



EB-2014-0066

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 Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc. for an order approving just and reasonable rates and other charges for electricity distribution to be effective January 1, 2015.

By Delegation, Before: Lynne Anderson

DECISION AND RATE ORDER

December 4, 2014

Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc. (“Cooperative Hydro Embrun”) filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) on August 12, 2014 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, seeking approval for changes to the rates that Cooperative Hydro Embrun charges for electricity distribution, effective January 1, 2015 (the “Application”).

Cooperative Hydro Embrun last appeared before the Board with a cost of service application for the 2014 rate year in the EB-2013-0122 proceeding. To adjust its 2015 rates, Cooperative Hydro Embrun selected the Price Cap Incentive Rate-setting option (the “Price Cap IR”) which provides for a mechanistic and formulaic adjustment to distribution rates and charges in the period between cost of service proceedings. The Application met the Board’s filing requirements¹ for filings by rate-regulated electricity distributors (“distributors”) applying for annual rate adjustments under Price Cap IR.

¹ Report of the Board: Renewed Regulatory Framework for Electricity Distributors: A Performance-Based Approach (October 18, 2012); and Filing Requirements for Electricity Distribution Rate Applications (July 25, 2014)

While the entire record in this proceeding has been considered by me, this decision will make reference only to such information as is necessary to provide context to my conclusions. 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 Price Cap IR option is a streamlined regulatory process designed to provide distributors with sufficient revenue to cover cost increases due to inflation while providing an incentive structure to drive productivity improvements.

Under the Price Cap IR option², distribution rates are adjusted by an inflation factor, less the sum of a productivity factor and a stretch factor. Based on its established method³, the Board has set the inflation factor for 2015 rates at 1.6% and the productivity factor remains zero percent. The Board also determined that the stretch factor can range from 0.0% to 0.6%, assigned based on a distributor's cost evaluation ranking. The Board assigned Cooperative Hydro Embrun a stretch factor of 0.15% based on the updated benchmarking study for use for rates effective in 2015⁴.

As a result, the net price cap index adjustment for Cooperative Hydro Embrun is 1.45% (i.e. 1.6 % - (0% + 0.15%)). 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;

² Report on Rate Setting Parameters and Benchmarking under the Renewed Regulatory Framework for Ontario's Electricity Distributors (December 4, 2013)

³ As outlined in the Report cited at footnote 2 above.

⁴ Report to the Ontario Energy Board – "Empirical Research in Support of Incentive Rate-Setting: 2013 Benchmarking Update." Pacific Economics Group LLC. July, 2014.

- 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

As of the date of this Decision and Rate Order, the Board has not issued a decision on the Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection (“RRRP”) charge for 2015. In the event that a new charge is established for 2015, the RRRP rate order will supersede this Decision and Rate Order with respect to the RRRP charge currently set at \$0.0013/kWh.

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 their Retail Transmission Service Rates (“RTSRs”). Variance accounts 1584 and 1586 are used to capture differences in the rate that a distributor pays for wholesale transmission service relative to the retail rate that the distributor is authorized to charge when billing its customers.

The Board has issued guidelines⁵ which outline the information that the Board requires electricity distributors to file in order to adjust their RTSRs for 2015. 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 and the revenues generated under existing RTSRs. Similarly, embedded distributors, such as Cooperative Hydro Embrun, must adjust their RTSRs to reflect any changes to the applicable RTSRs of their host distributor(s), e.g. Hydro One Networks Inc.

⁵ Guideline G-2008-0001 - Electricity Distribution Retail Transmission Service Rates, revision 4.0 (June 28, 2012)

Given the timing of rates decisions, distributors whose rates are set as of January 1 typically derive their RTSRs using the previous year's Uniform Transmission Rates because updated ones are not yet available. As with past years, the Board has not yet adjusted Uniform Transmission Rates and Hydro One sub-transmission class rates for 2015. I will therefore approve the RTSRs as adjusted in this Application so that they reflect the current applicable rates. The differences arising from the new 2015 rates, once approved, will be captured in Accounts 1584 and 1586 for future disposition.

Review and Disposition of Group 1 Deferral and Variance Account Balances

The Board's policy on deferral and variance accounts⁶ 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, whether in the form of a 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. If the balances are below this threshold, the distributor may nevertheless propose to dispose of balances.

Cooperative Hydro Embrun's 2013 actual year-end total balance for Group 1 accounts including interest projected to December 31, 2014 is a credit of \$8,385. This amount results in a total credit claim of \$0.0003 per kWh, which does not exceed the preset disposition threshold. Cooperative Hydro Embrun did not seek disposition of balances in its application.

The balances do not exceed the preset disposition threshold therefore I agree that no disposition is required at this time.

Rate Model

With this Decision and Rate Order, is a rate model, applicable supporting models and a final Tariff of Rates and Charges (Appendix A). Entries in the rate model(s) were reviewed to ensure that they were in accordance with the 2014 Board-approved Tariff of Rates and Charges. The rate model was adjusted, where applicable, to correct any discrepancies.

⁶ Report of the Board on Electricity Distributors' Deferral and Variance Account Review Initiative (July 31, 2009)

THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. The Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Appendix A of this Decision and Rate Order is approved effective January 1, 2015 for electricity consumed or estimated to have been consumed on and after such date. Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc. shall notify its customers of the rate changes no later than the delivery of the first bill reflecting the new rates.

DATED at Toronto, December 4, 2014

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

Appendix A

To Decision and Rate Order

Tariff of Rates and Charges

Board File No: EB-2014-0062

DATED: December 4, 2014

Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date January 1, 2015

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

EB-2014-0066

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to an account taking electricity at 750 volts or less where the electricity is used exclusively in a separate 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. All customers are single-phase. Further servicing details are available in the distributor'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	\$	14.77
Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018	\$	0.79
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0138
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0018
Rate Rider for Disposition of Account 1576 - effective until December 31, 2015	\$/kWh	(0.0007)
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0071
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0051

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

Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date January 1, 2015

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EB-2014-0066

GENERAL SERVICE LESS THAN 50 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to a non-residential account taking electricity at 750 volts or less whose average monthly maximum demand is less than, or is forecast to be less than, 50 kW. Further servicing details are available in the distributor'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.

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge	\$	17.23
Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018	\$	0.79
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0142
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0016
Rate Rider for Disposition of Account 1576 - effective until December 31, 2015	\$/kWh	(0.0007)
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0066
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0045

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

Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

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GENERAL SERVICE 50 TO 4,999 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to a non-residential account whose average monthly maximum demand used for billing purposes 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 distributor'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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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	\$	191.99
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	3.5574
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kW	0.5928
Rate Rider for Disposition of Account 1576 - effective until December 31, 2015	\$/kW	(0.2319)
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	2.6487
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.8094

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

Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date January 1, 2015

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UNMETERED SCATTERED LOAD SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to an account taking electricity at 750 volts or less whose average monthly maximum 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 level of the consumption will be agreed to by the distributor and the customer, based on detailed manufacturer information/ documentation with regard to electrical consumption of the unmetered load or periodic monitoring of actual consumption. Further servicing details are available in the distributor'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 (per customer)	\$	20.37
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0053
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0016
Rate Rider for Disposition of Account 1576 - effective until December 31, 2015	\$/kWh	(0.0007)
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0066
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0045

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

Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

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STREET LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to an account for roadway lighting with a Municipality, Regional Municipality, Ministry of Transportation and private roadway lighting, 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 distributor's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	1.91
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	7.7841
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kW	0.4583
Rate Rider for Disposition of Account 1576 - effective until December 31, 2015	\$/kW	(0.2391)
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.9977
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.3988

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

Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.
TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES
Effective and Implementation Date January 1, 2015

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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 distributor'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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Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

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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

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
Statement of Account	\$	15.00
Duplicate Invoices for previous billing	\$	15.00
Request for other billing information	\$	15.00
Income Tax Letter	\$	15.00
Account History	\$	15.00
Credit check (plus credit agency costs)	\$	25.00
Returned cheque (plus bank charges)	\$	15.00
Legal letter charge	\$	15.00
Account set up charge/change of occupancy charge (plus credit agency costs if applicable)	\$	15.00
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	\$	20.00
Collection of account charge – no disconnection – after regular hours	\$	50.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charge – At Meter – During Regular Hours	\$	25.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charge – At Meter – After Hours	\$	50.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charge – At Meter – During Regular Hours	\$	185.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charge – At Pole – After Hours	\$	415.00
Install/Remove load control device – during regular hours	\$	25.00
Install/Remove load control device – after regular hours	\$	50.00

Other

Special meter reads	\$	20.00
Service call – customer owned equipment	\$	30.00
Service call – after regular hours	\$	165.00
Temporary service installation and removal – overhead – no transformer	\$	500.00
Temporary service installation and removal – underground – no transformer	\$	300.00
Temporary service installation and removal – overhead – with transformer	\$	1,000.00
Specific Charge for Access to the Power Poles - \$/pole/year	\$	22.35

Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

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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	1.0663
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0555