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

EB-2026-0208

Hydro One Networks Inc. and Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie Limited Partnership

Application for leave to construct a new electricity transmission line from Hydro One Networks Inc.'s Mississagi Transformer Station in Wharncliffe to Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie Limited Partnership's Third Line Transformer Station in Sault St. Marie

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1

November 6, 2026

Hydro One Networks Inc. and Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie Limited Partnership (Hydro One Networks and HOSSM) applied to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on September 11, 2026, under section 92, of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, *1998* (OEB Act), for an order granting leave to construct approximately 105 kilometres of electricity transmission line and associated facilities in the Northern Region of Ontario. The proposed electricity transmission line will connect the Mississagi Transformer Station and the Third Line Transformer Station (Project). This transmission line has been designated as a priority project under section 96.1 of the OEB Act by Order in Council 1531/2023.

Hydro One Networks and HOSSM have also applied to the OEB for approval of the forms of land-use agreements it offers to affected landowners under section 97 of the OEB Act.

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: Nalin Sahni (presiding), James Sidlofsky, and Michael Janigan.

A Notice of Hearing was issued on October 2, 2026.

Requests for Intervenor Status and Cost Eligibility

Each of 705851 Ontario Ltd. (705851) and Talia Keyton applied for intervenor status. 705851 also applied for cost eligibility.

No objection to the intervention requests were received from Hydro One Networks and HOSSM .

705851 and Talia Keyton are approved as intervenors and are both eligible for an award of costs. In accordance with Rule 22.02 of the OEB's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the OEB finds that each has a material interest that is within the scope of the proceeding and that their intervenor requests raise unique issues that are not already expected to be adequately addressed by another intervenor.

705851 owns and operates a commercial campground in Sault Ste. Marie and seeks intervenor status to address concerns about the potential impact of the proposed transmission line on its campground property and business operations. 705851 intends to raise issues related to route selection and alternative routing options that may reduce impacts on its lands. 705851 has indicated that it may file evidence and expressed a preference for an oral hearing.

Talia Keyton submitted an intervention request as an affected landowner representing her own interests and those of two other affected landowners. Talia Keyton's concerns relate to the Project's environmental and landowner impacts, as well as the applicant's communication, appraisal, and compensation processes. At this time, she is uncertain if she will file evidence or seek an award for costs. She has expressed a preference for an oral hearing on the basis that it would provide a better opportunity to present the perspectives of impacted landowners and hear the perspectives of all parties.

Talia Keyton is advised that environmental issues are not part of the OEB's review of an electricity transmission leave to construct application, unless there is a direct impact on price and the reliability and quality of electricity service, or economic growth. Environmental issues related to electricity transmission projects are subject to a separate Environmental Assessment process under the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

The list of parties in this proceeding is attached as Schedule A to this Procedural Order. 705851 and Talia Keyton are eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

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.

Individuals that represent their own interests should carefully review the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards for information about the types of costs and disbursements that an individual may claim. For example, while wage or salary losses incurred as a result of participating in an OEB hearing may be claimed, fees are not generally permitted to be claimed by individuals under the OEB's Cost Award Tariff.

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.

Issues List

The OEB has established a standard issues list for electricity transmission Leave to Construct applications (Standard Issues List). The Standard Issues List is intended to ensure that the OEB's review is focused and aligned with its mandate.

The OEB will use the Standard Issues List excluding the standard issues relating to need and the consideration of alternatives to the Project (see Schedule B). This is because, by an Order in Council dated October 19, 2023, the Lieutenant Governor in Council declared the Project a priority project under section 96.1 of the OEB Act. In accordance with section 96.1(2) of the OEB Act, the OEB accepts that construction of the Project is needed. Further, it is a condition of Hydro One Networks' electricity transmission licence to develop and seek approvals related to the Project and that development of the Project accord with the project scope and timing recommended by the Independent Electricity System Operator.

As stated previously, issues related to the Environmental Assessment process and the Duty to Consult are not reviewed by the OEB unless they are relevant to the interests of consumers with respect to price, reliability and quality of service, and economic growth.

Interrogatories

At this time, provision is being made for written interrogatories. Parties should not engage in detailed exploration of items that do not appear to be material. In making its decision on cost awards, the OEB will consider whether intervenors made reasonable efforts to ensure that their participation in the hearing was focused on material issues.

Parties should consult sections 26 and 27 of the OEB's Rules of Practice and Procedure regarding required naming and numbering conventions and other matters related to interrogatories.

Limits on Interrogatories and Submissions

The OEB may impose a limit on the number of interrogatories (or sub-parts of interrogatories) that may be filed by a party or on the length of a submission. If the OEB imposes limits, details will be provided through future Procedural Orders, as may the consequences for failure to adhere to the limits.

Hearing Type

In the application, Hydro One Networks and HOSSM did not express a preference for hearing type. Both 705851 and Talia Keyton have requested an oral hearing. The OEB will make its determination on the type of hearing at a later stage.

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 One Networks and HOSSM that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **November 20, 2026**.

2. Hydro One Networks and HOSSM shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on intervenors by **December 3, 2026**.

3. Any argument-in-chief from Hydro One Networks and HOSSM shall be filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **December 15, 2027**.

4. Any written submissions from OEB staff and intervenors shall be filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **January 8, 2027**.

