

# ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF ESSEX POWERLINES CORPORATION

**Essex Powerlines Corporation has applied to change its electricity distribution rates. Learn more. Have your say.**

**Essex Powerlines Corporation has applied to the Ontario Energy Board to decrease the amount it charges by approximately \$0.04 each month for the typical residential customer beginning on January 1, 2015 and to increase the amount it charges by approximately \$0.28 each month for the typical residential customer beginning on May 1, 2015. Other customers, including businesses, may be affected as well.**

**The requested rate decrease starting January 1, 2015 is due to a temporary credit related to smart meter cost recovery. The requested rate increase starting May 1, 2015 is tied to inflation and other factors intended to promote efficiency.**

**Essex Powerlines Corporation has also applied to recover the costs of the installation of smart meters. The Ontario Energy Board will hear both the rate case and the smart meter cost recovery case as part of one proceeding.**

## **THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold one consolidated hearing to consider both of Essex Powerlines' requests. We will determine whether Essex Powerlines has used the applicable models and formulas as required by the OEB for the rate change. At the end of these hearing, the OEB will decide on the appropriate rate changes and on whether to allow the recovery of costs associated with the installation of smart meters in Essex Powerline's service area.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

## **BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY**

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process. You can:

- review Essex Powerlines' applications on the OEB's website now;
- file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearings;
- become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply no later than **[insert actual date 10 calendar days from publication]** after the publication or service date of this notice or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding;
- at the end of the process, review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website.

The OEB does not intend to award costs in the proceeding for the inflation-based adjustment to Essex Powerlines' distribution rates as Essex Powerlines has only made proposals of a mechanistic nature within the OEB's guidelines.

The OEB will consider cost awards that are in accordance with the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* in the proceeding to review Essex Powerlines' smart meter costs.

## **LEARN MORE**

These proposed charges relate to Essex Powerlines' distribution services. They make up part of the Delivery line -- one of the five line items on your bill. Our file number for Essex Powerlines' case related to inflation-based adjustments to its distribution charges is **EB-2014-0072**. Our file number for the review of Essex Powerlines' costs related to the installation of smart meters is **EB-2014-0301**. To learn more about these hearings, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to these cases please select the appropriate application from the list at the OEB website: [www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice](http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice). You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

## **WRITTEN HEARING**

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. Essex Powerlines has applied for a written hearing. The OEB is considering this request. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why.

## **PRIVACY**

*If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter or the documents you file with the OEB will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.*

*This hearing will be held under sections 78 and 21(5) of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).*

