



EB-2013-0158

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF an application by Northern Ontario Wires Inc. for an order approving just and reasonable rates and other charges for electricity distribution to be effective May 1, 2014.

By Delegation, Before: Lynne Anderson

DECISION and RATE ORDER

March 13, 2014

Northern Ontario Wires Inc. ("NOW Inc.") filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on October 22, 2013 under section 78 of the Act, seeking approval for changes to the rates that NOW Inc. charges for electricity distribution, effective May 1, 2014 (the "Application").

The Application met the Board's requirements as detailed in the *Report of the Board: Renewed Regulatory Framework for Electricity Distributors: A Performance-Based Approach* (the "RRFE Report") dated October 18, 2012 and the *Filing Requirements for Electricity Distribution Rate Applications* (the "Filing Requirements") dated July 17, 2013. NOW Inc. selected the Price Cap Incentive Rate-Setting ("Price Cap IR") option to adjust its 2014 rates. The Price Cap IR methodology provides for a mechanistic and formulaic adjustment to distribution rates and charges in the period between cost of service applications. NOW Inc. last appeared before the Board with a full cost of service application for the 2013 rate year in the EB-2012-0153 proceeding.

The Board conducted a written hearing and Board staff participated in the proceeding. No letters of comment were received. Board staff submitted that it had no concerns with the Application and the changes agreed to by NOW Inc. in responses to interrogatories.

While I have considered the entire record in this proceeding, I have made reference only to such evidence as is necessary to provide context to my findings. The following issues are addressed in this Decision and Rate Order:

- Price Cap Index Adjustment;
- Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge;
- Retail Transmission Service Rates; and
- Review and Disposition of Group 1 Deferral and Variance Account Balances.

Price Cap Index Adjustment

The Board issued the *Report on Rate Setting Parameters and Benchmarking under the Renewed Regulatory Framework for Ontario's Electricity Distributors* (the "Price Cap IR Report") which provides the 2014 rate adjustment parameters for distribution companies selecting either the Price Cap IR or Annual IR Index option.

Distribution rates under the Price Cap IR option are adjusted by an inflation factor, less a productivity factor and a stretch factor. The inflation factor for 2014 rates is 1.7%. Based on the total cost benchmarking model developed by Pacific Economics Group Research, LLC, the Board determined that the appropriate value for the productivity factor is zero percent. The Board also determined that the stretch factor can range from 0.0% to 0.6% for distributors selecting the Price Cap IR option, assigned based on a distributor's cost evaluation ranking. In the Price Cap IR Report, the Board assigned NOW Inc. a stretch factor of 0.0%.

As a result, the net price cap index adjustment for NOW Inc. is 1.7% (i.e. $1.7\% - (0\% + 0\%)$). The price cap index adjustment applies to distribution rates (fixed and variable charges) uniformly across all customer classes. The price cap index adjustment does not apply to the components of delivery rates set out in the list below.

- Rate Riders;
- Rate Adders;
- Low Voltage Service Charges;

- Retail Transmission Service Rates;
- Wholesale Market Service Rate;
- Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge;
- Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge;
- Transformation and Primary Metering Allowances;
- Loss Factors;
- Specific Service Charges;
- microFit Charge; and
- Retail Service Charges.

Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge

The Board issued a Decision and Rate Order (EB-2013-0396) establishing the Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection (“RRRP”) benefit and charge for 2014. The Board determined that the RRRP charge to be paid by all rate-regulated distributors and collected by the Independent Electricity System Operator (“IESO”) shall be increased to \$0.0013 per kWh effective May 1, 2014, from the current \$0.0012 per kWh. The draft Tariff of Rates and Charges flowing from this Decision and Rate Order reflects the new RRRP charge.

Retail Transmission Service Rates

Electricity distributors are charged for transmission costs at the wholesale level and then pass on these charges to their distribution customers through the Retail Transmission Service Rates (“RTSRs”). Variance accounts are used to capture differences in the rate that a distributor pays for wholesale transmission service compared to the retail rate that the distributor is authorized to charge when billing its customers (i.e. variance Accounts 1584 and 1586).

