



**EB-2014-0075**

**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 Greater  
Sudbury Hydro Inc. for an order approving just and  
reasonable rates and other charges for electricity distribution  
to be effective May 1, 2015.

**By Delegation, Before:** Lynne Anderson

## **DECISION and RATE ORDER**

**March 19, 2015**

Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc. (“Greater Sudbury Hydro”) filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) on October 31, 2014 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, seeking approval for changes to the rates that Greater Sudbury Hydro charges for electricity distribution, effective May 1, 2015 (the “Application”).

Greater Sudbury Hydro last appeared before the Board with a cost of service application for the 2013 rate year in the EB-2012-0126 proceeding. To adjust its 2015 rates, Greater Sudbury Hydro 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 requirements<sup>1</sup> for filings by rate-regulated electricity distributors (“distributors”) applying for annual rate adjustments under Price Cap IR.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 option<sup>2</sup>, distribution rates are adjusted by an inflation factor, less the sum of a productivity factor and a stretch factor. Based on its established method<sup>3</sup>, 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 Greater Sudbury Hydro a stretch factor of 0.45%, based on the updated benchmarking study for use for rates effective in 2015<sup>4</sup>.

As a result, the net price cap index adjustment for Greater Sudbury Hydro is 1.15% (i.e. 1.6 % - (0% + 0.45%)). 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;

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

<sup>3</sup> As outlined in the Report cited at footnote 2 above.

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

- 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 has determined that the Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection (“RRRP”) benefit and charge for 2015 shall remain \$0.0013 per kWh<sup>5</sup>. The Tariff of Rates and Charges flowing from this Decision and Rate Order reflects this 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 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 guidelines<sup>6</sup> 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 (“UTR”) and the revenues generated under existing RTSRs. Similarly, partially embedded distributors, such as Greater Sudbury Hydro, must adjust their RTSRs to reflect any changes to the applicable RTSRs of their host distributor, which in this case is Hydro One Networks Inc.

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<sup>5</sup> Decision with Reasons and Rate Order, EB-2014-0347

<sup>6</sup> Guideline G-2008-0001 - Electricity Distribution Retail Transmission Service Rates, revision 4.0 (June 28, 2012)

The Board has adjusted the UTRs effective January 1, 2015<sup>7</sup>, as shown in the following table:

### 2015 Uniform Transmission Rates

Network Service Rate	\$3.78 per kW
<u>Connection Service Rates</u>	
Line Connection Service Rate	\$0.86 per kW
Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$2.00 per kW

The Board has not yet established Hydro One's sub-transmission class rates for 2015, including the retail transmission service rates for this class. I will therefore approve the RTSRs as adjusted in this Application so that they reflect those which currently apply to this class, as shown in the following table. The differences arising from the new 2015 rates, once approved, will be captured in Accounts 1584 and 1586 for future disposition.

### 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 conclude that these 2014 Sub-Transmission class RTSRs are to be incorporated into the filing module to adjust the RTSRs that Greater Sudbury Hydro will charge its customers accordingly.

### Review and Disposition of Group 1 Deferral and Variance Account Balances

The Board's policy on deferral and variance accounts<sup>8</sup> 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 propose to dispose of balances.

<sup>7</sup> 2015 Uniform Electricity Transmission Rate Order, EB-2014-0357

<sup>8</sup> Report of the Board on Electricity Distributors' Deferral and Variance Account Review Initiative (July 31, 2009)

Greater Sudbury Hydro's 2013 actual year-end total balance for Group 1 accounts including interest projected to April 30, 2015 is a credit of \$154,066. This amount results in a total credit claim of \$0.0002 per kWh, which does not exceed the preset disposition threshold. Greater Sudbury Hydro did not seek disposition of balances in its application.

I conclude that no disposition is required at this time.

### **Rate Model**

With this Decision and Rate Order are a rate model, applicable supporting models and a 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.

### **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 May 1, 2015 for electricity consumed or estimated to have been consumed on and after such date. Greater Sudbury Hydro 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, March 19, 2015

### **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-2014-0075**

**DATED: March 19, 2015**

# Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.

## TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

### Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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

EB-2014-0075

## RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

To qualify for residential rates an electrical service shall meet all of the following conditions:

- The electricity shall be intended for and used primarily for a residence in which one or more person(s) reside.
- The electrical service shall be individually metered, no bulk metering allowed.

