

EB-2010-0141

**IN THE MATTER OF** the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B);

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** an application by St. Thomas Energy Inc. for an order approving just and reasonable rates and other charges for electricity distribution to be effective May 1, 2011.

**BEFORE:** Ken Quesnelle

**Presiding Member** 

#### RATE ORDER

St. Thomas Energy Inc. ("St. Thomas" or "Applicant") filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on February 11, 2011 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B), seeking approval for changes to the rates that St. Thomas charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2011.

The Board issued its Decision and Order on the application on June 28, 2011. The Board ordered the Applicant to file a draft Rate Order reflecting the Board's findings in the Decision and approved an effective date of July 1, 2011 and an implementation date of August 1, 2011 for the new rates.

St. Thomas filed a draft Rate Order and supporting material on July 7, 2011. The Board received comments on the draft Rate Order from SEC, Board staff and Energy Probe, which supported Board staff's comments.

Board staff and SEC submitted that St. Thomas should re-calculate the Lost Revenue Adjustment Mechanism ("LRAM") rate rider. They noted that the underlying LRAM balance St. Thomas reflected in the draft Rate Order was the original amount (\$370,915) and not the amount agreed to in the Settlement Agreement (\$364,200).

Board staff also questioned the appropriateness of the changes St. Thomas proposed to make to the rate riders, for the disposition of the Group 1 deferral/variance account balances, which the Board previously approved in the 2010 IRM proceeding (EB-2009-0208). St. Thomas had concluded that since the Large User and Unmetered Scattered Load classes were eliminated in this proceeding, then the associated volumes should be removed from the calculation performed in the 2010 IRM proceeding. Board staff noted that St. Thomas's pre-filed evidence and the Settlement Agreement did not highlight nor specifically address the proposed treatment and that the rate riders for the Global Adjustment are a debit and the rate riders for the Other than Global Adjustment accounts are a credit. Board staff indicated that the dispositions of Group One account balances are subject to true-up in that any under or over recoveries, in any event, are tracked for future disposition.

Board staff posited that the Board can accept St. Thomas's treatment on the basis that its adjustments are in keeping with the spirit and intent of the provisions of the originally approved rate rider; that being that the balances are to be disposed by 2014; or in the alternative, the Board can leave the existing rate riders as they are, with the understanding that any under/over-recoveries will be addressed for disposition after 2014 as part of the true up mechanism related to the disposition of account 1595. SEC agreed with Board staff's views and submitted that the existing rate riders should remain in place.

On July 19, 2011 St. Thomas filed its reply comments. St. Thomas recalculated the LRAM rate riders based on the agreed to amount of \$364,200 which the Board accepts.

While acknowledging the points raised by Board staff regarding the treatment of the 2010 IRM rate rider changes, St. Thomas indicated that it continued to prefer the approach taken in the draft Rate Order. St. Thomas noted that its treatment was in keeping with the spirit of the 2010 IRM Decision and pointed out that customers would benefit sooner by a net credit of \$55,072 (net of the Global Adjustment debit of \$26,973 and a Regulatory Asset Recovery credit of \$82,045 originally allocated to the now eliminated Large Use and Unmetered Scattered Load classes). Remaining with the existing rate riders, would defer the disposition of the \$55,072 credit to after April 30, 2014.

The Board considers the elimination of the Large Use and Unmetered Scattered Load classes to be a sufficiently significant change in the circumstances that the 2010 IRM

Decision was based on so as to justify a reconsideration of the intent of that Decision. The Board accepts the submissions and proposal of St. Thomas on this issue.

The Board does so being mindful that it would have been preferable had this issue been exposed at an earlier date. It is with some reluctance that the Board allows this unanticipated treatment of the 2010 IRM approved rate riders given the lack of consideration of this issue by the parties in settling on all other issues. However, given specific circumstances of this situation and apparent benefit to ratepayers the Board considers it appropriate to make this determination. Given that the responsibility for timely disclosure of matters such as these lies with the applicant, the Board's views would not be the same had the benefit been to St. Thomas.

