



EB-2011-0436

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 St.
Thomas Energy Inc. to amend its Electricity Distribution
Licence ED-2002-0523.

By delegation, before: Jennifer Lea

DECISION AND ORDER

THE APPLICATION

St. Thomas Energy Inc. ("St. Thomas") filed an application on December 19, 2011, with the Ontario Energy Board under section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for an order of the Board to amend St. Thomas's licensed service area in Schedule 1 of its electricity distribution licence ED-2002-0523.

This service area amendment is required in order for St. Thomas to supply electricity and provide electricity distribution services for approximately 200 residential dwellings in the planned phase one and two of Orchard Park South residential subdivision. The vacant land upon which the subdivision will be built is currently located in Hydro One Networks Inc.'s ("Hydro One") licensed service area. The subject land is described as Part of Lot 9, Concession 7, Registered Plan 11R-8918, City of St. Thomas, County of Elgin.

FINDINGS

Based on the evidence, I find that it is in the public interest to amend Schedule 1 of St. Thomas's electricity distribution licence to include the lands described above. The following facts are relevant to this decision.

The evidence filed with the application demonstrates that it is more economically efficient for St. Thomas to serve the proposed residential development. The planned subdivision is contiguous to St. Thomas's existing distribution service area. St. Thomas submits that it has existing distribution infrastructure bordering the subject lands that is readily available and adequate to supply the proposed subdivision. Hydro One's suitable infrastructure is located 500 meters away, and an overhead line extension through private lands would be required to make a connection. Service from St. Thomas is therefore practical and involves the lowest cost to connect for the developer.

Hydro One supports the proposed service area amendment. A letter from Springwater Development Inc., the developer of the Orchard Park South subdivision, filed with the application indicates that the customer prefers a connection to the St. Thomas distribution system.

The subject area is vacant land and there are no existing customers of either distributor in the proposed amendment area. No assets will be stranded as a result of the proposed amendment. In addition, no negative impact on rates, safety, reliability or service quality of St. Thomas or Hydro One has been identified as a result of the proposed amendment.

The applicant requested that the Board decide the application without a hearing. I have done so. All affected parties consented to the application as filed. The evidence filed with the Board demonstrated that the outcome of the proceeding would not produce any adverse effects on the existing customers of the distributors, nor on potential customers who may locate in the subdivision.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

St. Thomas Energy Inc.'s Electricity Distribution Licence (ED-2002-0523), specifically Schedule 1 of the licence, is amended to include the lands described as Part of Lot 9 Concession 7, Registered Plan 11R-8918, City of St. Thomas, County of Elgin.

DATED at Toronto, February 14, 2012

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Jennifer Lea
Counsel, Special Projects