



BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

December 17, 2020

**To: All Rate-regulated Electricity Distributors
All Intervenors in Electricity Distribution Rate Proceedings for 2021 Rates**

**Re: Consultation on Updates to Filing Requirements for Electricity Distribution
Cost of Service Applications**

In furtherance of the OEB Modernization Review Panel report and the mandate letters outlining the government's priorities, the OEB is on a path to modernization that includes, among other things, finding process improvements to increase value for Ontario's energy consumers. To that end, as an initial step in enhancing the efficiency of our applications process, the OEB intends to explore its expectations for rate applications by smaller electricity distributors to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

Each year the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issues updates to its Filing Requirements for electricity distribution rate applications (Filing Requirements) in advance of the filing of applications for the upcoming year's rates. As noted in last year's [letter](#), the OEB intends to conduct a full review of Chapters 2 and 5 of the Filing Requirements in consultation with stakeholders.

Approximately half of the rate regulated distributors in Ontario have fewer than 20,000 customers. The purpose of this initial step is to identify opportunities to improve regulatory efficiency for rate applications filed by these smaller electricity distributors while ensuring the OEB has adequate information on which to make decisions that continue to result in just and reasonable rates.

In order to accomplish this, the OEB is planning the following next steps:

- Hold an initial meeting with the electricity distributors identified in Appendix A to discuss any challenges in preparing cost of service applications, and how the Filing Requirements could be amended to address those challenges while still ensuring that distributors are engaged in planning that reflects good utility practice and the service expectations and priorities of their customers

- Prepare a draft version of updated Filing Requirements that reflects input from the above consultation for comment by all stakeholders
- Confirm any changes to the Filing Requirements targeted specifically to smaller distributors for 2022 rates.

Subsequently, the OEB will extend the review of the Filing Requirements for all rate-regulated electricity distributors with a view to refreshing the Filing Requirements for 2023 rates.

The OEB will hold a stakeholder meeting on January 28, 2021, to gather information from the distributors identified in Appendix A on challenges they have faced in preparing and filing cost of service rate applications. The stakeholder meeting will be conducted via webinar and further information will be provided in due course.

Any questions relating to this letter should be directed to Jane Scott at Jane.Scott@oeb.ca. Please include "Update to Filing Requirements for Smaller Distributors" in the subject line.

Yours truly,

Original Signed By

Christine E. Long
Registrar

Appendix A
List of Smaller Distributors

1. Algoma Power Inc.
2. Atikokan Hydro Inc.
3. Attawapiskat Power Corporation
4. Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd.
5. Chapleau Public Utilities Corporation
6. Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.
7. E.L.K. Energy Inc.
8. EPCOR Electricity Distribution Ontario Inc.
9. EARTH Power Corporation
10. Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation
11. Fort Albany Power Corporation
12. Fort Frances Power Corporation
13. Grimsby Power Incorporated
14. Hearst Power Distribution Co. Ltd.
15. Hydro2000 Inc.
16. Hydro Hawkesbury Inc.
17. Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.
18. Innpower Corporation
19. Kashechewan Power Corporation
20. Lakefront Utilities Inc.
21. Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.
22. Niagara-on-the Lake Hydro Inc.
23. Northern Ontario Wires Inc.
24. Orangeville Hydro Limited
25. Ottawa River Power Corporation
26. Renfrew Hydro Inc.
27. Rideau St Lawrence Distribution Inc.
28. Sioux Lookout Hydro Inc.
29. Tillsonburg Hydro Inc.
30. Wasaga Distribution Inc.
31. Wellington North Power Inc.