



EB-2008-0247

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 Welland
Hydro-Electric System Corp. for an order approving just
and reasonable rates and other charges for electricity
distribution to be effective May 1, 2009.

INTERIM RATE ORDER

Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp. ("Welland") filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board, received on August 15, 2008, under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, (the Act), seeking approval for changes to the rates that Welland charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2009. The Board assigned Welland's application File Number EB-2008-0247.

The Board issued a Notice of Application and Hearing for the application on September 12, 2008, Procedural Order No. 1 on October 28, 2008, Procedural Order No. 2 on January 16, 2009 and Procedural Order No. 3 on January 23, 2009.

In light of the time constraints in this proceeding, the Board will not be able to conclude its review of the application in order to set rates to be implemented May 1, 2009. The Board notes that in its application, Welland requested that should the Board not be able to provide an order for implementation as of May 1, 2009, Welland's proposed rates for 2009 should be declared interim. The Board has considered this request but has determined that Welland's current rates for its service area should be made interim, effective May 1, 2009 pending the issuance of final rates for 2009. The Board expects that final rates will be issued reasonably close to May 1, 2009 and therefore it is not necessary to consider implementing the proposed rates on an interim basis.

In declaring Welland's rates interim, the Board emphasizes that this interim rate order should not be construed as predictive, in any way whatsoever, of the final determination of these applications with regards to the effective date.

THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

The currently approved rates for Welland's service area are declared interim as of May 1, 2009 and until such time as a final rate order is issued by the Board.

DATED at Toronto, April 29, 2009
ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary