

**Board Staff Interrogatories**  
**Application for Extension to Mandated Time-of-Use Pricing Date**  
**for Regulated Price Plan Consumers**  
**Essex Powerlines Corporation**  
**EB-2011-0072**  
**Dated May 6, 2011**

**Board Staff question 1**

Preamble

Essex Powerlines Corporation ("Essex Powerlines") filed an application dated March 8, 2011 with the Ontario Energy Board for a licence amendment granting an extension in relation to the mandated date for the implementation of Time-of-Use ("TOU") pricing rates for Regulated Price Plan consumers.

Essex Powerlines has applied for an extension to its June 2011 mandated TOU pricing date and requested a new date of December 2011. Essex Powerlines states the extension is necessary due to delays experienced as a result of a work stoppage at Essex Powerlines.

Questions

a) Please confirm the status of Essex Powerlines's smart meter deployment and TOU implementation as of May 1, 2011.

RESPONSE:

Essex Powerlines has deployed 97.55% of total RPP eligible smart meters. With respect to TOU implementation, all eligible smart meters have been cut over to the MDMR and are being billed as Periodic Bills pending the return of our Customer Service employees from the work stoppage. Upon return to work, CSR's will be brought up-to-date on billing status, with training being completed on TOU implementation and rates.

b) Please update the Board on the status of the work stoppage at Essex Powerlines and how long Essex Powerlines would require to complete TOU implementation upon resolution of the stoppage.

RESPONSE:

By way of background, unsuccessful Conciliation/Mediation occurred through the Ontario Ministry of Labour on March 11, 31 and April 1, 2011. At 12:01 a.m. on April 7, 2011 the work stoppage occurred.

All collective bargaining unit employees remain in the work stoppage as of the writing of this response. No negotiations have taken place since the unsuccessful conciliation meetings.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Due to the length of the work stoppage to date, it is not likely with either outcome that TOU implementation will occur earlier than December 31, 2011. Upon return to work there will be a period of time required to bring staff up-to-date on the billing status, as well as complete considerable staff training on TOU implementation and rates.

c) Are there any other factors (internal and/or external) that Essex Powerlines has identified that may hinder its ability to comply with their requested mandated TOU date?

RESPONSE:

There are no internal and/or external factors that Essex Powerlines have identified that may hinder our ability to comply with the newly requested TOU date of December 2011.

However, Management is obligated to the ratepayers to find productivity improvements to meet stretch factor and productivity guidelines set by the Ontario Energy Board. EPL is attempting to meet these targets. To do this requires cooperation from the OEB to approve the extension to the TOU implementation date. Failure to achieve the extension, will require concessions in the current contract negotiations to regain the employee resources required to meet the TOU targets set by the board if sooner than December 31, 2011.