

February 5th, 2009



Ms. Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: EB-2008-0150 Consultation on Energy Issues Relating to Low Income Consumers – Information Request Winter Warmth Program to PowerStream Inc. and Barrie Hydro Distribution

As requested, PowerStream and Barrie Hydro offer the following information relating to the Consultation on Energy Issues Relating to Low Income Consumers.

PowerStream Inc.:

1. Was funding was included in distribution rates and/or was from shareholder (or other) donations? Has there been any change over the years as to where the funding has come from?

In 2008 the Winter Warmth program was funded through PowerStream's 2007 budget (allocated in December 2007).

In the 2009 Cost of Service rate application filed with the Board, donations for the Winter Warmth Program have been included in the OM&A component of the revenue requirement. This is based on s.6.2.4 of the 2006 EDR Handbook that outlines which donations are eligible for recovery in rates.

Barrie Hydro Distribution:

1. What emergency programs are offered? Please briefly describe the offered emergency assistance program?

In 2008 Barrie Hydro did not offer any emergency assistance program, however, they worked closely with Social Services in their territory, Simcoe 211 and they donated to the local United Way. Barrie Hydro did not include donations to emergency assistance programs in their 2008 Cost of Service rate application.

Due to the merger of PowerStream and Barrie Hydro, the merged company will be examining the continuation of the funding for the Winter Warmth Program for its entire service territory.

2. *How much was spent on emergency assistance programs in the 2007/2008 heating season? How much has been allocated for the 2008/2009 heating season?*
N/A
3. *How are expenditures on emergency assistance programs recovered (distribution rates, shareholder donations, etc.)?*
N/A
4. *How many customers accessed the emergency assistance programs in the 2007/2008 heating season? How many customers are expected to access the emergency assistance programs in the 2008/2009 heating season?*
N/A
5. *What is the average grant per customer from the emergency assistance programs?*
N/A
6. *Currently, how many residential customers does the distributor have?*
In 2008, Barrie Hydro had 62,513 residential customers.
7. *How much distribution revenue was collected in 2008?*
In 2008, \$30,517,000 was collected by Barrie Hydro.

Should you require any further details, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

[original signed by]

Sarah Griffiths
Manager – Regulatory and Government Affairs