

EB-2006-0087

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

IN THE MATTER OF a generic proceeding initiated by the Ontario Energy Board pursuant to section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998 to amend the licenses of electricity distributors to make provision for methods and techniques to be applied by the Board in determining distribution rates for licensed electricity distributors.

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1

Pursuant to section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. c.15, Schedule B (the "Act"), the Ontario Energy Board commenced a proceeding on its own motion to amend the licences of electricity distributors to make provision for methods and techniques to be applied by the Board in determining distribution rates for licensed electricity distributors. A *Notice of Proceeding and Notice of Hearing* (the "Notice") was issued in this matter on July 7, 2006.

In a parallel process (the "Code Development Process"), the Board is consulting with interested parties on the development of parameters to be used in determining a distributor's cost of capital and the adjustment mechanism to be used to adjust a distributor's rates (the 2nd generation incentive regulation mechanism) pending rebasing. The output of the Code Development Process will be a Code that confirms the cost of capital to be used in adjusting annual revenue requirements for 2007 and beyond and a Code that establishes an incentive rate adjustment mechanism for the period covered by the Board's multi-year incentive rate-setting plan.

Through this generic licence amendment proceeding, the Board would amend the licences of electricity distributors to stipulate that, in determining rates for a distributor, the Board will apply the methods or techniques set out in the two new Codes. The text of the proposed licence amendments was set out in Appendix A to the Notice and for convenience is attached as Appendix A to this Procedural Order. The proposed licence

amendments would apply to all licensed electricity distributors other than Cornwall Street Railway, Light and Power Company and Dubreuil Forest Products Ltd., two licensed distributors for whom the Board does not currently set distribution rates.

Interventions

The Board received fifteen requests for intervenor status and four requests for observer status by the deadline of July 31, 2006. No letters of comment were received.

The Board issued letters granting intervenor status to all parties who filed by the deadline. The following five parties filed late intervention requests: the Algoma Coalition ("Algoma"), Consumers Council of Canada ("CCC"), Great Lakes Power Limited, the City of Toronto and the School Energy Coalition ("SEC"). The Board will grant intervenor status to these parties as well. The list of parties to this proceeding is attached as Appendix B to this Procedural Order.

Cost Awards

The Board has determined that cost awards will be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to this proceeding. The Board has also determined that the costs to be awarded will be recovered from all electricity distributors, other than Cornwall Street Railway, Light and Power Company and Dubreuil Forest Products Ltd., based on their respective distribution revenues.

In response to the Notice, seven parties indicated that they would be seeking costs. The Board issued letters confirming cost award eligibility for three parties; namely, the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition, Energy Probe Research Foundation and the Industrial Gas Users Association. The four outstanding requests are from CCC, Algoma, the City of Toronto and SEC.

The Board confirms that CCC, Algoma and SEC are eligible for an award of costs based on the criteria for eligibility set out in section 3 of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. The Board expects that all of the participants that are eligible for an award of costs will make every effort to communicate and co-ordinate their participation in this process to the extent that they represent the same interests or class of persons.

The Board has determined that the City of Toronto, as the effective owner of an electricity distributor that is a participant in this process, is not eligible for an award of costs.

Written or Oral Hearing

In response to the Notice, six parties indicated a preference for a written hearing and five parties indicated a preference for an oral hearing. Some of the parties that indicated a preference for an oral hearing provided a rationale for that position, while others did not. The remaining parties either specifically stated that they had no preference or remained silent on the matter.

The Board has considered the comments made by parties that favour either an oral or a written hearing, and has determined that it will proceed with this matter initially by asking for written submissions. Following review of the submissions, the Board may determine that an oral hearing is desirable. If the Board determines that an oral hearing will be conducted, parties will be notified in advance.

