



EB-2011-0082

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
Orangeville Hydro Limited seeking an extension to its
mandated time-of-use pricing date.

By delegation, before: Jennifer Lea

DECISION AND ORDER

Orangeville Hydro Limited ("Orangeville Hydro") filed an application dated March 15, 2011 with the Ontario Energy Board under section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c.15 (Schedule B) 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 ("RPP") consumers.

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

Orangeville Hydro applied for an extension to its June 2011 mandated TOU date and requested a new TOU date of September 2011. Orangeville Hydro states the extension is necessary due to delays it experienced implementing and coordinating the roll-out and training on a new customer information system and advanced metering infrastructure network, which has caused Orangeville Hydro to fall behind on original wave testing dates with the Independent Electricity System Operator ("IESO").

The Board issued a Notice of Application and Written Hearing for Orangeville Hydro's application on March 28, 2011, and interrogatories and submissions on the application were invited. The applicant responded to interrogatories filed by Board staff, providing more information about the delay 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 extension. The applicant did not respond to the submission.

In its application, Orangeville Hydro states it has fallen behind in its wave testing dates as it found the process to be more resource intensive than originally anticipated. Orangeville Hydro stated that it is dealing with a large change in the billing interface, and this, along with other Board mandated initiatives, has caused staff resource issues. Orangeville Hydro has installed meters for approximately 94% of its approximately 11,000 eligible customers. In its response to interrogatories Orangeville Hydro states it requires additional time to deploy GS<50 meters as it experienced some delay in procurement of meters for this customer class. Orangeville Hydro is working collaboratively with 9 other electricity distributors to work through any technical issues that arise. Orangeville Hydro stated that upon successful completion of qualification testing, and receiving approval for cut-over with the IESO, it will follow a careful and precise process to ensure that all meters are successfully brought into the provincial system. Orangeville Hydro expects this process to take the month of June, and then additional time is required to monitor the meter data to ensure proper function and accuracy.

BOARD FINDINGS

I find the application should be granted. Orangeville Hydro will be exempted from the requirement to apply TOU pricing under the Standard Supply Service Code until September 30, 2011.

Orangeville Hydro has taken the responsible step of seeking an extension from the Board 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. Orangeville Hydro has made a considerable effort towards completing TOU pricing implementation, and has installed smart meters for approximately 94% of its eligible customers. I find that the difficulties and delay encountered by Orangeville Hydro in relation to the procurement of meters, and the staff resourcing issues with respect to the customer information system transition to be extraordinary and unanticipated circumstances sufficient to justify an extension to Orangeville Hydro's mandated TOU pricing date.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Orangeville Hydro Limited's distribution licence ED-2002-0500, 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 September 30, 2011.

DATED at Toronto, June 22, 2011

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Jennifer Lea
Counsel, Special Projects