



ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

BOARD STAFF SUBMISSION

**Application for Extension to Mandated Time-of-Use
Pricing Date for Certain Regulated Price Plan
Consumers**

Algoma Power Inc.

Board File No.: EB-2013-0056

May 21, 2013

BACKGROUND

Algoma Power Inc. ("Algoma Power") filed an application dated February 26, 2013 with the Ontario Energy Board under section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for a licence amendment granting an extension in relation to the mandated date for the implementation of time-of-use ("TOU") pricing rates for certain Regulated Price Plan ("RPP") consumers. Algoma Power is requesting an indefinite extension due to technological constraints for approximately 300 customers outside the reach of its infrastructure.

In proceeding EB-2012-0384 Hydro One Networks Inc. ("Hydro One") experienced similar technological constraints with some of its hard to reach customers. Hydro One requested a similar indefinite extension to its mandated TOU pricing date (EB-2012-0384) and was granted a two year extension by the Board on December 21, 2012.

The Board issued a Notice of Application and Written Hearing for Algoma Power's application on April 3, 2013. Board staff filed interrogatories on the application on April 22, 2013. Algoma Power responded to those interrogatories on May 2, 2013.

This submission is being provided by Board staff following a review of the application and evidence filed in this proceeding.

STAFF SUBMISSION

Having reviewed the application and evidence, Board staff has some concerns with the indefinite expiry date of the requested extension to Algoma Power's mandated TOU pricing date.

Algoma Power has acknowledged the similar issues it faces as Hydro One experienced with certain customers outside of the reach of its technological infrastructure in EB-2012-0384. Given these similarities, Board staff proposes the extension term be similar to that which the Board granted in that proceeding. Board staff submits that Algoma Power should be granted a two year extension at which point it can re-file with the Board should it still require further time to implement TOU pricing for these customers. Board staff submits that a two year

extension instead of an indefinite extension will give the Board an opportunity to reassess Algoma Power's progress in transitioning its remaining customers to TOU pricing.

Board staff also proposes that Algoma Power be required to adhere to the same reporting requirement as in the EB-2012-0384 proceeding. Algoma Power in its interrogatory response e), agreed to a reporting requirement that includes:

- the total number of RPP eligible customers;
- the number of hard to reach customers transitioned to TOU in that year;
- the total cumulative number of customers on TOU;
- information on any new available technologies for hard to reach customers;
- progress in the ongoing monitoring of cost effective technologies;
- the costs related to any of these technologies, and;
- any other related information that would inform the Board on Algoma Power's progress to transition its remaining customers to TOU pricing.

Board staff is of the view that this report filed annually would be useful for the Board to monitor Algoma Power's progress during the course of its requested indefinite extension period. Board staff agrees with Algoma Power's recommendation of having the annual reporting begin on October 31, 2013. Although Board staff would also find an April 30, 2014 reporting date appropriate, the same date on which Hydro One must file its reports.

All of which is respectfully submitted.