The Board has reviewed the information provided in support of the draft Rate Order and the proposed Tariff of Rates and Charges. The Board is satisfied that the Tariff of Rates and Charges, as updated by St. Thomas, accurately reflects the Board's Decision.

#### THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

- The Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Appendix "A" of this Rate Order is approved effective July 1, 2011 and implemented August 1, 2011 for electricity consumed or estimated to have been consumed on and after such date.
- 2. The Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Appendix "A" of this Order supersedes all previous Tariff of Rates and Charges approved by the Board for St. Thomas and is final in all respects.
- 3. St. Thomas shall notify its customers of the rate changes no later than with the first bill reflecting the new rates.

**DATED** at Toronto, July 28, 2011

#### ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary

### APPENDIX "A"

### TO RATE ORDER

### **TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES**

EB-2010-0141

**DATED: July 28, 2011** 

Effective Date July 1, 2011 Implementation Date August 1, 2011

This schedule supersedes and replaces all previously approved schedules of Rates, Charges and Loss Factors

EB-2010-0141

\$/kWh

0.0013

0.25

#### RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification refers to an account taking electricity at 750 volts or less where the electricity is used exclusively in a separately metered living accommodation. Customers shall be residing in single-dwelling units that consist of a detached house or one unit of a semi-detached, duplex, triplex or quadruplex house, with a residential zoning. Separately metered dwellings within a town house complex or apartment building also qualify as residential customers. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

#### **APPLICATION**

Rural Rate Protection Charge

Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

No rates and charges for the distribution of electricity and charges to meet the costs of any work or service done or furnished for the purpose of the distribution of electricity shall be made except as permitted by this schedule, unless required by the Distributor's Licence or a Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, or as specified herein.

Unless specifically noted, this schedule does not contain any charges for the electricity commodity, be it under the Regulated Price Plan, a contract with a retailer or the wholesale market price, as applicable.

It should be noted that this schedule does not list any charges, assessments, or credits that are required by law to be invoiced by a distributor and that are not subject to Board approval, such as the Debt Retirement Charge, charges for the Ministry of Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Program, the Global Adjustment, the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit and the HST.

#### **MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES – Delivery Component**

Service Charge	\$	11.50
Smart Meter Funding Adder - effective until April 30, 2012	\$	2.50
Rate Rider for Recovery of Late Payment Penalty Litigation Costs – effective until April 30, 2012	\$	0.28
Rate Rider for Foregone Revenue Recovery – effective until April 30, 2012	\$	0.10
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0160
Rate Rider for Global Adjustment Sub-Account Disposition (2010) – effective until April 30, 2014		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kWh	0.0003
Rate Rider for Deferral/Variance Account Disposition (2010) – effective until April 30, 2014	\$/kWh	(0.0008)
Rate Rider for Global Adjustment Sub-Account Disposition (2011) – effective until April 30, 2012		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kWh	0.0033
Rate Rider for Deferral/Variance Account Disposition (2011) – effective until April 30, 2012	\$/kWh	0.0001
Rate Rider for Lost Revenue Adjustment Mechanism/Shared Savings Mechanism Recovery		
– effective until April 30, 2014	\$/kWh	0.0004
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0060
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES – Regulatory Component		
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
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Effective Date July 1, 2011 Implementation Date August 1, 2011

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EB-2010-0141

0.25

#### GENERAL SERVICE LESS THAN 50 kW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification refers to a non residential account taking electricity at 750 volts or less whose monthly average peak demand is less than, or is forecast to be less than, 50 kW. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

#### **APPLICATION**

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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#### **MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES – Delivery Component**

Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)

