

EB-2012-0175

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 West Coast Huron Energy Inc. for an Order or Orders amending or varying the rate or rates charged to customers as of May 1, 2013.

BEFORE: Marika Hare

Presiding Member

Emad Elsayed Member

DECISION and INTERIM RATE ORDER April 11, 2013

West Coast Huron Energy Inc. ("WCHE") filed an application on November 16, 2012 with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998, S.O. c.15, Schedule B, (the "Application") seeking approval for changes to the rates that WCHE charges for electrical distribution, to be effective May 1, 2013. The Board has assigned the application file number EB-2012-0175.

On March 28, 2013, WCHE filed a Notice of Motion (the "Motion") to declare its proposed monthly fixed charges and distribution volumetric rates as interim, effective May 1, 2013, for its Residential, General Service (GS) < 50 kW, GS 50 – 499 kW, GS 500 – 4,999 kW, and Large User rate classes. The rationale for proposing this approach is to mitigate rate impacts since WCHE does not anticipate that a decision will be rendered in time for a May 1, 2013 implementation.

The Board will not declare the proposed distribution rates as interim. The Board notes that the evidence in this case has not been tested and therefore the proposal to mitigate

any rate impacts proposed by WCHE has not been demonstrated. The Board also notes that without testing the evidence, the proposed rate design has not been demonstrated as just and reasonable. The Board therefore denies WCHE's Motion. However, the Board will declare WCHE's current approved rates interim as of May 1, 2013 pending the Board's final decision on the Application. This determination is made without prejudice to the Board's decision on the Application, and should not be construed as predictive, in any way whatsoever, of the Board's final determination with regards to the effective date of rates arising from this Application.

THE BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:

1. West Coast Huron Energy Inc.'s current Board-approved Tariff of Rates and Charges is declared interim effective May 1, 2013.

All filings to the Board must quote the file number, EB-2012-0175, be made through the Board's web portal at https://www.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/, 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, 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.

DATED at Toronto, **April 11, 2013**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary