



EB-2011-0293

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 Atikokan
Hydro Inc. for an order approving just and reasonable
rates and other charges for electricity distribution to be
effective May 1, 2012.

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 2

Atikokan Hydro Inc. ("Atikokan") filed an application (the "Application") with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on September 30, 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 Atikokan charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2012. The Board assigned the Application file number EB-2011-0293.

On October 24, 2011, the Board issued a letter to Atikokan identifying certain additional evidence that needed to be filed before the Board would consider the Application. Atikokan filed the requested additional evidence on December 14, 2011.

The Board issued a Notice of Application and Hearing dated December 22, 2011. The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition ("VECC") applied for intervenor status and cost eligibility. No objections were received. The Board determined that VECC would be granted intervenor status and is eligible to apply for an award of costs under the Board's *Practice and Direction on Cost Awards*.

In its Notice of Application and Hearing, the Board indicated its intention to consider the Application by way of a written hearing. The Board issued Procedural Order No. 1 on January 13, 2012. In Procedural Order No. 1, the Board allowed for an initial round of discovery through written interrogatories.

On January 31, 2012, Board staff filed its interrogatories with Atikokan; VECC filed its interrogatories on February 3, 2012. On February 23, 2012 Atikokan filed a letter requesting an extension for filing its interrogatory responses to February 29, 2012. The Board responded by way of a letter issued on February 24, 2012 granting the extension. Atikokan filed its interrogatory responses on March 2, 2012.

The Board acknowledges that Atikokan has responded to a relatively large number of interrogatories; however the Board is of the view that a second round of interrogatories is necessary to complete the record. This is due to amended and, in some instances, new, evidence placed on the record in the first round.

Following the second round of written interrogatories the record can be completed through written submissions and a written reply submission.

Interim Rates

In the Application, Atikokan requested an effective date of May 1, 2012.

The Board is prepared to make Atikokan's current approved rates interim pending the Board's decision. This determination is made without prejudice to the Board's decision on Atikokan's Application, and should not be construed as predictive, in any way whatsoever, of the Board's final determination with regards to the effective date for Atikokan's rates arising from this Application.

Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection

On December 21, 2011, the Board issued a Decision with Reasons and Rate Order (EB-2011-0405) establishing the Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection ("RRRP") benefit and charge for 2012. The Board amended the RRRP charge to be collected by the Independent Electricity System Operator from the current \$0.0013 per kWh to \$0.0011 per kWh effective May 1, 2012. Atikokan shall begin applying the new charge effective May 1, 2012.

The Board considers it necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. The Board may issue further procedural orders from time to time.

THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Atikokan Hydro Inc.'s current Board-approved Tariff of Rates and Charges is declared interim effective May 1, 2012, with the revision noted in paragraph 2 below with respect to the Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection charge.
2. Atikokan Hydro Inc. shall apply a Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection charge of \$0.0011 per kWh effective May 1, 2012.
3. Board staff and intervenors who wish further information and material from Atikokan Hydro Inc. that is related to Atikokan Hydro Inc.'s interrogatory responses filed with the Board in accordance with Procedural Order No. 1 and that is relevant to the hearing shall request it by written interrogatories filed with the Board and delivered to Atikokan Hydro Inc. and all intervenors on or before **March 28, 2012**.
4. Atikokan Hydro Inc. shall file with the Board complete responses to the interrogatories and deliver them to the intervenors no later than **April 11, 2012**.
5. Atikokan Hydro Inc. Inc. shall file an Argument-in-Chief or similar document with the Board and deliver it to intervenors by **April 20, 2012**. This document should summarize Atikokan Hydro Inc.'s Application as of that date and highlight the revisions to the Application that have occurred as a result of the interrogatory processes.
6. Board staff shall file a written submission, if any, with the Board, and deliver it to Atikokan Hydro Inc. and other intervenors, by **May 4, 2012**.
7. Intervenors who wish to make a written submission on the Application must file that submission with the Board, and deliver it to Atikokan Hydro Inc. and other intervenors, by **May 9, 2012**.
8. If Atikokan Hydro Inc. wishes to respond to a submission, the response must be filed with the Board and delivered to intervenors by **May 18, 2012**.

All filings to the Board must quote the file number, EB-2011-0293, be made through the Board's web portal at <https://www.errr.ontarioenergyboard.ca>, and consist of two paper copies and one electronic copy in searchable / unrestricted PDF format. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at <http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Industry>. If the web portal is not available parties may email their documents to the address below. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit all filings on a CD in PDF format, along with two paper copies. Those who do not have computer access are required to file 7 paper copies.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Board Secretary at the address below, and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date.

ADDRESS

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Attention: Board Secretary

E-mail: boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca
Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)
Fax: 416-440-7656

DATED at Toronto March 16, 2012

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary