

Decision on Hydro Ottawa's Application to Change its Electricity Distribution Rates

On May 12, 2026, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued its [Decision and Order](#) on the three outstanding issues to be decided in relation to Hydro Ottawa Limited's (Hydro Ottawa) application for changes to its electricity distribution rates effective January 1, 2026. The OEB had earlier approved a settlement proposal that had resolved most of the issues in the application.

The OEB determined the unsettled issues as follows:

- Hydro Ottawa's proposed 2026 operating, maintenance and administration budget was reduced by \$11 million to \$129 million, reflecting the OEB's consideration of customer affordability in its decision-making and limiting pressure on customer bills.
- The removal of the monthly net metering service charge was approved, as the incremental billing costs that justified the charge have largely been eliminated.
- The proposed shared saving mechanism incentive payments for a specific non-wires solution program was denied. The OEB found that the proposal did not meet the requirements for such an incentive. The non-wires program neither defers nor avoids traditional capital spending and does not demonstrate measurable customer cost savings to justify an incentive payment.

The OEB noted that these outcomes moderate the increase in rates for Hydro Ottawa's customers without compromising reliability or quality of service. The impact on customer bills will be confirmed through the forthcoming rate order process.

INTERVENORS

Intervenors are individuals or groups who have permission to participate in a hearing before the OEB because they have a substantial interest in the proceeding. A list of the ten parties approved as intervenors in this proceeding, including representatives of different classes of consumers, is available on page two of the Decision and Order.

ABOUT THE OEB

The OEB is the independent regulator of Ontario's electricity and natural gas sectors. We protect the interests of consumers and enable the delivery of clean, reliable, secure and affordable energy that supports economic growth across the province. This includes ensuring that the people and businesses of Ontario pay rates that are reasonable while allowing for needed investments in an energy system that sustains our economy.

A key part of how we deliver on this mandate is through independent adjudication. When an application comes before us, the OEB applies a rigorous, impartial review that balances our legislated objectives and is free from interference.

Learn more at oeb.ca.

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Ce document est aussi disponible en français.

This Backgrounder was prepared by OEB staff to inform Ontario's energy consumers about the OEB's decision and is not for use in legal or regulatory proceedings. It is not part of the OEB's reasons for decision; those may be found in the Decision and Order issued May 12, 2026, which is the official OEB document.