

**Ontario Energy
Board**
P.O. Box 2319
27th. Floor
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Telephone: 416- 481-1967
Facsimile: 416- 440-7656
Toll free: 1-888-632-6273

**Commission de l'énergie
de l'Ontario**
C.P. 2319
27e étage
2300, rue Yonge
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Téléphone: 416- 481-1967
Télécopieur: 416- 440-7656
Numéro sans frais: 1-888-632-6273



July 26, 2011

BY E-MAIL

Ms. Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: West Coast Huron Energy Inc. – Extension to Mandated Time-of-Use
Pricing Date for Regulated Price Plan Consumers
Board File No.: EB-2011-0241**

Please find enclosed Board Staff's interrogatories with respect to the above application.

Please forward the interrogatories along with this cover letter to the applicant in this proceeding.

Yours truly,

Original Signed By

George Dimitropoulos
Advisor, Licence Applications

Attachment

Board Staff Interrogatories
Application for Extension to Mandated Time-of-Use Pricing Date for
Regulated Price Plan Customers
West Coast Huron Energy Inc.
EB-2011-0241
Dated July 26, 2011

Board Staff question 1

Preamble

West Coast Huron Energy Inc. ("West Coast Huron") filed an application dated June 14, 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 its Regulated Price Plan ("RPP") consumers.

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. West Coast Huron has applied for an extension to its August 2011 mandated TOU pricing date and requested a new date of January 2012.

With respect to TOU implementation progress, West Coast Huron's extension application states four reasons for seeking an extension:

1. Postponement of Conversion from Harris Pubs 5.2.19 to Harris Northstar 6.3.1
2. Delays in staff training related to new processes and billing systems
3. Measurement Canada requirements to show meter register readings at the start and end dates of each billing period
4. Collective Agreement negotiations

West Coast Huron files monthly reports with the Board on smart meter deployment and TOU pricing.¹ Previous to its June 14, 2011 application, West Coast Huron did not indicate it had concerns with TOU implementation, including its report for the month ending May 31, 2011 (filed June 10, 2011).

In addition, according to its monthly reports, West Coast Huron completed the Self-Certification process for transition into the MDM/R Production environment. Transition to Production in March 2011. Further, as of May 31, 2011, West Coast Huron had 3,542 smart meters out of a total of 3,822 RPP-eligible consumers registered with the MDM/R.

¹ See: http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/html/touimplementation/toufilings_monthly_read.cfm

Questions

- a) Please explain in detail why West Coast Huron did not raise any of the concerns stated in its application in its previous monthly reports.
- b) Given that West Coast Huron transitioned to production in March 2011 and the state of its smart meter registrations with the MDM/R, please explain in detail what has led to the postponement of conversion from Harris Pubs 5.2.19 to Harris Northstar 6.3.1, including copies of documentation (e.g., briefing notes/reports/etc.) of when this issue was identified as a concern with respect to TOU implementation.
- c) Given that West Coast Huron transitioned to production in March 2011 and the state of its smart meter registrations with the MDM/R, please explain in detail why the postponement of conversion from Harris Pubs 5.2.19 to Harris Northstar 6.3.1 represents *extraordinary and unanticipated circumstances* related to the implementation of TOU billing.
- d) Given that West Coast Huron transitioned to production in March 2011 and the state of its smart meter registrations with the MDM/R, please explain in detail why it has failed to complete staff training related to new processes and billing systems, including copies of documentation (e.g., briefing notes/reports/etc.) of when this issue was identified as a concern with respect to TOU implementation.
- e) Given that West Coast Huron transitioned to production in March 2011 and the state of its smart meter registrations with the MDM/R, please explain in detail why the failure to complete staff training related to new processes and billing systems represents *extraordinary and unanticipated circumstances* related to the implementation of TOU billing.
- f) Given that West Coast Huron transitioned to production in March 2011 and the state of its smart meter registrations, please explain in detail why Measurement Canada requirements to show meter register readings at the start and end dates of each billing period represents *extraordinary and unanticipated circumstances* related to the implementation of TOU billing.
- g) Please describe the current status of West Coast Huron's collective agreement negotiations.