



ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

BOARD STAFF SUBMISSION

**Application for Extension to Mandated Time of
Use Pricing Date for Regulated Price Plan
Consumers**

Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.

EB-2011-0105

June 3, 2011

BACKGROUND

Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc. (“Greater Sudbury Hydro”) filed an application dated April 12, 2011 with the Ontario Energy Board for a licence amendment requesting an extension in relation to the mandated date for the implementation of time-of-use (“TOU”) pricing rates for Regulated Price Plan consumers.

Greater Sudbury Hydro has applied for an extension to its mandated TOU date of June 2011 and requested a new TOU date of December 2011. Greater Sudbury Hydro states the extension to its mandated TOU date is necessary as a result of delays it experienced implementing a new advanced metering infrastructure and new customer information billing system. Greater Sudbury Hydro is also requesting direction from the Board in regards to inaccessible meters where property owners either refuse to allow access or keep an appointment for a meter change.

The Board issued a Notice of Application and Hearing on May 4, 2011. Board staff filed interrogatories on the application on May 20, 2011. Greater Sudbury Hydro responded to these interrogatories on May 31, 2011.

This submission is being provided by Board staff following a review of the application and evidence filed in this proceeding.

STAFF SUBMISSION

Having reviewed the application and evidence, Board staff has no issue with Greater Sudbury Hydro’s request.

However, Board staff believes the Board would benefit from a better understanding of Sudbury’s AMI network performance issues. In its responses to staff interrogatories, Sudbury states its *“AMI Network Operator continues to work to optimize the performance of the AMI Network with a focus on specific areas of the Greater Sudbury Hydro service territory where there are communication issues with the head end system. The stabilization of this network is critical to ensuring that Greater Sudbury Hydro has billing ready data.”* Staff supports Greater Sudbury Hydro being required to include in its monthly TOU implementation report details regarding the nature of the ‘communication issues’, the areas of its service territory experiencing AMI network performance issues, the number of customers affected, and the steps (with timelines)

Sudbury is taking to resolve this issue. Staff is of the view that this information would provide greater clarity to Greater Sudbury's TOU implementation and give the Board confidence that Greater Sudbury will be able to achieve the requested extension date.

All of which is respectfully submitted.