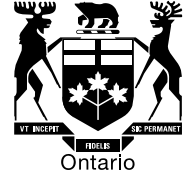


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BY E-MAIL

January 26, 2016

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: Motion to Review and Vary Decision EB-2013-0416/EB-2014-0247 as it relates to the Specific Charge for Cable and Telecom Companies Access to the Power Poles charged by Hydro One Networks Inc.
OEB File Number: EB-2015-0141**

In accordance with Procedural Order No. 4, OEB staff is providing its submissions on whether this proceeding should proceed by way of an oral or written hearing.

This proceeding has included a number of opportunities for evidence and discovery:

- Interrogatories for Hydro One, on August 21, 2015, with responses submitted on September 8, 2015
- Submission of evidence from the Carriers on November 20, 2015,
- Interrogatories on the Carriers' evidence submitted on December 11, 2015 with responses filed on December 15, 2015
- Hydro One's update to its evidence filed on December 22, 2015
- A transcribed technical conference held on January 12, 2016 with questions for both Hydro One and Carrier witnesses.

OEB staff submits that, as a result, the evidentiary record is now reasonably complete, and there is no need for cross-examination of witnesses.

Moreover, the scope of this proceeding is relatively narrow, and will not address the broader policy and methodological issues associated with the Pole Access Charge. In

PO#4, the OEB stated, “The OEB’s review of the Pole Access Charge in this proceeding will be within the context of the current approved OEB methodology as described in Decision and Order RP-2003-0249, issued March 7, 2005. However, as mentioned in a recent OEB decision¹, the OEB plans to undertake a policy review of miscellaneous rates and charges commencing this year which will include a review of pole attachment rate methodology.”

In light of the narrow scope of this proceeding, and in consideration of the various opportunities that were provided to file evidence, pose interrogatories and ask questions in the Technical Conference, OEB staff submits that, unless the panel wishes to ask questions of the parties’ witnesses, this proceeding can proceed entirely in writing.

Yours truly,

Original Signed By

Harold Thiessen
Ontario Energy Board staff
Case Manager – EB-2015-0141

¹ EB-2015-0004, Decision on Motion and Procedural Order #9, October 14, 2015.