



EB-2024-0022/EB-2024-0096

Essex Powerlines Corporation

Application for electricity distribution rates beginning January 1, 2025

INTERIM RATE ORDER December 19, 2024

On May 1, 2024, Essex Powerlines Corporation (Essex Powerlines) filed a cost of service application with the OEB under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, seeking approval for changes to the rates that Essex Powerlines charges for electricity distribution, beginning January 1, 2025.

On September 23, 2024, Essex Powerlines filed a partial settlement proposal with the OEB covering all issues in this proceeding, except for:

- Issues 7.4 and 7.5, which had been previously addressed in a separate OEB decision and order issued on August 29, 2024 that approved a new deferral account for the PowerShare Distribution System Operator (DSO) project;
- 2025 PowerShare DSO capital additions (part of Issue 1.1 on the OEB-approved Issues List).¹

On October 15, 2024, the OEB issued its decision and order, approving the partial settlement proposal, and establishing the written hearing schedule for the unsettled issue relating to 2025 PowerShare DSO capital additions. Essex Powerlines filed its argument-in-chief on October 22, 2024. OEB staff and intervenors filed submissions on November 1, 2024. Essex Powerlines filed a reply submission on November 11, 2024.

After the close of the record, on December 13, 2024, Essex Powerlines filed what it characterized as an update to its reply submission on the unsettled issue, reflecting scope and timing changes to the PowerShare DSO project, and requesting an amendment to the terms of the previously approved PowerShare Deferral Account. On

¹ [Approved Issues List, June 27, 2024](#)

December 16, 2024, the School Energy Coalition filed a letter on behalf of itself and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition requesting that the OEB require Essex Powerlines to provide additional details regarding changes to the PowerShare DSO project, and submitting that Essex Powerlines' proposed changes to the PowerShare DSO project and the funding arrangement with the Independent Electricity System Operator constitute a material change to the evidence. The School Energy Coalition also stated that the proposal to amend the terms of the approved PowerShare DVA was a motion to vary the OEB's August 29, 2024 decision and order based on new circumstances. On December 17, 2024, Essex Powerlines filed additional information, and withdrew its request for approval of 2025 PowerShare DSO capital additions.

The OEB has determined that Essex Powerlines' current (effective January 1, 2024) Tariff of Rates and Charges will remain effective on an interim basis as of January 1, 2025 until such time as a 2025 final rate order is issued by the OEB.

The OEB will provide additional direction at a future date regarding finalization of 2025 rates and the request to change the terms of the PowerShare Deferral Account.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Essex Powerlines Corporation's current Tariff of Rates and Charges is declared interim as of January 1, 2025, and until such time as a Final Rate Order is issued by the OEB.

DATED at Toronto, **December 19, 2024**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar