

September 6, 2022

Hydro One Networks Inc.'s Joint Use/Broadband Choice-Based Model

The Province of Ontario has set an objective to support connection of 700,000 homes and businesses with reliable high-speed connectivity by 2025. Considering the vast broadband deployments and Hydro One's commitment to customers and communities, Hydro One is implementing a new operating model for our distribution joint use portfolio.

Further to the [July 8th announcement](#), Hydro One has now gone live with implementing the **choice-based** operational approach. This approach will provide distribution joint use partners with options on how to enable access to Hydro One's infrastructure to facilitate joint use and broadband project deployments. Joint use partners can select from the following execution options:

1. **Applicant Project Execution** – Applicants can plan, develop, and execute all electrical design and make ready work, provided such work is carried out in compliance with Hydro One's requirements using qualified electrical distribution design and execution firms. Applicants will receive Hydro One support on key operational aspects to enable work execution; or
2. **Hydro One Project Execution** – Joint use partners can request Hydro One to plan, develop, and execute the design and construction of make ready work to accommodate their attachments and joint use permit requests per Hydro One's current approach

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Who should I direct inquiries to at Hydro One on the new operating model?**

Please direct any questions to ExternalJointUse@HydroOne.com.

2. **What is the difference between the Choice-Based Model and what is currently being done to date?**

The primary difference is the introduction of an alternative method of work execution to enable the delivery of joint use and broadband projects in the province. The Applicant Project Execution Model will allow joint use partners to execute via an engineer, procure, and construct ("EPC") execution the work activities associated with their associated projects, with Hydro One supporting key operational aspects to enable the work execution.

3. **Is the Choice-Based Model only applicable for attachment permit requests?**

Yes, the Choice-Based Model will only be applicable for the support and enablement for attachment permit requests within the joint use portfolio.

4. How will existing joint use requests be managed?

Hydro One has many joint use permit requests in process at the moment, and, the permit application volume is expected to grow significantly over the coming months as the broadband program accelerates. Considering current permit applications, Hydro One will be working with joint use partners to review in-flight projects and potentially adjust/change the execution model if desired from Hydro One's current operational processes to the new processes, depending on project stage and joint use partner choice.

5. If joint use partners wish to continue with the status quo process, is Hydro One bound to the performance timelines being requested by joint use partners?

In enabling the Choice-Based Model, Hydro One has sought to provide joint use partners with the ability to best determine how they can execute the work to meet their execution timelines. Should the joint use partner choose to request Hydro One to perform the work, Hydro One will review the request and assess our ability to support and execute the project, considering various operational factors including being able to complete the work within the requested timelines. Hydro One will make all reasonable efforts to provide timely support and execution of these joint use / broadband requests.

6. Will joint use partners be able to change options mid-process once the Choice-Based Model has been enabled?

No, Hydro One will require joint use partners to make a choice on the work execution method, and this approach will remain for the duration of the project.

7. Are the two options captured under the Choice-Based Model the only ones available to joint use partners?

Yes, these are the only two options available to execute any project.

8. With the Choice-Based Model now being "live", what does that mean exactly?

This means that joint use partners now have the option to select the Applicant Project Execution model subject to the appropriate commercial agreement being executed and application requirements being satisfied per the Networks Requirements document that will be made available in the Joint Use Management Portal (JUMP).

9. Who are the Hydro One qualified contractors that joint use partners can work with?

The list of Hydro One qualified distribution lines contractors for electrical distribution and fibre optic work can be found [here](#). Joint use partners are recommended to engage these contractors (if not already done so) to ensure that they have been qualified by your organizations, in order to enable a One Touch Make Ready (OTMR) approach.

10. What are the recommended next steps for joint use partners?

Hydro One has developed the operational guidelines and commercial agreements that are accessible to review, once the signed [confidentiality agreement](#) has been received. Please visit www.hydroone.com/JUMP for these details. If you have further questions, please contact ExternalJointUse@HydroOne.com.