The Board issued revision 3.0 of the *Guideline G-2008-0001 - Electricity Distribution Retail Transmission Service Rates* (the “RTSR Guideline”) which outlines the information that the Board requires electricity distributors to file to adjust their RTSRs for 2014. The RTSR Guideline requires electricity distributors to adjust their RTSRs based

on a comparison of historical transmission costs adjusted for the new Uniform Transmission Rates (“UTR”) levels and the revenues generated under existing RTSRs. Similarly, embedded distributors must adjust their RTSRs to reflect any changes to the applicable Sub-Transmission RTSRs of their host distributor(s), e.g. Hydro One Networks Inc.

NOW Inc. is a partially embedded distributor whose host is Hydro One.

The Board issued its Rate Order for Hydro One Transmission (EB-2012-0031) which adjusted the UTRs effective January 1, 2014, as shown in the following table:

2014 Uniform Transmission Rates

Network Service Rate	\$3.82 per kW
<u>Connection Service Rates</u>	
Line Connection Service Rate	\$0.82 per kW
Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$1.98 per kW

The Board also approved new rates for Hydro One’s Sub-Transmission class, including the applicable RTSRs, effective January 1, 2014 (EB-2013-0141), as shown in the following table.

2014 Sub-Transmission RTSRs

Network Service Rate	\$3.23 per kW
<u>Connection Service Rates</u>	
Line Connection Service Rate	\$0.65 per kW
Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$1.62 per kW

I find that these 2014 Sub-Transmission class RTSRs are to be incorporated into the calculation of NOW Inc.’s RTSRs. Accordingly the rate models that accompany this Decision and Rate Order have been updated to include these rates.

Review and Disposition of Group 1 Deferral and Variance Account Balances

The *Report of the Board on Electricity Distributors’ Deferral and Variance Account Review Initiative* provides that, during the IRM plan term, the distributor’s Group 1 account balances will be reviewed and disposed if the preset disposition threshold of

\$0.001 per kWh (debit or credit) is exceeded. The onus is on the distributor to justify why any account balance in excess of the threshold should not be disposed.

NOW Inc.'s 2012 actual year-end total balance for Group 1 accounts including interest projected to December 31, 2013 is a credit of \$20,325. This amount results in a total credit claim of \$0.0002 per kWh, which does not exceed the preset disposition threshold. NOW Inc. did not seek disposition of balances in its application.

In its submission, Board staff noted that the principal amounts as of December 31, 2012 reconcile with the amounts reported as part of the *Reporting and Record-keeping Requirements*.

I find that no disposition is required at this time given that the disposition threshold has not been exceeded.

Rate Model

With this Decision and Rate Order, the Board is providing NOW Inc. with a rate model, applicable supporting models and a draft Tariff of Rates and Charges (Appendix A). The Board also reviewed the entries in the rate model to ensure that they were in accordance with the 2013 Board-approved Tariff of Rates and Charges and the rate model was adjusted, where applicable, to correct any discrepancies.

THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. NOW Inc.'s new distribution rates shall be effective May 1, 2014.
2. NOW Inc. shall review the draft Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Appendix A and shall file with the Board, as applicable, a written confirmation of its completeness and accuracy, or provide a detailed explanation of any inaccuracies or missing information, within **7 days** of the date of issuance of this Decision and Rate Order.
3. If the Board does not receive a submission from NOW Inc. to the effect that inaccuracies were found or information was missing pursuant to item 2 of this Decision and Rate Order, the draft Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Appendix A of this Decision and Rate Order will become final. NOW Inc. shall notify its

customers of the rate changes no later than the delivery of the first bill reflecting the new rates.

4. If the Board receives a submission from NOW Inc. to the effect that inaccuracies were found or information was missing pursuant to item 2 of this Decision and Rate Order, the Board will consider the submission of NOW Inc. prior to issuing a final Tariff of Rates and Charges.
5. NOW Inc. shall pay the Board's costs incidental to this proceeding upon receipt of the Board's invoice.

All filings to the Board must quote file number **EB-2013-0158**, be made through the Board's web portal at <https://www.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/> and consist of two paper copies and one electronic copy in searchable / unrestricted PDF format. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at www.ontarioenergyboard.ca. If the web portal is not available parties may email their document to BoardSec@ontarioenergyboard.ca. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit all filings on a CD in PDF format, along with two paper copies. Those who do not have computer access are required to file 2 paper copies.

DATED at Toronto, March 13, 2014

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

Appendix A

To Decision and Rate Order

Draft Tariff of Rates and Charges

Board File No: EB-2013-0158

DATED: March 13, 2014

Northern Ontario Wires Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2014

This schedule supersedes and replaces all previously approved schedules of Rates, Charges and Loss Factors

EB-2013-0158

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification refers to an account taking electricity at 750 volts or less where the electricity is used exclusively in a separately metered living accommodation. Customers shall be residing in single-dwelling units that consist of a detached house or one unit of a semi-detached, duplex, triplex or quadruplex house, with a residential zoning. Separately metered dwellings within a town house complex or apartment building also qualify as residential customers. Further servicing details are available in the utility's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

No rates and charges for the distribution of electricity and charges to meet the costs of any work or service done or furnished for the purpose of the distribution of electricity shall be made except as permitted by this schedule, unless required by the Distributor's Licence or a Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, or as specified herein.

Unless specifically noted, this schedule does not contain any charges for the electricity commodity, be it under the Regulated Price Plan, a contract with a retailer or the wholesale market price, as applicable. In addition, the charges in the MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES – Regulatory Component of this schedule do not apply to a customer that is an embedded wholesale market participant.

It should be noted that this schedule does not list any charges, assessments or credits that are required by law to be invoiced by a distributor and that are not subject to Board approval, such as the Debt Retirement Charge, the Global Adjustment, the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit and the HST.

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge	\$	20.70
Rate Rider for Recovery of Stranded Meter Assets - effective until May 31, 2014	\$	1.60
Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018	\$	0.79
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0157
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0013
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2013) - effective until May 31, 2014	\$/kWh	(0.0056)
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Sub-Account (2013) - effective until May 31, 2014		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kWh	0.0028
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0061
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0027

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Regulatory Component

Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0044
Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge (RRRP)	\$/kWh	0.0013
Standard Supply Service - Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Northern Ontario Wires Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2014

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EB-2013-0158

GENERAL SERVICE LESS THAN 50 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification refers to a non residential account taking electricity at 750 volts or less whose monthly average peak demand is less than, or is forecast to be less than, 50 kW. Further servicing details are available in the utility's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge	\$	27.25
Rate Rider for Recovery of Stranded Meter Assets - effective until May 31, 2014	\$	7.94
Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018	\$	0.79
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0153
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0012
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2013) - effective until May 31, 2014	\$/kWh	(0.0050)
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Sub-Account (2013) - effective until May 31, 2014		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kWh	0.0028
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0057
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0025

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Regulatory Component

Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0044
Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge (RRRP)	\$/kWh	0.0013
Standard Supply Service - Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Northern Ontario Wires Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2014

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EB-2013-0158

GENERAL SERVICE 50 TO 4,999 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification refers to a non residential account whose monthly average peak demand is equal to or greater than, or is forecast to be equal to or greater than, 50 kW but less than 5,000 kW. Further servicing details are available in the utility's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge	\$	184.70
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	0.8846
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kW	0.4340
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2013) - effective until May 31, 2014	\$/kW	(1.6670)
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Sub-Account (2013) - effective until May 31, 2014		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kW	0.8259
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	2.3095
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	0.9683

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Regulatory Component

Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0044
Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge (RRRP)	\$/kWh	0.0013
Standard Supply Service - Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Northern Ontario Wires Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2014

