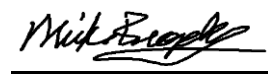
In making its decision on cost awards, the OEB will consider whether the representatives of CAFES Ottawa and Pollution Probe made reasonable efforts to avoid duplication and double billing. When submitting their cost claims, CAFES Ottawa and Pollution Probe should explain how they coordinated efforts in this proceeding, or if not, why that was not appropriate in their view.

Pollution Probe met all OEB conditions and Pollution Probe's coordination with a common consultant used by CAFES Ottawa led to efficiencies detailed in our Cost Claim. Pollution Probe's Cost Claim was 84 hours less than it would have been if cost sharing was not used. Stated another way, had Pollution Probe not used the same consultant as CAFES Ottawa, the Cost Claim would have been 84 hours greater than submitted⁴.

Pollution Probe's Cost Claim is reasonable and significantly lower than the average claim illustrated by Hydro Ottawa⁵. Pollution Probe submits that we acted responsibly in relation to all activities where costs have been claimed and in accordance with OEB direction in this proceeding. We request that our Cost Claim be approved as filed.

Should any additional information be required, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Pollution Probe.



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³ PO1_Hydro Ottawa_2026 CoS_20250603, page 2.

⁴ E.g. 191 + 84 = 275 hours without efficiencies.

⁵ HOL_Letter_Cost_Awards__20260618, Table 1.