Issues

The Board also considers it expedient to identify matters that will not be issues in this proceeding. Specifically, this proceeding will not address the following:

- Whether incentive regulation, in whatever form it may ultimately take, is an appropriate methodology for setting electricity distribution rates. This is a policy issue that has already been determined by the Board.
- The details of the incentive regulation and cost of capital methodology to be used in setting electricity distribution rates. This is the subject-matter of the Code Development Process, and that is the appropriate forum in which those details should be addressed.
- Whether any particular individual distributor should be exempt from the application of the incentive regulation or cost of capital methodology that is being developed through the Code Development Process. Consideration of individual exemptions is premature as the Code Development Process has not yet been completed. In addition, determining whether an exemption is appropriate is better addressed on a case-by-case basis further to an application filed for that purpose rather than in a generic proceeding.

Therefore, the Board considers it necessary to make provision for the following items related to this proceeding. Further procedural orders may be issued from time to time.

THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

- 1. Parties who wish to file a written submission regarding the proposed licence amendments as outlined in the Notice shall file the written submission with the Board and deliver it to all other parties on or before October 20, 2006.
- 2. All filings to the Board noted in this Procedural Order must be received by the Board by 4:45 p.m. on the stated date and addressed to the Board Secretary as follows:

Ms. Kirsten Walli Board Secretary Ontario Energy Board P.O. Box 2319 2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700 Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

In addition to filing 10 paper copies, an electronic version of the written submission must be provided in Word and, if available, in searchable Adobe Acrobat (PDF). Electronic copies may be provided on diskette or by e-mail to the Board Secretary at Boardsec@oeb.gov.on.ca.

ISSUED at Toronto, October 6, 2006

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Peter H. O'Dell Assistant Board Secretary

Appendix A to Procedural Order No. 1

EB-2006-0087

Proposed Licence Amendments

Appendix A

Proposed Licence Amendments

That section of the distribution licence issued to each distributor, other than Cornwall Street Railway, Light and Power Company and Dubreuil Forest Products Ltd., which makes provision for the charging of rates for the distribution of electricity is proposed to be amended by adding the underlined text set out below:

The Licensee shall not charge for connection to the distribution system, the distribution of electricity or the retailing of electricity to meet its obligation under section 29 of the Electricity Act except in accordance with a Rate Order of the Board. The Board shall, in determining the Licensee's rates for the distribution of electricity, apply the methods and techniques set out in the Incentive Regulation Mechanism Code and the Cost of Capital Code, whichever is applicable to the distributor in any given year. The Board shall apply those methods and techniques in determining the Licensee's rates for the distribution of electricity that become effective on or after May 1, 2007, and shall continue to apply those methods and techniques for such further period of years as is determined by the Board under the Incentive Regulation Mechanism Code and the Cost of Capital Code.

Section 1 of the distribution licence issued to each distributor, other than Cornwall Street Railway, Light and Power Company and Dubreuil Forest Products Ltd., is also proposed to be amended by adding the following new definitions:

"Cost of Capital Code" means the Code approved by the Board which, among other things, sets out the manner in which an electricity distributor's cost of capital will be established by the Board in determining rates for the distribution of electricity;

"Incentive Regulation Mechanism Code" means the Code approved by the Board which, among other things, sets out an incentive rate adjustment mechanism to be applied by the Board in determining rates for the distribution of electricity;

Appendix B to Procedural Order No. 1

EB-2006-0087

List of Parties

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD AMEND ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTOR LICENCES EB-2006-0087

LIST OF INTERVENORS

October 6, 2006

Intervenors Rep. and Address for Service

1. Algoma Coalition Mr. J. Paul R. Cassan

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AND Mr. Chris Wray- C.A.O

The Corporation of the Township of Michipicoten

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AND Mr. Robert Reid

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2. Consumers Council of Canada Ms. Julie Girvan

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Tel: 416-322-7936 Fax: 416-322-9703 Email: jgirvan@ca.inter.net **3.** Electricity Distributor's Association

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Analyst

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11. Industrial Gas Users Association

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16. School Energy Coalition

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD AMEND ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTOR LICENCES EB-2006-0087

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October 6, 2006

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