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UNMETERED SCATTERED LOAD SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification refers to an account taking electricity at 750 volts or less whose monthly average peak demand is less than, or is forecast to be less than, 50 kW and the consumption is unmetered. Such connections include cable TV power packs, bus shelters, telephone booths, traffic lights, railway crossings, etc. The customer will provide detailed manufacturer information/documentation with regard to electrical demand/consumption of the proposed unmetered load. Further servicing details are available in the utility's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	14.20
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0156
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0012
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2013) - effective until May 31, 2014	\$/kWh	(0.0056)
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Sub-Account (2013) - effective until May 31, 2014		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kWh	0.0028
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0057
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0025

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Regulatory Component

Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0044
Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge (RRRP)	\$/kWh	0.0013
Standard Supply Service - Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Northern Ontario Wires Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2014

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EB-2013-0158

STREET LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification refers to an account for roadway lighting with a Municipality, Regional Municipality, Ministry of Transportation and private roadway lighting operation, controlled by photo cells. The consumption for these customers will be based on the calculated connected load times the required lighting times established in the approved OEB street lighting load shape template. Further servicing details are available in the utility's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	6.55
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	7.7172
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kW	0.3351
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2013) - effective until May 31, 2014	\$/kW	(1.8400)
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Sub-Account (2013) - effective until May 31, 2014		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kW	1.0607
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.7419
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	0.7486

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Regulatory Component

Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0044
Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge (RRRP)	\$/kWh	0.0013
Standard Supply Service - Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Northern Ontario Wires Inc.
TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES
Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2014

**This schedule supersedes and replaces all previously
approved schedules of Rates, Charges and Loss Factors**

EB-2013-0158

microFIT SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to an electricity generation facility contracted under the Ontario Power Authority's microFIT program and connected to the distributor's distribution system. Further servicing details are available in the utility's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge	\$	5.40
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Northern Ontario Wires Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2014

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ALLOWANCES

Transformer Allowance for Ownership - per kW of billing demand/month	\$/kW	(0.60)
Primary Metering Allowance for transformer losses – applied to measured demand and energy	%	(1.00)

SPECIFIC SERVICE CHARGES

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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Customer Administration

Arrears certificate	\$	15.00
Returned cheque charge (plus bank charges)	\$	15.00
Statement of Account	\$	15.00
Account History	\$	15.00
Request for other billing information	\$	15.00
Account set up charge/change of occupancy charge (plus credit agency costs if applicable)	\$	30.00
Meter dispute charge plus Measurement Canada fees (if meter found correct)	\$	30.00

Non-Payment of Account

Late Payment – per month	%	1.50
Late Payment – per annum	%	19.56
Collection of Account Charge - no disconnection	\$	30.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at meter – during regular hours	\$	65.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at meter – after regular hours	\$	185.00
Specific Charge for Access to the Power Poles - \$/pole/year	\$	22.35

Northern Ontario Wires Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2014

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EB-2013-0158

RETAIL SERVICE CHARGES (if applicable)

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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Retail Service Charges refer to services provided by a distributor to retailers or customers related to the supply of competitive electricity.

One-time charge, per retailer, to establish the service agreement between the distributor and the retailer	\$	100.00
Monthly Fixed Charge, per retailer	\$	20.00
Monthly Variable Charge, per customer, per retailer	\$/cust.	0.50
Distributor-consolidated billing monthly charge, per customer, per retailer	\$/cust.	0.30
Retailer-consolidated billing monthly credit, per customer, per retailer	\$/cust.	(0.30)
Service Transaction Requests (STR)		
Request fee, per request, applied to the requesting party	\$	0.25
Processing fee, per request, applied to the requesting party	\$	0.50
Request for customer information as outlined in Section 10.6.3 and Chapter 11 of the Retail Settlement Code directly to retailers and customers, if not delivered electronically through the Electronic Business Transaction (EBT) system, applied to the requesting party		
Up to twice a year	\$	no charge
More than twice a year, per request (plus incremental delivery costs)	\$	2.00

LOSS FACTORS

If the distributor is not capable of prorating changed loss factors jointly with distribution rates, the revised loss factors will be implemented upon the first subsequent billing for each billing cycle.

Total Loss Factor – Secondary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0713
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0605