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August 6, 2020

To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors

All Licensed Electricity Retailers

All Licensed Unit Sub-Meter Providers Independent Electricity System Operator

All Participants in Consultation Process EB-2020-0152

All Other Interested Parties

Re: Consultation on Implementing the Process for Enabling Customers to Opt

Out of Time-of-Use Pricing

Stakeholder Meeting on the Role of the Smart Metering Entity

Ontario Energy Board File No.: EB-2020-0152

On July 15, 2020, the OEB issued a Notice of Proposal to Amend the Standard System Supply Code (SSSC) (Notice) in order to enable electricity consumers on the Regulated Price Plan (RPP) to opt out of time-of-use (TOU) prices and to elect instead to be charged on the basis of tiered pricing. The OEB provided until July 29, 2020 for interested parties to file written comments on the proposed SSSC amendments. The OEB received comments from 18 stakeholders, including electricity distributors, representatives of consumers and a retailer.

A number of electricity distributors submitted comments in relation to the proposed amendment to the SSSC (new section 3.5.14) that would require distributors to rely on the Smart Metering Entity (SME) for the calculation of billing quantities for all residential and general service <50 kW customers who have switched to tiered pricing. Many distributors commented that they would prefer to continue to receive billing quantities from the SME under the TOU framing structure for the purpose of billing customers who have opted for tiered pricing. Some distributors noted that the use of any other framing structure would necessitate significant reconfiguration of their systems. The OEB sees value in convening a stakeholder meeting to ensure a better understanding of the comments provided on this specific issue, in particular the technical basis for the

distributors' concerns with the proposed approach. A meeting would also allow OEB staff and others to discuss and understand the feasibility of alternatives proposed by distributors for achieving the data collection and reporting that was explained in the Notice as the rationale for the proposed amendment. All interested parties will have the opportunity to comment on any material changes to the proposed amendments to the SSSC.

Accordingly, the OEB will convene an online teleconference on Thursday, August 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. All stakeholders that submitted comments on this element of the proposed amendments to the SSSC or that are members of the TOU Customer Choice Working Group are encouraged to attend. Other parties may also participate. Login information will be posted to the <u>project page</u> for this initiative no later than Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

An award of costs will be made available for stakeholders that have been previously determined to be eligible for them as part of this initiative, to a maximum of actual meeting time plus 50% of meeting time for preparation and reporting.

Any questions relating to this letter should be directed to Shona Adamson at shona.adamson@oeb.ca. The Board's toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Christine E. Long Registrar and Board Secretary