5. Any written reply submissions from Hydro One Networks and HOSSM shall be filed with the OEB and served on intervenors by **January 20, 2027**.

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 **EB-2026-0208** 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, Muhammad Yunus at Muhammad.Yunus@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, **November 6, 2026**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Ritchie Murray

Digitally signed by Ritchie Murray
Date: 2026.11.09 12:01:22 -05'00'

Ritchie Murray
Registrar

Schedule A

Hydro One Networks Inc. and Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie Limited Partnership

EB-2026-0208

Applicant and List of Intervenors

November 6, 2026

Hydro One Networks Inc.
EB-2026-0208

APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

November 6, 2026

APPLICANT	Rep. and Contact Information for Service
Hydro One Networks Inc.	**Eryn MacKinnon** Regulatory Advisor Hydro One Networks Inc. Tel: 437-318-3700 regulatoryaffairs@hydroone.com
Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie Inc. on Behalf of Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie LP	**Shauna Devereux** Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie Inc. on Behalf of Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie LP regulatory@hydroone.com
Rep. and Contact Information for Service	
Hydro One Networks Inc.	**Eryn MacKinnon** Regulatory Advisor Hydro One Networks Inc. Tel: 437-318-3700 regulatoryaffairs@hydroone.com

APPLICANT COUNSEL

Ljuba Djurdjevic
Counsel
McCarthy Tétrault LLP
Tel: 416-601-8852
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APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

November 6, 2026

Laura Brazil
Assistant General Counsel
Hydro One Networks Inc.
Tel: 416-345-5913
laura.brazil@hydroone.com

INTERVENORS	Rep. and Contact Information for Service
705851 Ontario Ltd.	**Al Burton** 705851 Ontario Ltd. Tel: 416-868-3113 aburton@trlaw.com
Independent Participant	**Talia Keyton** Independent Participant Tel: 204-802-6785 taliak92@gmail.com
	Nicholas Cunningham Independent Participant Tel: 204-997-7661 Nick.j.cunningham@gmail.com

SCHEDULE B
TO
PROCEDURAL ORDER No. 1
EB-2026-0208
ISSUES LIST
NOVEMBER 6, 2026

Schedule B:

Issues List

1.0: Prices: Project Cost

1.1: Has the applicant provided sufficient information to demonstrate that the estimates of the project cost are reasonable? Are comparable projects selected by the applicant (as required by the filing requirements) sufficient and appropriate proxies for the proposed project?

1.2: Has the applicant adequately identified and described any risks associated with the proposed project? Is the proposed contingency budget appropriate and consistent with these identified risks?

1.3: If the applicant has requested that deferral accounts be established, has the applicant adequately demonstrated that the eligibility criteria of Causation, Materiality, and Prudence have been met?

2.0: Prices: Customer Impacts

2.1: Has the applicant correctly determined the need for and the amount of any capital contributions that are required for the project?

2.2: Are the projected transmission rate impacts that will result from the project reasonable given the need(s) it satisfies and the benefit(s) it provides?

3.0: Reliability and Quality of Electricity Service

3.1: Has the applicant established that the project will maintain or improve reliability?

3.2: Has the applicant provided a final System Impact Assessment (SIA)? Does the final SIA conclude that the project will not have a material adverse impact on the reliability of the integrated power system?

3.3: Has the applicant provided a final Customer Impact Assessment (CIA)? Does the final CIA conclude that the project will not have an adverse impact on customers, with respect to reliability and quality of electricity service?

4.0: Economic Growth

4.1: Where the applicant claims that a proposed project will support economic growth in a manner consistent with the policies of the Government of Ontario, has the applicant substantiated this claim?

5.0: Route Map and Form of Landowner Agreements

5.1: Are any proposed forms of landowner agreements under section 97 of the OEB Act appropriate and consistent with OEB requirements?

5.2: Does the route map provided pursuant to section 94 of the OEB Act show the general location of the proposed project and the municipalities, highways, railways, utility lines and navigable waters through, under, over, upon or across which the proposed project is to pass.

6.0: Conditions of Approval

6.1: The OEB's standard conditions of approval are attached as Attachment 1. If the OEB approves the proposed project, what additional or revised conditions, if any, are appropriate?

Schedule B, Attachment 1:

Standard Conditions of Approval for Electricity Leave to Construct Applications

1. [The Applicant] shall fulfill any requirements of the SIA and the CIA, and shall obtain all necessary approvals, permits, licences, certificates, agreements and rights required to construct, operate and maintain the project.

2. Unless otherwise ordered by the OEB, authorization for leave to construct shall terminate 12 months from the date of the Decision and Order, unless construction has commenced prior to that date.

3. [The Applicant] shall advise the OEB of any proposed material change in the project, including but not limited to changes in: the proposed route, construction schedule, necessary environmental assessment approvals, and all other approvals, permits, licences, certificates and rights required to construct the project.

4. [The Applicant] shall submit to the OEB written confirmation of the completion of the project construction. This written confirmation shall be provided within one month of the completion of construction.

5. [The Applicant] shall designate one of their employees as project manager who will be the point of contact for these conditions, and shall provide the employee's name and contact information to the OEB and to all affected landowners, and shall clearly post the project manager's contact information in a prominent place at the construction site.