



RP-2003-0044

IN THE MATTER OF the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O.1998, c.15 (Sched. B);

AND IN THE MATTER OF applications by Centre Wellington Hydro, Veridian Connections Inc., EnWin Powerlines Ltd., Erie Thames Powerlines Corp., Chatham-Kent Hydro Inc., Essex Powerlines Corp., Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc. and Hydro One Networks Inc. pursuant to subsection 74(1) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* to amend Schedule 1 of their Transitional Distribution Licences.

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1

Applications have been filed with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") pursuant to subsection 74(1) of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c.15 (Schedule B), by the following nine distributors for amendments to their licensed service area. These applicants and the Board's assigned file numbers are listed below:

Centre Wellington Hydro	EB-1999-0269
Veridian Connections Inc. (1)	EB-12999-0260
Enwin Powerlines Ltd.	EB-1999-0281
Erie Thames Powerlines Corp.	EB-2002-0462
Chatham-Kent Hydro Inc.	EB-1999-0216
Essex Powerlines Corp.	EB-2002-0524
Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.	EB-2002-0482
Veridian Connections Inc. (2)	EB-2003-0020
Hydro One Networks Inc.	EB-2003-0031

Notices of Application have been published for all nine applications.

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Procedural Orders requesting submissions from intervenors and responding submissions from the applicants were issued with respect to Centre Wellington Hydro, Veridian Connections Inc.(1), and Chatham-Kent Hydro Inc. The Board has received submissions and requests to deal with these applications by way of oral hearings.

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Due to the similar policy questions which arise in each of these applications, the Board has decided to combine these proceedings into one proceeding. The Board intends to proceed in this matter by way of an oral hearing. The date of the oral hearing will be set in a future procedural order.

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The Board wishes to ensure a consistent approach to service area amendment applications by developing principles that will guide the Board in dealing with these and other service area amendment applications. To help focus this process the Board has prepared the draft issues list set out in Appendix "A".

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Given that the issues raised may affect other parties, particularly distributors, the Board considers it appropriate to make provisions for the intervention of persons other than those already party to one of the proceedings.

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The Board designates the applicants for the purpose of paying cost awards to be administered in accordance with the Board's Practice Direction on Cost Awards. The distribution of the payment of costs among the applicants will be on the basis of the total number of customers served by each applicant as of March 31, 2003.

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Other procedural orders may be issued from time to time.

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THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

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- 1 The above nine proceedings be combined into a single proceeding. The Board has assigned file number RP-2003-0044 to this proceeding. All applicants and intervenors to the individual proceedings are parties to the single combined proceeding.
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2 Each applicant is to provide a copy of its application and all related submissions on the public record of the associated proceeding, including those made by intervenors, to all other parties to the combined proceeding by April 8, 2003. A list of parties to the proceeding is attached as Appendix "B" to this Order.
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3 Persons other than those listed in Appendix "B" may intervene in the combined proceeding by filing an intervention with the Board and all other parties listed in Appendix "B" by April 15, 2003. Any new party may obtain submissions filed in the proceeding by requesting the submissions from the party that made the submission.
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4 All submissions made under the individual proceedings shall be considered part of the record of this proceeding. Parties may, but are not required, to file further argument in this proceeding.
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5 The Board will hold an Issues Conference to enhance and finalize the draft issues list in Appendix "A". The location and date of the Issues Conference will be 2300 Yonge Street, 25th Floor, Toronto

in the Board's hearing room on Tuesday, April 29, 2003 commencing at 9:00 a.m. If deemed necessary the Issues Conference will resume on Wednesday, April 30, 2003.

- 6 An Issues Day proceeding will take place on Thursday, May 1, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board's hearing room, at which time the Board will be advised of the Issues List proposed by the parties and hear submissions with respect to any contested issues. 20
- 7 Applicants may file additional evidence by May 15, 2003. 21
- 8 Parties and Board staff who wish information from applicants that is in addition to the evidence filed with the Board and that is relevant to the hearing shall request the information by written interrogatories filed with the Board and delivered to the party from whom information is required by June 12, 2003. The responding party shall file with the Board complete responses to the interrogatories and deliver them to the requester and all other parties as soon as possible, but no later than July 10, 2003. 22
- 9 Intervenors may file evidence relevant to the proceeding by August 7, 2003. 23
- 10 Parties and Board staff who wish information from intervenors that is in addition to the evidence filed with the Board and that is relevant to the hearing shall request the information by written interrogatories filed with the Board and delivered to the party from whom information is required by September 4, 2003. The responding party shall file with the Board complete responses to the interrogatories and deliver them to the requester and all other parties as soon as possible, but no later than September 18, 2003. 24
- 11 Applicants shall inform the Board as soon as possible but no later than March 31, 2003 of the nature and timing of any specific customer connections associated with its application that have critical in-service requirements. 25
- 12 All filings to the Board **must be in the form of one electronic copy, in WordPerfect or Word format, and 5 hard copies**, to be received by the Board by 4:45 p.m. on the stated dates. Each party must send its submissions to all other parties as well as to the Board. 26

ISSUED at Toronto, March 28, 2003. 27

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD 28

Peter H. O'Dell
Assistant Board Secretary