



EB-2014-0122

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 West
Coast Huron Energy 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

West Coast Huron Energy Inc. (“West Coast Huron”) filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) on October 6, 2014 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, seeking approval for changes to the rates that West Coast Huron charges for electricity distribution, effective May 1, 2015 (the “Application”).

West Coast Huron last appeared before the Board with a cost of service application for the 2013 rate year in the EB-2012-0175 proceeding. To adjust its 2015 rates, West Coast Huron 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.

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

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)

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
- 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 West Coast Huron a stretch factor of 0.6% based on the updated benchmarking study for use for rates effective in 2015⁴.

As a result, the net price cap index adjustment for West Coast Huron is 1.0% (i.e. 1.6 % - (0% + 0.6 %)). 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;

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.

- 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 kWh⁵. The draft 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 guidelines⁶ 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.

⁵ Decision with Reasons and Rate Order, EB-2014-0347

⁶ 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, 2015⁷, 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

I conclude that these 2015 UTRs are to be incorporated into the filing module to adjust the RTSRs that West Coast Huron will charge its customers accordingly.

Review and Disposition of Group 1 Deferral and Variance Account Balances

The Board's policy on deferral and variance accounts⁸ 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.

West Coast Huron's 2013 actual year-end total balance for Group 1 accounts including interest projected to April 30, 2015 is a debit of \$68,177. This amount results in a total debit claim of \$0.0005 per kWh, which does not exceed the preset disposition threshold. West Coast Huron 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 draft Tariff of Rates and Charges (Appendix A). Entries in the rate model were reviewed to ensure that they were in accordance with the 2014 Board-approved Tariff of Rates

⁷ 2015 Uniform Electricity Transmission Rate Order, EB-2014-0357

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

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. West Coast Huron 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-2014-0122

DATED: March 19, 2015

West Coast Huron Energy 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-2014-0122

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification refers to the supply of electrical energy to customers residing in residential dwelling units. 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 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 Debt Retirement Charge, the Global Adjustment, the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit and the HST.

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge	\$	17.88
Rate Rider for Recovery of Stranded Meter Assets - effective until August 31, 2017	\$	0.80
Rate Rider for Recovery of Storm Damage Costs - effective until August 31, 2017	\$	1.17
Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018	\$	0.79
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0231
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0071
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0058

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

West Coast Huron Energy Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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EB-2014-0122

GENERAL SERVICE LESS THAN 50 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to the supply of electrical energy to General Service Buildings requiring a connection with a connected load less than 50 kW and, Town Houses and Condominiums described in section 3.1.8 of the distributor's Conditions of Service that require centralized bulk metering. General Service Buildings are defined as buildings that are used for purposes other than single family dwellings. 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 schedule.

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge	\$	31.76
Rate Rider for Recovery of Stranded Meter Assets - effective until August 31, 2017	\$	2.05
Rate Rider for Recovery of Storm Damage Costs - effective until August 31, 2017	\$	3.02
Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018	\$	0.79
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0109
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0065
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

West Coast Huron Energy Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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EB-2014-0122

GENERAL SERVICE 50 TO 499 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to the supply of electrical energy to General Service Customers requiring a connection with a connected load, whose average monthly maximum demand used, for billing purposes, is, or is forecast to be, equal to or greater than 50 kW but less than 500 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 schedule.

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge	\$	152.20
Rate Rider for Recovery of Storm Damage Costs - effective until August 31, 2017	\$	28.87
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	2.3792
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	2.5793
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	2.0397

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

West Coast Huron Energy Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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EB-2014-0122

GENERAL SERVICE 500 TO 4,999 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to the supply of electrical energy to General Service Customers requiring a connection with a connected load, whose average monthly maximum demand used, for billing purposes, is, or is forecast to be, equal to or greater than 500 kW but less than 5,000 kW. 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	\$	1,614.24
Rate Rider for Recovery of Storm Damage Costs - effective until August 31, 2017	\$	188.72
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	1.1078
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	2.7395
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	2.2362

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

West Coast Huron Energy Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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EB-2014-0122

LARGE USE SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification refers to the supply of electrical energy to General Service Customers requiring a connection with a connected load or 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 5,000 kW. 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	\$	9,710.32
Rate Rider for Recovery of Storm Damage Costs - effective until August 31, 2017	\$	985.78
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	1.7480
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	3.0337
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	2.5570

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

West Coast Huron Energy Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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EB-2014-0122

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, decorative street lighting, bill boards, etc. The level of consumption will be agreed to by the distributor and the customer, based on detailed manufacturer information/documentation with regard to electrical consumption of 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 schedule.

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	74.29
Rate Rider for Recovery of Storm Damage Costs - effective until August 31, 2017	\$	6.00
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0659
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0065
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

West Coast Huron Energy Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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EB-2014-0122

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 schedule.

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	36.42
Rate Rider for Recovery of Storm Damage Costs - effective until August 31, 2017	\$	1.46
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	0.0000
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.9555
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.6097

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

West Coast Huron Energy Inc.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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EB-2014-0122

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 connection load times the required lighting times established in the approved OEB street lighting load shape template. Street lighting plant, facilities or equipment owned by the customer are subject to the ESA requirements. 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)	\$	4.45
Rate Rider for Recovery of Storm Damage Costs - effective until August 31, 2017	\$	0.16
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	24.3725
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.9453
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.6097

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

West Coast Huron Energy Inc.
TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES
Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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approved schedules of Rates, Charges and Loss Factors**

EB-2014-0122

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 schedule.

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge	\$	5.40
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West Coast Huron Energy 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
Account set up charge/change of occupancy charge (plus credit agency costs if applicable)	\$	30.00
Special meter reads	\$	15.00
Meter dispute charge plus Measurement Canada fees (if meter found correct)	\$	30.00

Non-Payment of Account

Late Payment – per month	%	1.5000
Late Payment – per annum	%	19.5600
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
Disconnect/Reconnect at pole – during regular hours	\$	185.00

Other

Specific Charge for Access to the Power Poles - \$/pole/year	\$	22.35
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West Coast Huron Energy 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	1.0467
Total Loss Factor – Secondary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW	1.0145
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0362
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW	1.0045