Residential customers are defined as customers connected as detached, semi-detached or duplex dwelling units. It does not include Residential Rate Class customers in apartments, condominiums, row housing or any other abode that is not a detached, semi-detached or duplex dwelling unit. The definition does not include the installation of primary, transformation and secondary to the hand holes in a new subdivision. All items excluded from the residential rate class definition, as above, shall be treated as general service rate class customers. 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	\$	16.19
Rate Rider for Recovery of Stranded Meter Assets - effective until April 30, 2017	\$	0.41
Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018	\$	0.79
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0124
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0002
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2013) - effective until April 30, 2017	\$/kWh	(0.0014)
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Sub-Account (2013) - effective until April 30, 2017		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kWh	0.0009
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0064
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0044

## 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

# Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.

## TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

### Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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EB-2014-0075

## GENERAL SERVICE LESS THAN 50 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

To qualify for General Service Less Than 50 kW Rates an electrical service shall meet all of the following conditions:

- The electrical service shall not qualify as a Residential Rate Class service.
- The electrical service shall have a peak demand less than 50 kilowatts for seven or more months in any twelve month period.
- New connections will be classified based on the rating, in amperes, of the main switch or sum of main switches.

The General Service Less Than 50 kW Rate Class includes those Residential Rate Class customers that are not in detached, semi-detached or duplex dwelling units. The General Service Rate Class also includes subdivision developments and all General Service Rate Class customers. 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	\$	21.64
Rate Rider for Recovery of Stranded Meter Assets - effective until April 30, 2017	\$	1.81
Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018	\$	0.79
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0187
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0001
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2013) - effective until April 30, 2017	\$/kWh	(0.0007)
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Sub-Account (2013) - effective until April 30, 2017		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kWh	0.0009
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0047
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0032

### 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

# Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.

## TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

### Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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EB-2014-0075

## GENERAL SERVICE 50 TO 4,999 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

To qualify for General Service 50 to 4,999 kW Rates, an electrical service shall meet all of the following conditions:

- The electrical service shall not qualify as a Residential Rate Class service.
- The electrical service shall not qualify as a General Service Less Than 50 kW Rate Class service.
- New customers will be classified based on the rating, in amperes, of the main switch or sum of main switches.

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	\$	165.09
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	4.2894
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kW	0.1027
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2013) - effective until April 30, 2017	\$/kW	(0.2908)
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Sub-Account (2013) - effective until April 30, 2017 Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kW	0.3567
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	3.5400
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	2.4234

### 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

# Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.

## TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

### Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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EB-2014-0075

## UNMETERED SCATTERED LOAD SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to an account 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

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### MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	7.08
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0107
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0001
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2013) - effective until April 30, 2017	\$/kWh	(0.0018)
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Sub-Account (2013) - effective until April 30, 2017		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kWh	0.0009
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0047
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0032

### 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

# Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.

## TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

### Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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

EB-2014-0075

## SENTINEL LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification refers to accounts that are an unmetered lighting load supplied to a sentinel light. 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 connection)	\$	3.93
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	12.6164
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kW	0.0545
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2013) - effective until April 30, 2017	\$/kW	(0.0072)
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Sub-Account (2013) - effective until April 30, 2017		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kW	0.0009
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.9024
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.3022

### 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

# Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.

## TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

### Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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

EB-2014-0075

## 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

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 connection)	\$	5.38
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	2.6427
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kW	0.0515
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2013) - effective until April 30, 2017	\$/kW	<b>(3.0138)</b>
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Sub-Account (2013) - effective until April 30, 2017 Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kW	0.3192
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.7971
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.2300

### 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

# Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.

## TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

### Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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

EB-2014-0075

## 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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# Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.

## TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

### Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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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

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### Customer Administration

Arrears Certificate	\$	15.00
Statement of Account	\$	15.00
Returned Cheque Charge (plus bank charges)	\$	15.00
Account Set Up Charge/Change of Occupancy Charge (plus credit agency costs if applicable)	\$	30.00

### Non-Payment of Account

Late Payment Charge – per month	%	1.50
Late Payment Charge – per annum	%	19.56
Collection of Account Charge – no disconnection - during regular hours	\$	30.00
Collection of Account Charge – no disconnection – after regular hours	\$	165.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at meter – during regular hours	\$	65.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at meter – after regular hours	\$	185.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at pole – during regular hours	\$	185.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at pole – after regular hours	\$	415.00

### Other

Specific Charge for Access to the Power Poles - per pole/year	\$	22.35
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# Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.

## TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

### Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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EB-2014-0075

## 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	1.0540
Total Loss Factor - Primary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0434