

Board Staff Interrogatories for Electricity Distributors Association (EDA) regarding the microFIT Proceeding (EB-2009-0326)

The following Board Staff interrogatories contain questions relating to the proceeding initiated by the Ontario Energy Board to determine and implement a distribution rate for embedded generators having a nameplate capacity of 10 kW or less.

References

- i. Evidence, Pages 1-3
 - ii. Attached Table, Pages 1-2
- The 1st reference provides a recommendation to include 12 cost items in the calculation of the microFIT generator charge.
 - The 2nd reference presents cost items found in the load customer fixed charge, along with the rationale for the inclusion or exclusion of the item in the microFIT generator customer charge.

Questions

1. With respect to cost item (1) Operation Supervision and Engineering provided in the 1st reference, please provide further details to augment the explanation provided in the 2nd reference to justify its inclusion in the calculation of the microFIT generator charge. These details should include but not be limited by the following:
 - a. Reasons for the increase in supervision and engineering to address the increased work load due to the installation of micro-generators (2nd reference), and
 - b. Correlation between the percentage increase in total cost of this item vs. the percent of current load customers that install micro-generators, and
 - c. Correlation between the increase in total cost of this item and size of distributor, e.g. small, medium and large, and
 - d. Threshold if any in terms of number of micro-generator installations before which the cost of this item would not increase.
2. With respect to cost item (2) Load Dispatching provided in the 1st reference, please provide further details to augment the explanation provided in the 2nd reference to justify its inclusion in the calculation of the microFIT generator charge. These details should include but not be limited by the following:

- a. Reasons for the need to hire new operators for the system control centre to understand and manage the two-way flow of electricity due to the installation of micro-generators (2nd reference), and
 - b. Correlation between the percentage increase in system control operators vs. the percent of current load customers that install micro-generators, and
 - c. Correlation between the increase in total cost of this item and size of distributor, e.g. small, medium and large, and
 - d. Threshold if any in terms of number of micro-generator installations before which the cost of this item would not increase.
3. Over and above the cost items provided in the 1st and 2nd references, please explain if the following cost items were considered in the calculation of the fixed charge for micro-generators. If these items were considered, please explain the rationale for their exclusion in the determination of the microFIT rate. If these items were not considered, does EDA agree that they should be included in the determination of the microFIT rate?
 - a. Depreciation on Account 1860 – Meter Assets
 - b. Meter Expense – Account 5065
4. The evidence states (1st reference) that the EDA members believe that the same cost elements are applicable to all microFIT customers, regardless of whether they are directly connected, indirectly connected, or owned by the load customer entity or owned by a different entity. Please provide rationale to substantiate this conclusion and the further conclusion that the generator charge should be the same regardless of connection-type or ownership scenario.