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Service Charge	\$	17.00
Smart Meter Funding Adder – effective until April 30, 2012	\$	2.50
Rate Rider for Recovery of Late Payment Penalty Litigation Costs – effective until April 30, 2012	\$	0.45
Rate Rider for Foregone Revenue Recovery – effective until April 30, 2012	\$	0.29
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0147
Rate Rider for Global Adjustment Sub-Account Disposition (2010) – effective until April 30, 2014		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kWh	0.0003
Rate Rider for Deferral/Variance Account Disposition (2010) – effective until April 30, 2014	\$/kWh	(8000.0)
Rate Rider for Global Adjustment Sub-Account Disposition (2011) – effective until April 30, 2012		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kWh	0.0033
Rate Rider for Deferral/Variance Account Disposition (2011) – effective until April 30, 2012	\$/kWh	(0.0000)
Rate Rider for Lost Revenue Adjustment Mechanism/Shared Savings Mechanism Recovery		
- effective until April 30, 2014	\$/kWh	0.0003
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0059
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0049
MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES – Regulatory Component		
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0013

Effective Date July 1, 2011 Implementation Date August 1, 2011

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0.25

### **GENERAL SERVICE 50 to 4,999 kW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION**

This classification refers to a non residential account whose monthly average peak demand is equal to or greater than, or is forecast to be equal to or greater than 50 kW but less than 5,000 kW. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

#### **APPLICATION**

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### **MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES – Delivery Component**

Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)

Service Charge	\$	70.35
Smart Meter Funding Adder – effective until April 30, 2012	\$	2.50
Rate Rider for Recovery of Late Payment Penalty Litigation Costs – effective until April 30, 2012	\$	5.79
Rate Rider for Foregone Revenue Recovery – effective until April 30, 2012	\$	3.22
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	3.1490
Rate Rider for Global Adjustment Sub-Account Disposition (2010) – effective until April 30, 2014		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kW	0.1102
Rate Rider for Deferral/Variance Account Disposition (2010) – effective until April 30, 2014	\$/kW	(0.3156)
Rate Rider for Global Adjustment Sub-Account Disposition (2011) – effective until April 30, 2012		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kW	1.2689
Rate Rider for Deferral/Variance Account Disposition (2011) – effective until April 30, 2012	\$/kW	(0.0421)
Rate Rider for Lost Revenue Adjustment Mechanism/Shared Savings Mechanism Recovery		
<ul><li>effective until April 30, 2014</li></ul>	\$/kW	0.1925
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	2.3569
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.9727
MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES – Regulatory Component		
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0013

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#### SENTINEL LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification refers to an account for individual lighting on private property controlled by photo cells. The consumption for these customers will be based on the calculated connected load times the required lighting times established in the approved OEB street lighting load shape template. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

#### **APPLICATION**

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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#### **MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES – Delivery Component**

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	3.75
Rate Rider for Recovery of Late Payment Penalty Litigation Costs – effective until April 30, 2012	\$	0.03
Rate Rider for Foregone Revenue Recovery – effective until April 30, 2012	\$	0.25
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	4.5344
Rate Rider for Global Adjustment Sub-Account Disposition (2010) – effective until April 30, 2014		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kW	0.1176
Rate Rider for Deferral/Variance Account Disposition (2010) – effective until April 30, 2014	\$/kW	(0.2510)
Rate Rider for Global Adjustment Sub-Account Disposition (2011) – effective until April 30, 2012		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kW	1.2024
Rate Rider for Deferral/Variance Account Disposition (2011) – effective until April 30, 2012	\$/kW	0.0181
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.4816
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.2392
MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Regulatory Component		

Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0013
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

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#### STREET LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification refers to an account for roadway lighting with a Municipality, Regional Municipality, Ministry of Transportation and private roadway lighting operation, controlled by photo cells. The consumption for these customers will be based on the calculated connected load times the required lighting times established in the approved OEB street lighting shape template. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

#### **APPLICATION**

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#### **MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES – Delivery Component**

