Ontario Energy Board Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario



EB-2010-0142

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 Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited for an order approving just and reasonable rates and other charges for electricity distribution to be effective May 1, 2011.

PROCEDURAL ORDER No. 1

Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited ("Toronto Hydro") filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on Aug 23, 2010 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, *1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B), seeking approval for changes to the rates that Toronto Hydro charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2011. The Board has assigned the File Number EB-2010-0142 to this application.

The Board issued a Notice of Application and Hearing on September 15, 2010. The Board received 11 requests for intervenor status. No objections were received. The Board approves these intervention requests. A list of the intervenors is attached as Appendix A.

The following parties also applied for cost award eligibility: Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario, Building Owners and Managers Association of the Greater Toronto Area, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local One ("CUPE One"), Consumers Council of Canada, Energy Probe, Pollution Probe, School Energy Coalition and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition. No objections were received. The Board finds that each of these parties, except for CUPE One is eligible for a cost award under the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards.* The Board has determined that CUPE One is not eligible for an award of costs as it does not meet the criteria outlined in the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards.* The Notice of Application indicated that the Board would proceed by way of an oral hearing pending any objections. A number of parties indicated a preference for an oral hearing and no parties opposed one. The Board intends to proceed by way of an oral hearing preceded by written interrogatories.

The Board considers some of the issues that arise from the application to be of importance from a policy perspective. Therefore, the Board will consider the appropriateness of having all identified issues being eligible for settlement. The Board will make its determination on this matter, as well as establishing subsequent procedural steps, upon completion of its review of the responses to the first round of interrogatories, as outlined in this procedural order.

A draft issues list is attached as Appendix B. Intervenors and Toronto Hydro may make submissions on the list and propose changes for the Board's consideration. In proposing additional issues parties should provide justification and give consideration to whether the item is already included under one of the proposed issues. Similarly, parties proposing to remove or limit the scope of an issue on the draft list should provide justification. Parties are also encouraged to propose which issues should be considered on a written basis and which should be subject to an oral hearing. After reviewing these submissions, the Board will issue a final issues list. Only matters that are on the final issues list will be considered in this proceeding.

The Board requests that intervenors indicate whether they intend to file evidence in this proceeding.

The Board considers it necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. The Board may issue further procedural orders from time to time.

THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

- Toronto Hydro and intervenors may make submissions on the draft issues list (attached as Appendix B) and shall file any submissions with the Board and deliver them to each intervenor no later than **Monday October 25, 2010**.
- 2. Toronto Hydro may respond to the submissions of intervenors, and intervenors may respond to the submissions of Toronto Hydro or other intervenors by filing

those responses with the Board and delivering them to each intervenor no later than **Friday**, **October 29**, **2010**.

- 3. Board staff seeking information and material that is in addition to the Applicant's pre-filed evidence, and that is relevant to the hearing, shall request the same by written interrogatories filed with the Board and delivered to the intervenors and the Applicant on or before **Tuesday**, **November 16**, **2010**.
- 4. Intervenors seeking information and material that is in addition to the Applicant's evidence, and that is relevant to the hearing, shall request the same by written interrogatories filed with the Board and delivered to the intervenors and the Applicant on or before Friday, November 19, 2010.
- 5. Responses by the Applicant to interrogatories shall be filed with the Board and delivered to all parties on or before **Monday**, **December 6**, **2010**.

All filings to the Board must quote the file number, EB-2010-0142, be made through the Board's web portal at <u>www.errr.oeb.gov.on.ca</u>, and consist of two paper copies and one electronic copy in searchable / unrestricted PDF format. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at www.oeb.gov.on.ca. If the web portal is not available, parties may email their documents to the address below. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit all filings on a CD or diskette in PDF format, along with two paper copies.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Board Secretary at the address below, and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date.

ADDRESS

Ontario Energy Board P.O. Box 2319 2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor Toronto, ON M4P 1E4 Attention: Board Secretary

E-mail: <u>Boardsec@oeb.gov.on.ca</u> Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (toll free) Fax: 416-440-7656

DATED at Toronto, October 18, 2010

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

John Pickernell Assistant Board Secretary Appendix "A" To The Procedural Order No. 1 Applicant and List of Intervenors EB-2010-0142 Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited October 18, 2010

October 18, 2010

APPLICANT

Rep. and Address for Service

Toronto Hydro-Electric System Glen Winn Limited

Manager of Rate Applications Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited 14 Carlton Street Toronto, ON M5B 1K5

Tel: 416-542-2517 Fax: 416-542-2776 regulatoryaffairs@torontohydro.com

APPLICANT COUNSEL

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INTERVENORS AMPCO

Rep. and Address for Service

Adam White

President Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario 372 Bay Street Suite 1702 Toronto ON M5H 2W9 Tel: 416-260-0225 Fax: 416-260-0442 awhite@ampco.org

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AMPCO

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Building Owners and Managers Assoc. of the Greater Toronto Area (BOMA)

Building Owners and Managers Assoc. of the Greater Toronto Area (BOMA) 20 Queen Street West Suite 2012 Toronto ON M5H 3R3 Tel: 416-596-8065 Fax: 416-596-1085 cconway@bomatoronto.org

Consumers Council of Canada Julie Girvan

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October 15, 2010

Consumers Council of Canada Robert B. Warren

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CUPE Local One

John Camilleri

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Energy Probe Research Foundation

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Horizon Utilities Corporation

Indy Butany-DeSouza

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Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited EB-2010-0142

APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

October 15, 2010

| Pollution Probe Foundation | Basil Alexander Klippensteins, Barristers & Solicitors 160 John St. Suite 300 Toronto ON M5V 2E5 Tel: 416-598-0288 Fax: 416-598-9520 basil.alexander@klippensteins.ca |
|----------------------------|---|
| | Jack Gibbons Public Interest Economics 625 Church St. Suite 402 Toronto ON M4Y 2G1 Tel: 416-926-1907 Ext: 240 Fax: 416-926-1601 jgibbons@pollutionprobe.org |
| PowerStream Inc. | Christine Dade Manager PowerStream Inc. 161 Cityview Boulevard Vaughan ON L4H 0A9 Tel: 905-532-1052 Fax: 905-532-4616 Christine.dade@powerstream.ca |
| School Energy Coalition | Jay Shepherd Jay Shepherd Professional Corporation 2300 Yonge St. 8th Floor, Suite 806 Toronto ON M4P 1E4 Tel: 416-483-3300 Fax: 416-483-3305 jay.shepherd@canadianenergylawyers.com |

Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited EB-2010-0142

APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

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October 15, 2010

School Energy Coalition Wayne McNally

SEC Coordinator Ontario Public School Boards' Association c/o Ontario Public School Boards Association 439 University Avenue 18th Floor Toronto ON M5G 1Y8 Tel: 416-340-2540 Fax: 416-340-7571 wmcnally@opsba.org

Tom Adams

c/o Jay Shepherd Professional Corporation 2300 Yonge St. 8th Floor Suite 806 Toronto, ON M4P 1E4 Tel: 416-483-3300 Fax: 416-483-3305 tom.adams.energy@gmail.com

Smart Sub-metering Working Group

Dennis O'Leary

Aird & Berlis LLP 181 Bay Street Suite 1800 Box 754 Toronto ON M4J 2T9 Tel: 416-865-4711 Fax: 416-863-1515 doleary@airdberlis.com

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Vulnerable Energy Consumers Michael Buonaguro Coalition

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Roger Higgin

Managing Associate Econalysis Consulting Services Inc. 34 King St. E. Suite 1102 Toronto ON M5C 2X8 Tel: 416-348-0193 Fax: 416-348-0641 rhiggin@econalysis.ca

Bill Harper

Econalysis Consulting Services Inc. 34 King Street East Suite 1102 Toronto On M5C 2X8 Tel: 416-348 0193 Fax: 416-348-0641 <u>bharper@econalysis.ca</u> Appendix B To The Procedural Order No. 1 Draft Issues List EB-2010-0142 Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited October 18, 2010

Toronto Hydro-Electric System ("Toronto Hydro") Distribution Rate Hearing

EB-2010-0142

Draft Issues List

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Has Toronto Hydro responded appropriately to all relevant Board directions from previous proceedings?
- 1.2 Are Toronto Hydro's economic and business planning assumptions for 2011 appropriate?
- 1.3 Is service quality, based on the OEB specified performance indicators, acceptable?
- 1.4 Is the overall increase in the 2011 revenue requirement reasonable given the overall bill impact on consumers?
- 1.5 When would it be appropriate for Toronto Hydro to commence filing rate applications under incentive regulation? Is this application an appropriate base case for a future IRM application? If not, why not?

