

# Board Staff Interrogatories

## 2010 IRM3 Electricity Distribution Rates Canadian Niagara Power Inc. - Fort Erie ("CNPI - FE") EB-2009-0217

### 1. Ref: 2010 IRM Deferral Variance Account 1588 -Power

The 2008 ending balances reported in the 2010 IRM Deferral Variance Account workform prepared by CNPI - FE shows the split for account 1588 – Power and Global Adjustment. On October 15, 2009 the Board issued “Regulatory Audit and Accounting Bulletin 200901” which clarified the accounting rules for reporting the 1558 – Global Adjustment sub-account.

Account Description	Account Number	Total Claim
RSVA - Power (Excluding Global Adjustment)	1588	783,392
RSVA - Power (Global Adjustment Sub-account)		736,685

- a) Has CNPI - FE reviewed the Regulatory Audit & Accounting Bulletin 200901 dated October 15, 2009, and ensured that it has accounted for its account 1588 and sub-account Global Adjustment in accordance with this Bulletin?
- b) Has CNPI - FE made adjustments subsequent to filing the 2010 IRM3 application and need to re-file an updated 2010 IRM Deferral Variance Account workform?

### 2. Ref: 2010 IRM Deferral Variance Account 1588 – Global Adjustment

On November 13, 2009 Board Staff prepared a submission in the Enersource EB-2009-0193 2010 IRM3 Application. The following is an excerpt from the submission in respect to Board staff concerns with the current proposal for handling the disposition of the USoA 1588 – Global Adjustment.

*The EDDVAR Report as well as the Board's Decision in EB-2009-0113 adopted an allocation of the GA sub-account balance based on kWh for non RPP customers by rate class. Traditionally this allocation would then be combined with all other allocated variance account balances by rate class. The combined balance by rate class would then be divided by the*

*volumetric billing determinants (kWh or kW) from the most recent audited year end or Board approved forecast, if available. This process hence spreads the recovery or refund of allocated account balances to all customers in the affected rate class.*

*This method was factored on two premises; a) that the recovery/refund of a variance unique to a subset of customers within a rate class would not be unfair to the rate class as a whole and b) that the distributors' billing systems would not be able to bill a subset of customers within a rate class, without placing a significant burden to the distributor.*

*For these reason the Board's original Deferral Variance Account workflow was modeled on this basis. However based on Enersource's evidence, there could be material unfairness to RPP customers within the affected rate classes.*

*Therefore Board staff suggests that a separate rate rider be established to clear the GA sub-account balance to Non-RPP customers within rate classes.*

*What remains unclear to Board staff is whether Enersource's billing system could accommodate that change within a reasonable timeframe."*

While Enersource's response to the Board staff's submission is still pending Board staff would like to poll **CNPI - FE** on the above issue.

- a) Board staff is proposing that a separate disposition rate rider be applied prospectively to Non-RPP customers for 1588 – Global Adjustment. Does **CNPI - FE** agree that this proposal would be fair to all customers? Why or why not?
- b) If the Board were to order **CNPI - FE** to provide such a rate rider, would **CNPI - FE**'s billing system be capable of billing non-RPP the separate rate rider? What complications, if any, would **CNPI - FE** see with this rate rider?
- c) If **CNPI - FE** were to be unable to bill in this fashion what would **CNPI - FE** consider proposing in the alternative?

### **3. Ref: 2010 IRM Deferral Variance Billing Determinants**

Below are the billing determinants identified on Sheet "B1.3 Rate Class And Bill Det" of the workflow.

Rate Class	Billed Customers or Connections		
	A	B	C
Residential	14,315	115,322,011	
General Service Less Than 50 kW	1,184	37,747,136	
General Service 50 to 4,999 kW	147	147,729,800	399,198
Unmetered Scattered Load	119	349,768	
Sentinel Lighting	961	797,374	2,423
Street Lighting	3,095	2,210,842	6,718

- Please identify if these values are from the **CNPI - FE** 2009 Cost of Service Application or 2008 RRR reported values.
- If the above are from the 2009 CoS application please provide reference to location in the application.
- If the above are from the 2008 RRR reported values, please explain why **CNPI - FE** has not used the 2009 CoS values.

**4. Ref: 2010 IRM Deferral Variance Billing Determinants**

Below are the Billed kWh for Non-RPP customers identified on Sheet "B1.3 Rate Class And Bill Det" of the workform.

Rate Class	Billed kWh for Non-RPP customers
	D
Residential	19,653,628
General Service Less Than 50 kW	4,403,553
General Service 50 to 4,999 kW	106,206,984
Unmetered Scattered Load	
Sentinel Lighting	671,876
Street Lighting	2,210,842

- Please identify if these values estimated values or actual values and specify the applicable period.
- If the above values are estimated please explain why **CNPI - FE** is unable to determine actual.

- c) As discussed in one of the questions above Board staff have proposed a non-RPP customer rate rider for disposition of the 1588 – Global adjustment. If accepted would **CNPI - FE** support using the numbers above as the most reasonable denominator to be used for rate determination.
- d) If **CNPI - FE** were to establish a separate rate rider to dispose of the balance of the 1588 – Global adjustment sub-account, does **CNPI - FE** believe that the rider be applied to customers in the MUSH sector? If not, would **CNPI - FE** have the billing capability to exclude customers in the MUSH sector if a separate rate rider were to apply for the disposition of the 1588 – Global adjustment sub-account?

**5. Ref: 2010 IRM Deferral Variance Total Claim**

Below are the Total Claim values for the EDDVAR Group One Deferral Accounts.

## Regulatory Assets - Continuity Schedule Final

Account Description	Account Number	Total Claim
LV Variance Account	1550	0
RSVA - Wholesale Market Service Charge	1580	(760,681 )
RSVA - Retail Transmission Network Charge	1584	17,897
RSVA - Retail Transmission Connection Charge	1586	104,740
RSVA - Power (Excluding Global Adjustment)	1588	783,392
RSVA - Power (Global Adjustment Sub-account)		736,685
Recovery of Regulatory Asset Balances	1590	(276,820 )
Disposition and recovery of Regulatory Balances Account	1595	0
	Total	605,214

- a) Please complete the amended Deferral Variance Account Workform V4 as found on the Board's website under the 2010 Electricity Distribution Rates update December 7, 2009. Note that Board staff can assist in converting your most recent model (either the one filed with your application or a

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more recent version if available). Please contact your case manager to assist you if need be.

- b) Please confirm if these are the final balances for disposition. If not the final balances please provide amended workform to support final balances for disposition.
- c) Please reconcile final balance for disposition to the 2008 year end account balance reported in the RRR filing. Please identify the source and reasons for variances.
- d) Please confirm that **CNPI - FE** has complied with and applied correctly the Boards accounting policy and procedures for calculation of the final disposition balance. If **CNPI - FE** has used other practices in the calculation please explain where in the filing and why.
- e) Please confirm that **CNPI - FE** has used the simple interest calculation as required by the Board using the Boards prescribed interest rates. If **CNPI - FE** has used other calculations please explain where in the filing and why.
- f) Please confirm that **CNPI - FE** has complied with the requirement to apply recoveries to principal first as outlined in the 2006 Regulatory Assets Transactions document issued September 4, 2009 (included in the Updated IRM Deferral and Variance Account Work Form zip file). If **CNPI - FE** has not complied with this requirement please explain why not?

**6. Ref: Manager's Summary Smart Meter Rate Adder.**

CNPI - FE has applied for an increased Smart Meter Rate Adder from \$0.27 to \$1.00 per metered customer per month.

- a) Section 1.4 of Board Guideline G-2008-0002, Smart Meter Funding and Cost Recovery, specifies further filing requirements for distributors seeking the standard \$1.00 or more smart meter funding adder. In accordance with section 1.4, please provide documentation supporting that CNPI - FE is duly authorized to deploy smart meters pursuant to O.Reg. 427/06, as amended on June 25, 2008 by O.Reg. 235/08. A copy of an "Attestation of the Fairness Commissioner" would be consistent with this filing requirement.

## **HST Interrogatory**

### **7. Harmonized Sales Tax**

It is possible that the PST and GST may be harmonized effective July 1, 2010.

In the event that PST and GST are harmonized effective July 1, 2010:

- a. Would the Applicant agree to the establishment of a variance account to capture the reductions in OM&A and capital expenditures?
  
- a. Are there other alternatives that the Board might consider to reflect the reductions in OM&A and capital expenditures if this bill is enacted?