



RP-2000-0001

**IN THE MATTER OF** ss. 44 and 45 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S. O. 1998, c.15, Schedule B;

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** the Gas Distribution Access Rule, made on December 11, 2002.

## PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 2

On December 11, 2002, the Board issued the Gas Distribution Access Rule (GDAR). The GDAR was the product of an extensive public Rule making process in which all stakeholders had numerous opportunities to make submissions.

One requirement of the GDAR is that a gas distributor must enter into a "Service Agreement", in a form approved by the Board, with each gas vendor that provides or intends to provide gas supply services to consumers in the gas distributor's franchise area. From early 2003 to early 2004, interested parties attempted to negotiate a form of Service Agreement without reaching agreement. On February 13, 2004, the Board issued a Notice requiring each gas distributor to file its proposed form of Service Agreement with the Board. Industry participants were then given an opportunity to comment on the proposed Service Agreements.

On May 9, 2005 the Board issued a Decision in which it held that all four of the proposed Service Agreements that had been filed were too limited in scope and lacked the details necessary to implement the GDAR in accordance with its intent. Accordingly, the Board declined to approve any of the proposed Service Agreements. The Board also directed staff to develop a revised form of Service Agreement that is consistent with the Board's Decision and that mirrors, to the maximum extent possible, the service agreements used currently in the retail electricity sector. Staff were also directed to develop draft Electronic Business Transactions (EBT) Standards as an Appendix to the Service Agreement.

On July 15, 2005, the Board issued Procedural Order No. 1 inviting interested parties to submit comments on the revised form of Service Agreement developed by staff. Staff have now filed with the Board a draft Electronic Business Transactions (EBT) Standards Appendix to the Service Agreement, which is attached as Appendix A to this Procedural Order. In accordance with the Board's May 9, 2005 Decision, the draft EBT Standards Appendix to the Service Agreement must now be circulated to interested parties for comment. All comments received will be posted on the Board's website, as will a copy

of the draft Electronic Business Transactions (EBT) Standards Appendix to the Service Agreement.

The Board has issued today a further Decision in this proceeding in which the Board has decided to delay issuance of a Final Order in relation to the Service Agreement until the comment process relating to the draft Electronic Business Transactions (EBT) Standards Appendix has been completed. To the extent that a party's comments on the Electronic Business Transactions (EBT) Standards Appendix trigger the need for revisions to the proposed form of Service Agreement, the party should identify those revisions as part of its comments on the Appendix.

The Decision also contains findings regarding the Board's approach to vendor-consolidated billing and the forms of distributor consolidated billing. Those findings should be taken into account by parties in commenting on the draft Electronic Business Transactions (EBT) Standards Appendix.

The Board considers it necessary to make provision for the following matter related to this proceeding. The Board may issue further procedural orders from time to time.

**THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:**

Any interested party that wishes to comment on the draft Electronic Business Transactions (EBT) Standards Appendix to the Service Agreement developed by Board staff shall file its comments with the Board **no later than 4:45 pm on October 13, 2005.**

**ISSUED** at Toronto, September 13, 2005

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

*Original signed by*

Peter H. O'Dell  
Assistant Board Secretary

**Appendix A**  
**to**  
**Procedural Order No. 2**  
**Electronic Business Transaction Standards**

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**September 13, 2005**