

**Ontario Energy Board**  
P.O. Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street  
27<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 2701  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4  
Telephone: 416 481-1967  
Facsimile: 416 440-7656

**Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario**  
C.P. 2319  
2300, rue Yonge  
27<sup>e</sup> étage, bureau 2701  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4  
Téléphone : 416 481-1967  
Télécopieur : 416 440-7656



## **For immediate release**

October 18, 2006

### **OEB Issues Electricity Distribution Rate Decision**

**Toronto** – Today the Ontario Energy Board (the Board) issued its 2006 electricity distribution rate Decision and Order for Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution.

The distribution rate changes, which take effect October 18, 2006, will appear on the “**Delivery**” line of consumer bills. Distribution rates cover the cost of delivering electricity from local utilities to consumers’ homes or businesses and vary from utility to utility. This includes the costs to build and maintain power lines, towers and poles, and operate systems locally. It also includes items such as calculating charges and reading meters.

Most utilities applied to the Board to recover these costs from the consumers they serve. The Board developed a process to review the proposed costs to deliver electricity to consumers for utilities that filed 2006 distribution rate applications. The applications were reviewed by the OEB through a public process to determine what costs the utilities may pass on to consumers.

Based on current commodity prices, the changes will result in an increase of approximately \$6.53 per month, or 5.9%, for a residential consumer using an average of 1,000 kWh/month. As the Board has announced earlier, commodity prices will decrease November 1, 2006.

The Board’s rate Decisions for individual utilities are available on the Ontario Energy Board website. Additional information regarding the application of a specific utility can be obtained by contacting the utility directly.

The Ontario Energy Board regulates the province’s electricity and natural gas sectors in the public interest. It envisions a healthy and efficient energy sector with informed consumers, and works towards this vision through regulatory processes that are effective, fair and transparent.

For more information on the Board or the above announcement, please visit our Web site at [www.oeb.gov.on.ca](http://www.oeb.gov.on.ca) or contact the Consumer Relations Centre at 416-314-2455 or toll-free at 1-877-632-2727.

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For more information contact:  
Vanda Wall

Ontario Energy Board  
416-440-8149