



EB-2011-0319

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 Espanola
Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation for an order
approving just and reasonable rates and other charges for
electricity distribution to be effective May 1, 2012.

**PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1
AND
ORDER FOR INTERIM RATES**

April 23, 2012

Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation ("ERHDC") filed an application (the "Application") with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on February 15, 2012 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 ERHDC charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2012. The Board has assigned the application file number EB-2011-0319.

On March 2, 2012, the Board issued a letter to ERHDC identifying certain additional evidence that needed to be filed before the Board would consider the Application. ERHDC filed the requested additional evidence on March 7, 2012.

The Board issued a Notice of Application and Hearing dated March 26, 2012. The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition ("VECC") applied for intervenor status and cost eligibility. No objection was received.

The Board approves VECC as an intervenor. The list of parties in this proceeding is attached as Appendix A to this procedural order. The Board has also determined that VECC is eligible to apply for an award of costs under the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

The Board has decided to make provision at this time for written interrogatories. After its review of the responses, the Board will determine the next steps including whether provision should be made for additional interrogatories, or a Technical Conference.

Interim Rates

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

The Board is prepared to make ERHDC's current approved rates interim pending the outcome of this proceeding. This determination is made without prejudice to the Board's Decision on ERHDC'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 ERHDC'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. ERHDC 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. Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation'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. Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation shall apply a Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection charge of \$0.0011 per kWh effective **May 1, 2012**.
3. VECC shall request any information and material from ERHDC that is in addition to ERHDC's pre-filed evidence with the Board, and that is relevant to the hearing, by written interrogatories filed with the Board and delivered to ERHDC on or before **May 15, 2012**. Interrogatories from Board staff shall be submitted on or before **May 11, 2012**.
4. ERHDC shall file with the Board complete written responses to the interrogatories and deliver them to VECC no later than **June 8, 2012**.

All filings to the Board must quote the file number, EB-2011-0319, 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.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Silvan Cheung at Silvan.Cheung@ontarioenergyboard.ca and Board Counsel, Ljuba Djurdjevic at Ljuba.Djurdjevic@ontarioenergyboard.ca.

ADDRESS

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DATED at Toronto, **April 23, 2012**
ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary