Ontario Energy Board | Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario

EB-2026-0051

Hydro Ottawa Limited

Application for electricity distribution rates and other charges beginning January 1, 2027

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1
October 20, 2026

Hydro Ottawa Limited **(**Hydro Ottawa**)** filed a custom incentive rate-setting application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on August 14, 2026**,** under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act***,** *1998*, seeking approval for changes to the rates that Hydro Ottawa charges for electricity distribution, beginning January 1, 2027. This application seeks to update revenue to cost ratios**,** including the 2027 Cost Allocation Model and related revenue-to-cost ratio adjustments for Streetlighting and Unmetered Scattered Load classes. It also requests approvals related to deferral and variance accounts**,** including approval of the use of 1595 sub accounts and the disposition of various Group 1 account balances**.**

A Case Management letter was issued by OEB staff regarding this application on September 14, 2026**.** That letter was subsequently rescinded, and the application was assigned to a panel of Commissioners because it includes proposed revenue-to-cost ratio adjustments that require panel adjudication**.**

This Procedural Order is being issued by the Registrar under delegated authority, pursuant to section 6 of the OEB Act. The application will be heard by commissioners: Allison Duff (presiding), David Sword, and Robert Dodds**.**

A Notice of Hearing was issued on September 25, 2026*.* As indicated in the Notice, the deadline to file a request for intervenor status was October 13, 2026.

Intervention Requests

Building Owners and Managers Association Ottawa (BOMA Ottawa) and Pollution Probe applied for intervenor status and cost eligibility. Pollution Probe's request for intervenor status also included a proposal to coordinate their intervention with input from Community Action for Environmental Sustainability Ottawa (CAFES Ottawa) during the proceeding, as appropriate.

Both BOMA Ottawa and Pollution Probe cited consumer impacts as issues relevant to their intervention. Pollution Probe additionally cited policy issues, including its involvement as a party to Hydro Ottawa's five-year Custom Incentive Rate-setting (Custom IR) plan and Approved Settlement Agreement, upon which this Year 2 rate update is based. Neither BOMA Ottawa nor Pollution Probe intends to file any evidence.

Hydro Ottawa's Submission on Interventor Requests

On October 14, 2026, Hydro Ottawa filed a letter responding to the intervention requests. Hydro Ottawa advised that it does not object to the requests for intervenor status or cost award eligibility. However, Hydro Ottawa noted that this proceeding is limited to a Year 2 rate update under its approved Custom IR plan and questioned whether the issues identified by the proposed intervenors are sufficiently connected to the scope of the application.

Hydro Ottawa further stated that neither Pollution Probe nor BOMA Ottawa identified specific issues arising from the proposed rate update or rate design changes. Hydro Ottawa also sought clarification regarding the participation of CAFES Ottawa, noting that Pollution Probe had indicated it would coordinate input with that organization, but no intervention request had been filed by CAFES Ottawa. Hydro Ottawa suggested that CAFES Ottawa file either a separate or joint intervention request with Pollution Probe.

BOMA Ottawa's Response to Hydro Ottawa's Submission

BOMA Ottawa clarified that it is seeking intervenor status on behalf of its members, who are customers of Hydro Ottawa and will be directly affected by the rates established by the outcome of the 2027 rates proceeding. BOMA Ottawa emphasized that its participation would focus on the 2027 Cost Allocation Model, revenue-to-cost ratios, annual adjustments, and the resulting rates for commercial customers and submitted that it will participate in a focused and efficient manner.

Pollution Probe's Response to Hydro Ottawa's Submission

Pollution Probe submitted that its participation would remain within the scope of Hydro Ottawa Ltd.'s 2027 rate application. While Pollution Probe has explored the possibility of coordinating its participation with CAFES Ottawa to promote efficiency, it is not opposed to participating as a separate intervenor if that is the OEB's preference. Pollution Probe also indicated that it remains willing to coordinate with CAFES Ottawa should the OEB determine that a joint approach would better support an efficient proceeding.

CAFES Ottawa's Intervention Request

CAFES Ottawa filed an intervention request on October 15, 2026. In its request, it cited direct consumer interest in this proceeding, as it represents the interests of members of the Ottawa community that will be directly impacted from a collective financial perspective due to the outcomes of this proceeding. Despite their request, CAFES Ottawa stated in the cover letter that it remains willing to coordinate with Pollution Probe, as initially proposed.

