



**EB-2010-0372**

**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 Cooperative  
Hydro Embrun Inc. seeking an exemption from their Mandated  
Time-of-Use Pricing Date.

**By delegation, before:** Jennifer Lea

## **DECISION AND ORDER**

Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc. ("Cooperative Embrun") filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board on December 6, 2010, under section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, seeking an exemption from their mandated time-of-use ("TOU") pricing date for Regulated Price Plan ("RPP") customers. The Board assigned file number EB-2010-0372 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 RPP customers that have eligible TOU meters using TOU pricing. The Board's determination was made pursuant to sections 3.4 and 3.5 of the Standard Supply Service Code for Electricity Distributors, which requires TOU pricing for RPP consumers with eligible TOU meters, as of the mandatory date. Compliance with this Code is a condition of licence for nearly all licensed electricity distributors in Ontario.

## THE APPLICATION

Cooperative Embrun applied for an exemption from its mandated TOU date of June 2011 and requested a new date of October 2011. Cooperative Embrun shares billing resources with Ottawa River Power Corporation ("Ottawa River"). In accordance with the recommendation of Smart Metering Entity ("SME") personnel, Cooperative Embrun is requesting an extension to its mandated TOU pricing date to align with Ottawa River's TOU schedule.

Cooperative Embrun states in its application that it has completed smart meter installation for all customers. Cooperative Embrun indicates that it will be using Ottawa River's Advanced Metering Infrastructure for obtaining meter readings and Ottawa River's customer information system for TOU pricing. Following discussions with the SME, Cooperative Embrun decided it would be best to coordinate its SME enrollment with Ottawa River's enrollment schedule. Ottawa River has a mandated TOU pricing date of October 2011. For reasons of economy, organization and training, Cooperative Embrun requested the same mandatory TOU pricing date.

In response to interrogatories Cooperative Embrun states there are no cost consequences to this delay in TOU implementation.

The Notice of Application and Written Hearing for Cooperative Embrun's application was issued on January 10, 2011, and interrogatories and submissions on the application were invited. The applicant responded to interrogatories filed by Board staff, providing more information about the delays and progress to date in implementing TOU pricing. Board staff filed a submission on the application stating it had no issues with the request for exemption. The applicant did not respond to the submission.

## BOARD FINDINGS

I find the application should be granted. Cooperative Embrun will be exempted from the requirement to apply TOU pricing under the Standard Supply Service Code until October 31, 2011.

Cooperative Embrun has taken the responsible step of seeking an exemption from the Board well in advance of its mandated TOU date. The reasons given in the application

for missing the original date are credible and supported by the evidence filed with the application. The applicant is coordinating the SME enrollment and sharing efficiencies for TOU billing with Ottawa River, and therefore will complete the process on the same mandatory TOU pricing date as Ottawa River. The applicant has provided assurance that there are no other factors that would cause further delay in its implementation of TOU pricing. Cooperative Embrun has made a considerable effort towards completing TOU pricing implementation, and has completed 100% of its smart meter deployment to its customers. I find that the efforts made by Cooperative Embrun to date, and the efficiencies to be achieved by its co-ordination with Ottawa River are sufficient to justify an extension of Cooperative Embrun's mandatory TOU pricing date.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.'s distribution licence ED-2002-0493, specifically Schedule 3 List of Code Exemptions, is amended to include an exemption from the requirement to apply time-of-use pricing by a mandatory date under the Standard Supply Service Code for Electricity Distributors. This exemption will expire on October 31, 2011.

**DATED** at Toronto, March 28, 2011

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original signed by*

Jennifer Lea  
Counsel, Special Projects