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	1.67
Rate Rider for Recovery of Late Payment Penalty Litigation Costs – effective until April 30, 2012	\$	0.00
Rate Rider for Foregone Revenue Recovery – effective until April 30, 2012	\$	0.18
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	0.0163
Rate Rider for Global Adjustment Sub-Account Disposition (2010) – effective until April 30, 2014		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kW	0.0988
Rate Rider for Deferral/Variance Account Disposition (2010) – effective until April 30, 2014	\$/kW	(0.2823)
Rate Rider for Global Adjustment Sub-Account Disposition (2011) – effective until April 30, 2012		
Applicable only for Non-RPP Customers	\$/kW	1.2040
Rate Rider for Deferral/Variance Account Disposition (2011) – effective until April 30, 2012	\$/kW	(0.0601)
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.8175
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.5210
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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES – Regulatory Component		
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0013
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Effective Date July 1, 2011 Implementation Date August 1, 2011

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#### microFIT GENERATOR SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to an electricity generation facility contracted under the Ontario Power Authority's microFIT program and connected to the distributor's distribution system. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

#### **APPLICATION**

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#### **MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES – Delivery Component**

Service Charge \$ 5.25

### Effective Date July 1, 2011 Implementation Date August 1, 2011

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#### **ALLOWANCES**

Transformer Allowance for Ownership - per kW of billing demand/month	\$/kW	(0.60)
Primary Metering Allowance for transformer losses – applied to measured demand and energy	%	(1.00)

### SPECIFIC SERVICE CHARGES

#### **APPLICATION**

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Customer Administration		
Arrears certificate	\$	15.00
Statement of Account	\$	15.00
Pulling post dated cheques	\$	15.00
Duplicate invoices for previous billing	φ	15.00
Request for other billing information	\$	15.00
Easement letter	\$	15.00
Income tax letter	\$	15.00
Notification charge	\$	15.00
Account history	\$	15.00
Credit reference/credit check (plus credit agency costs)	\$	15.00
Returned cheque charge (plus bank charges)	\$	15.00
Charge to certify cheque	\$	15.00
Legal letter charge	\$	15.00
Account set up charge/change of occupancy charge (plus credit agency costs if applicable)	\$	30.00
Special meter reads	\$	30.00
Meter dispute charge plus Measurement Canada fees (if meter found correct)	***	30.00
Non-Payment of Account		
Late Payment - per month	%	1.50
Late Payment - per annum	%	19.56
Collection of account charge – no disconnection	\$	30.00
Collection of account charge – no disconnection – after regular hours	\$	165.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at meter – during regular hours	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	65.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at meter – after regular hours	\$	185.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at pole – during regular hours	\$	185.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at pole – after regular hours	\$	415.00
Install/Remove load control device – during regular hours	\$	65.00
Install/Remove load control device – after regular hours	\$	185.00
Specific Charge for Access to the Power Poles – per pole/year	\$	22.35
Disconnect/Reconnect Charge at customer's request – at meter during regular hours	\$	65.00

Effective Date July 1, 2011 Implementation Date August 1, 2011

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EB-2010-0141

### **RETAIL SERVICE CHARGES (if applicable)**

#### **APPLICATION**

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Retail Service Charges refer to services provided by a distributor to retailers or customers related to the supply of competitive electricity

One-time charge, per retailer, to establish the service agreement between the distributor and the retailer	\$	100.00
Monthly Fixed Charge, per retailer	\$	20.00
Monthly Variable Charge, per customer, per retailer	\$/cust.	0.50
Distributor-consolidated billing charge, per customer, per retailer	\$/cust.	0.30
Retailer-consolidated billing credit, per customer, per retailer	\$/cust.	(0.30)
Service Transaction Requests (STR)		
Request fee, per request, applied to the requesting party	\$	0.25
Processing fee, per request, applied to the requesting party	\$	0.50
Request for customer information as outlined in Section 10.6.3 and Chapter 11 of the Retail		
Settlement Code directly to retailers and customers, if not delivered electronically through the		
Electronic Business Transaction (EBT) system, applied to the requesting party		
Up to twice a year		no charge
More than twice a year, per request (plus incremental delivery costs)	\$	2.00

#### LOSS FACTORS

If the distributor is not capable of prorating changed loss factors jointly with distribution rates, the revised loss factors will be implemented upon the first subsequent billing for each billing cycle.

Total Loss Factor – Secondary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0350
Total Loss Factor – Secondary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW	N/A
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0247
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW	N/A