

EB-2007-0063

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF applications by electricity distribution companies for approval of a smart meter rate adder:

AND IN THE MATTER OF a combined proceeding initiated by the Ontario Energy Board pursuant to sections 19(4), 21(1), 21(5) and 78(3.03) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998 to determine issues related to the recovery of costs incurred by distributors and associated with authorized discretionary metering activities.

### PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1

In January and February of 2007, twelve licensed distributors authorized to conduct discretionary metering activities filed applications pursuant to section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, *1998*, S.O. 1998, c.15 (Schedule B) (the "Act") for the approval of distribution rates, which applications included a smart metering rate adder to be effective as of May 1, 2007. These distributors are Chatham-Kent Hydro Inc., Enersource Hydro Mississauga Inc., Horizon Utilities Corporation, Hydro One Brampton Networks Inc., Hydro One Networks Inc., Hydro Ottawa Limited, Middlesex Power Distribution Corporation, Milton Hydro Distribution Inc., PowerStream Inc., Tay Hydro Electric Distribution Co. Inc., Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited, and Veridian Connections Inc.

The Board has issued individual Notices for these distribution rate applications, which provided notice for a combined proceeding and hearing relating to smart meters. The

Board also issued a Decision and Order for each of the twelve licensed distributors approving a smart metering rate adder, continuing the variance accounts previously authorized by the Board, and reiterating that the Board will be holding a combined proceeding, as indicated in the notice of application, to consider, among other things, appropriate recovery of smart meter costs.

On March 26, 2007, the Board received an application from Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited pursuant to section 78 of the Act for rate adjustments related to smart metering activities and Conservation and Demand Management ("CDM") activities. The Board will consider the adjustments related to smart metering activities in this Combined Proceeding. The Board will consider those aspects of the application related to CDM in a separate proceeding to commence June 21 as indicated in the Procedural Order issued May 18, 2007.

On May 2, 2007, the Board issued a further Notice of a Combined Proceeding pursuant to sections 19, 21 and 78 of the Act to determine the prudence and recovery of costs associated with smart metering activities for the twelve licensed distributors referred to above, and a thirteenth licensed distributor, Newmarket Hydro Limited, that has been authorized by regulation to conduct discretionary metering activities. The thirteen licensed distributors are listed in Appendix A to this Procedural Order. These distributors are deemed to be applicants in the Combined Proceeding.

The Board recognizes that not all the deemed applicants have had the opportunity to reply to all intervention requests submitted to the Board. The list of parties attached at Appendix B may therefore be subject to change if the Board receives objections to the intervention requests.

### <u>Issues</u>

In this proceeding, the Board will consider the recovery of smart meter costs relating to functionality that does not exceed the minimum functionality adopted in Ontario Regulation 425/06 (Criteria and Requirements for Meters and Metering Equipment, Systems and Technology) made under the *Electricity Act, 1998*. These costs are costs to install, and operate a fully functioning system comprised of, and including related hardware, software and connectivity for, the following:

- smart meter(s) for residential and small general service consumers where the metering of demand is not required;
- advanced metering communication device(s) ("AMCD");
- local area network ("LAN");
- advanced metering regional collector ("AMRC"), if required;
- advanced metering control computer ("AMCC"); and
- wide area network ("WAN").

Applicants will therefore be required to address the following issues:

- 1. What are the applicant's costs relating to the minimum functionality adopted in Ontario Regulation 425/06?
- 2. Have these costs been prudently incurred?

The Board will not, in this proceeding, consider the recovery of costs relating to functionality that exceeds the minimum functionality as defined above or the recovery of costs associated with meter data functions. The Board will consider cost recovery for these matters in the applicants' applications for 2008 rates and may establish a generic hearing for that purpose.

### THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

- A list of parties (applicants and intervenors) is attached as Appendix B to this Order.
- An Issues Conference, involving all parties (applicants and intervenors) will be convened to:
  - develop a proposed Issues List for presentation to the Board; and
  - develop mandatory filing requirements for the thirteen applicants that will aid in the most expeditious and appropriate disposition of the proceeding.

A proposed Issues List setting out issues that (a) the parties agree should be on the list; and (b) issues that are contested will be presented to the Board following the Issues Conference.

The Issues Conference will be convened in the Board's hearing room at 2300 Yonge Street, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto on Friday, May 25, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. Monday, May 28, 2007 will be held as a reserve day should it be required.

- 3. An Issues Day will take place on Thursday, May 31, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board's hearing room at 2300 Yonge Street, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto, at which time the Board will hear submissions with respect to any contested issues. Friday, June 1, 2007 will be held as a reserve day should it be required.
- 4. Applicants shall file their evidence on or before Friday, June 8, 2007.
- The evidentiary phase, including oral argument, of the oral hearing will commence at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, June 15, 2007 at 2300 Yonge Street, Toronto in the Board's hearing room on the 25<sup>th</sup> Floor. The hearing is scheduled to proceed for 10 days.

6. All parties shall file their submissions with the Board Secretary, 10 hard copies and one electronic copy in searchable PDF format at <a href="mailto:boardsec@gov.on.ca">boardsec@gov.on.ca</a>, by 4:30 p.m. on the date indicated, and copy all parties.

DATED at Toronto, May 18, 2007

### **ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary

# APPENDIX A COMBINED PROCEEDING – EB-2007-0063 LIST OF APPLICANTS

DISTRIBUTOR	RATE APPLICATION FILE NUMBER
Chatham-Kent Hydro Inc.	EB-2007-0517
Enersource Hydro Mississauga Inc.	EB-2007-0523
Horizon Utilities Corporation	EB-2007-0538
Hydro One Brampton Networks Inc.	EB-2007-0541
Hydro One Networks Inc.	EB-2007-0542
Hydro Ottawa Limited	EB-2007-0544
Middlesex Power Distribution Corporation	EB-2007-0553
Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.	EB-2007-0555
Newmarket Hydro Ltd.	EB-2007-0557
PowerStream Inc.	EB-2007-0573
Tay Hydro Electric Distribution Co Inc.	EB-2007-0578
Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited	EB-2007-0582
Veridian Connections Inc.	EB-2007-0583

# APPENDIX B COMBINED PROCEEDING – EB-2007-0063 LIST OF PARTIES

May 18, 2007

NAMED PARTIES

**CONTACT INFORMATION** 

1. Chatham-Kent Hydro Inc.

EB-2007-0517

Chatham-Kent Hydro Inc.

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2. Enersource Hydro Mississauga Inc.

EB-2007-0523

Enersource Hydro Mississauga Inc.

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3. Horizon Utilities Corporation

EB-2007-0538

Horizon Utilities Corporation

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4. Hydro One Brampton Networks Inc.

EB-2007-0538

Hydro One Brampton Networks Inc.

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5. Hydro One Networks Inc. EB-2007-0541

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Middlesex Power Distribution Corporation

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9. **PowerStream Inc. EB-2007-0573** 

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## 10. Tay Hydro Electric Distribution Co. Inc. EB-2007-0578

Tay Hydro Electric Distribution

Company Inc.

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# 11. Toronto-Hydro-Electric Systems Limited EB-2007-0582

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## 12. Veridian Connections Inc. EB-2007-0583

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## 13. Newmarket Hydro Ltd. EB-2007-0557

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### **INTERVENORS**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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