



EB-2012-0084

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND HEARING FOR AN ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION RATE CHANGE

PUC Distribution Inc.

PUC Distribution Inc. ("PUC") has applied to the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") for permission to increase its delivery charges beginning May 1, 2012 to reflect the recovery of costs for deployed smart meters. The application was filed on March 5, 2012 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c.15 (Schedule B), and the Board's *Guideline G-2011-0001: Smart Meter Funding and Cost Recovery – Final Disposition*.

Delivery charges are one of four regular items on Residential and General Service customers' electricity bills and vary depending on the amount of electricity consumed. If the application is fully approved, the average impact on the monthly bill for a Residential customer would be an increase of \$3.42 per month for the next 12 months. The average impact on the monthly bill for a General Service customer having a monthly demand of less than 50 kW would be an increase of \$7.82 per month for the next 12 months. The proposed changes to the Delivery charges are separate from other potential changes to the electricity bills.

For additional information on billing items visit the Consumer page of the Board's website at <http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca>.

The Board has assigned the application File No. EB-2012-0084. The Board's decision on this application may have an effect on PUC's metered customers.

How to see PUC's Application

To see a copy of the application, go to the Consumer page of the Board's website and enter the case number EB-2012-0084 in the "Find an Application" box. A copy can also

be seen at the Board's office and at the applicant's office at the addresses indicated below, or on the applicant's website <http://www.ssmruc.com/>.

Written Hearing

The Board intends to proceed with this matter by way of a written hearing unless a party satisfies the Board that there is a good reason for holding an oral hearing. If you object to the Board holding a written hearing in this matter, you must provide written reasons why an oral hearing is necessary. Any submissions objecting to a written hearing must be received by the Board and copied to the applicant within 10 days of the publication or service date of this notice.

How to Participate

You may participate in this proceeding by requesting either intervenor or observer status, or by submitting a letter of comment:

1. Intervenors participate actively in the proceeding (i.e., submit written questions, evidence, and arguments, and cross-examine witnesses at an oral hearing). You may request intervenor status by sending a letter of intervention to the Board and copying the applicant no later than **10 days** from the publication or service date of this notice. The letter of intervention must include:

- a. A description of how you are, or may be, affected by the outcome of this proceeding;
- b. If you represent a group, a description of the group and its membership;

You must indicate in your letter of intervention whether you expect to seek costs from the applicant and the grounds for your eligibility for costs.

2. Observers do not participate actively in the proceeding but receive documents issued by the Board in the proceeding. (There is no fee for observers to receive documents issued by the Board.) You may request Observer status by sending a request to the Board no later than **10 days** from the publication or service date of this notice.

- 3. Letters of Comment** are to be sent to the Board no later than **30 days** from the publication or service date of this notice. All letters of comment will be placed on the public record, subject to the privacy terms for personal information stated below. This means that the letters will be available for viewing at the Board's offices and will be placed on the Board's website.

Interrogatories and Submissions

Board-approved intervenors or Board staff wishing information and material from PUC that is in addition to the evidence filed with the Board and that is relevant to the hearing shall request it by written interrogatories filed with the Board and delivered to PUC on or before **April 19, 2012**. PUC shall file with the Board complete responses to the interrogatories and deliver them to all intervenors no later than **May 3, 2012**.

Written final submissions by Board staff must be filed with the Board, and copied to all other parties, by **May 17, 2012**. Written final submissions by an intervenor must be filed with the Board, and copied to all other parties by **May 25, 2012**. If PUC wishes to respond to the submissions, its written response must be filed with the Board and delivered to all other parties by **June 4, 2012**.

YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS TREATED DIFFERENTLY DEPENDING ON HOW YOU CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING:

- **Intervenors** - everything you file with the Board, including your name and contact information, will be placed on the public record (i.e. the public file and the Board's website).
- **Letters of comment or observers** - the Board removes any personal (i.e. not business) contact information from the letter of comment or the request for observer status (i.e., address, fax number, phone number, and e-mail address of the individual), however, your name and the content of the letter of comment or of the request for observer status will become part of the public record.

Filing Information for Intervenor

If you already have a user ID, please submit your intervention request through the Board's web portal at <https://www.errr.ontarioenergyboard.ca>. Additionally, two paper copies must be submitted to the address set out below.

If you do not have a user ID, visit the Board's website under e-Filing Services and complete a user ID/password request form. For instructions on how to submit documents and naming conventions please refer to the RESS Document Guidelines found at <http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Industry>, e-Filing Services.

The Board also accepts interventions by e-mail, at the address below. Additionally, two paper copies must be submitted to the address set out below. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit their intervention request on a CD in PDF format, along with two paper copies.

Need more information?

For more information on how to participate please go to the Board's website at <http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Industry/Regulatory+Proceedings/Hearings/Participating+in+a+Hearing> or call the Board at 1-888-632-6273 (toll free).

How to Contact the Board or PUC Distribution Inc.

Please reference Board file number EB-2012-0084 in the subject line of your e-mail or at the top of your letter. It is also important that you provide your name, postal address and telephone number and, if available, an e-mail address and fax number. 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.

IMPORTANT

IF YOU DO NOT FILE AN OBJECTION TO A WRITTEN HEARING OR DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING BY FILING A LETTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS NOTICE, THE BOARD MAY PROCEED WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION AND YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO FURTHER NOTICE IN THIS PROCEEDING.

Addresses

The Board:

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
27th Floor
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Attention: Board Secretary
Filings:
<https://www.errr.ontarioenergyboard.ca/>
E-mail: boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca
Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)
Fax: 416-440-7656

The Applicant:

PUC Distribution Inc.
765 Queen Street East
P.O.Box 9000
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6P2
Attention: Ms. Jennifer Uchmanowicz

E-mail: jennifer.uchmanowicz@ssmpuc.com
Tel: (705) 759-3009
Fax: (705) 759-6553

DATED at Toronto, March 30, 2012

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary