



EB-2010-0338

IN THE MATTER OF the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*,
S.O. 1998, c. 15, Schedule B;

AND IN THE MATTER OF an application pursuant to section
74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* by Erie Thames
Powerlines Corporation seeking an exemption from their
Mandated Meter Enrollment Testing Date.

By delegation, before: Jennifer Lea

DECISION AND ORDER

Erie Thames Powerlines Corporation ("Erie Thames") filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board on November 9, 2010, under section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, seeking an exemption from its mandated meter enrollment testing date. The Board assigned file number EB-2010-0338 to the application.

BACKGROUND

Under cover of a letter to all Ontario electricity distributors dated August 4, 2010, the Ontario Energy Board provided its determination of mandatory dates by which each distributor must bill those of its regulated price plan ("RPP") customers that have eligible time-of-use meters using time-of-use pricing. For some distributors, the determination also included a required date for meter enrollment testing. The Board's determinations were made pursuant to sections 3.4 and 3.5 of the Standard Supply Service Code for Electricity Distributors, which requires time-of-use pricing for RPP consumers with eligible time-of-use meters, as of the mandatory date. Meter enrollment testing is a fundamental prerequisite for the implementation of time-of-use pricing. Compliance with

the Code is a condition of licence for nearly all licensed electricity distributors in Ontario.

THE APPLICATION

Erie Thames applied for an exemption from its mandatory meter enrollment testing date of November 2010, and proposed a new date of February 2011. Erie Thames cited three main reasons for the proposed new date:

- A Smart Meter Entity software upgrade, which prompted a decision to delay rather than duplicate testing;
- An upgrade in the CIS system of the distributor, which prompted a decision to delay rather than duplicate testing; and
- Delays experienced in testing activities performed on behalf of other utilities.

The Notice of Application and Written Hearing for Erie Thames's application was issued on December 1, 2010, and interrogatories and submissions on the application were invited. No response was received to the Notice.

BOARD FINDINGS

I find the application should be granted. Erie Thames will be exempted from meeting its mandatory meter enrollment testing date until February 28, 2011.

Erie Thames proposed a new date of February 2011, which is a minor delay of three months. Erie Thames has stated that the delay in mandatory meter enrolment testing will not affect its ability to transition RPP customers to time-of-use billing by the mandatory date. The reasons given in the application for delaying testing are credible and supported by the evidence filed with the application.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Erie Thames Powerlines Corporation's distribution licence ED-2002-0516, specifically Schedule 3 List of Code Exemptions, is amended to include an exemption from the requirement to commence mandatory meter enrollment testing. The exemption will expire February 28, 2011.

DATED at Toronto, January 31, 2011.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Jennifer Lea
Counsel, Special Projects