Decision on Intervention Requests

Rule 22.02 of the OEB's *Rules of Practice and Procedure* provides that a person applying for intervenor status must satisfy the OEB that they have a substantial interest and intend to participate responsibly in the proceeding. Rule 22.02 provides further that a person has a substantial interest if they have a material interest that is within the scope of the proceeding. Examples of such a material interest include primarily representing the direct interests of consumers; primarily representing an interest or policy perspective relevant to the OEB's mandate and to the proceeding; and having an interest in land that may be affected by the outcome of the proceeding.

The OEB also assesses intervention requests in light of the scope of the proceeding. As a Year 2 rate update, the OEB agrees with Hydro Ottawa's submission that the scope of the issues in this case is quite narrow. However, the OEB notes that the policy and direct consumer interests cited by the requesters meet the substantial interest requirement, that the requestors have made best efforts to limit and combine the scope of their interventions, and that each requestor has explicitly limited the scope of their application to matters at issue in this specific application, including ensuring adherence to the agreed-upon rate design update. The OEB also notes that Hydo Ottawa has not objected to the intervention requests or cost eligibility. BOMA Ottawa and Pollution Probe are therefore approved as intervenors.

The OEB has determined that CAFES Ottawa is approved as an intervenor and shall coordinate its participation through Pollution Probe rather than participate as a separate intervenor in this proceeding. Where possible and appropriate, interested parties should combine their intervention with that of one or more similarly interested parties. In this proceeding, the OEB is satisfied that the interested parties' interests are sufficiently aligned, and regulatory efficiency is best served by allowing Pollution Probe to coordinate with CAFES Ottawa through its intervention.

BOMA Ottawa, CAFES Ottawa, and Pollution Probe are eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards**.**

The list of approved parties in this proceeding is attached as Schedule A to this Procedural Order.

Cost eligible intervenors should be aware that the OEB will not generally allow the recovery of costs for the attendance of more than one representative of any party unless a compelling reason is provided when cost claims are filed.

Consistent with the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards, parties are reminded that, in determining the amount of a cost award, the OEB will consider (among other things) whether the cost eligible party has demonstrated through its participation and documented in its cost claim that it has made reasonable efforts to: (a) combine its intervention with that of one or more similarly interested parties and to co-operate with all other parties, and (b) ensure that its participation was not unduly repetitive and was focused on relevant and material issues.

Being eligible to apply for recovery of costs is not a guarantee of recovery of any costs claimed. Cost awards are made by way of OEB order at the end of a hearing.

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. OEB staff and intervenors shall request any relevant information and documentation from Hydro Ottawa that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all other parties by **October 30, 2026.**

2. Hydro Ottawa shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on all intervenors by **November 16, 2026.**

3. Any written submissions by OEB staff and intervenors shall be filed with the OEB and served on all other parties by **November 30, 2026**.

4. Hydro Ottawa may file written reply submissions with the OEB and serve them on all intervenors by **December 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 their evidence to 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-2026-0051** 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, Sofia Djordjevic at Sofia.Djordjevic@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel**,** Rayna Middleton at Rayna.Middleton@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca
Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

DATED at Toronto, **October 20, 2026**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

By delegation, before: Ritchie Murray

Ritchie Murray

Digitally signed by Ritchie Murray
Date: 2026.10.20 15:30:43 -04'00'

Ritchie Murray
Registrar

SCHEDULE A

HYDRO OTTAWA LIMITED

EB-2026-0051

APPLICANT AND LIST OF INTERVENORS

OCTOBER 20, 2026

Hydro Ottawa Limited

EB-2026-0051

APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

October 20, 2026

APPLICANT	Rep. and Contact Information for Service
Hydro Ottawa Limited	**April Barrie** Director, Regulatory Affairs Hydro Ottawa Limited Tel: 613-738-5499 RegulatoryAffairs@HydroOttawa.com
APPLICANT COUNSEL	
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INTERVENORS	**Rep. and Contact Information for Service**
Building Owners and Managers Association Ottawa	**Dean Karakasis** Executive Director Building Owners and Managers Association, Greater Toronto Tel: 613-302-1875 dkarakasis@bomaottawa.org
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Hydro Ottawa Limited

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APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

October 20, 2026

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