2. LOAD and REVENUE FORECAST

- 2.1 Is the load forecast and methodology appropriate and have the impacts of Conservation and Demand Management initiatives been suitably reflected?
- 2.2 Is the proposed amount for 2011 other revenues appropriate?

3. OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE and ADMINISTRATION COSTS

- 3.1 Are the overall levels of the 2011 Operation, Maintenance and Administration budgets appropriate?
- 3.2 Is the proposed level of 2011 Shared Services and Other O&M spending appropriate?
- 3.3 Are the methodologies used to allocate Shared Services and Other O&M costs to the distribution business for 2011 appropriate?
- 3.4 Are the 2011 Human Resources related costs (wages, salaries, benefits, incentive payments, labour productivity and pension costs) including employee levels, appropriate? Has Toronto Hydro demonstrated improvements in efficiency and value for dollar associated with its compensation costs?
- 3.5 Is Toronto Hydro's depreciation expense appropriate?
- 3.6 Are the amounts proposed for capital and property taxes appropriate?

- 3.7 Is the amount proposed for PILs, including the methodology, appropriate?
- 3.8 Is Toronto Hydro's proposal to recover a one-time Late Payment Penalty Settlement expense in the amount of \$7.75 million appropriate?

4. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES and RATE BASE

- 4.1 Are the amounts proposed for Rate Base appropriate?
- 4.2 Are the amounts proposed for 2011 Capital Expenditures appropriate including the specific Operational and Emerging Requirements categories?
- 4.3 Are the inputs used to determine the Working Capital component of the Rate Base appropriate and is the methodology used consistent with the methodologies approved by the Board in previous Toronto Hydro rate applications?
- 4.4 Does Toronto Hydro's Asset Condition Assessment information and Investment Planning Process adequately address the condition of the distribution system assets and support the O&MA and Capital expenditures for 2011?

5. CAPITAL STRUCTURE AND COST OF CAPITAL

- 5.1 Is the proposed Capital Structure, Rate of Return on Equity, and Short-Term Debt Rate appropriate?
- 5.2 Is the proposed Long-Term Debt Rate appropriate?
- 5.3 Is the proposed dollar cost of Long-Term Debt appropriate after having regard to the transaction undertaken by the holder of the \$490 million promissory notes in March 2010?

6. DEFERRAL and VARIANCE ACCOUNTS

6.1 Is the proposal for the amounts, disposition and continuance of Toronto Hydro's existing Deferral and Variance Accounts appropriate?

7. COST ALLOCATION and RATE DESIGN

- 7.1 Is Toronto Hydro's cost allocation appropriate?
- 7.2 Is Toronto Hydro's suite metering cost allocation study appropriate?
- 7.3 Are the proposed revenue to cost ratios for each class appropriate?
- 7.4 Are the fixed-variable splits for each class appropriate?
- 7.5 Are the proposed Retail Transmission Service rates appropriate?

7.6 Are the proposed Total Loss Factors appropriate?

8. SMART METERS

8.1 Is Toronto Hydro's proposal to include its 2011 smart meter costs in rate base as a regular distribution activity appropriate?

9. SMART GRID PLAN

- 9.1 Does Toronto Hydro's Smart Grid Plan meet the Board 's filing guidelines and the objectives set out in the Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009?
- 9.2 Has Toronto Hydro appropriately addressed the Smart Grid Plan expenditures in the context of its overall Capital and O&M budgets?
- 9.3 Is Toronto Hydro's approach to allocating Smart Grid Plan O&M and Capital costs to its distribution customers appropriate?