

**North Bay Hydro Distribution Limited
EB-2013-0157
Board Staff Interrogatories**

RTSR Model

**Board Staff Interrogatory #1
Ref: RTSR Workform Sheet 4**

Rate Class	Unit	Non-Loss Adjusted Metered kWh	Non-Loss Adjusted Metered kW	Applicable Loss Factor	Load Factor	Loss Adjusted Billed kWh	Billed kW
Residential	kWh	200,614,425		1.0480		210,243,917	-
General Service Less Than 50 kW	kWh	84,948,671		1.0480		89,026,207	-
General Service 50 to 2,999 kW	kW	223,688,453	540,969		56.67%	223,688,453	540,969
General Service 3,000 to 4,999 kW	kW	35,722,772	68,480		71.50%	35,722,772	68,480
Unmetered Scattered Load	kWh	88,774		1.0480		93,035	-
Sentinel Lighting	kW	487,759	2,345		28.51%	487,759	2,345
Street Lighting	kW	2,790,238	7,788		49.11%	2,790,238	7,788

- a) Please confirm that the data entered in columns “Non-Loss Adjusted Metered kWh” and “Non-Loss Adjusted Metered kW” are not adjusted by Hydro Ottawa’s Board-approved loss factor.

SMART METER COST RECOVERY

**Board Staff Interrogatory #2
Ref: EB-2012-0152 Decision and Order**

In its EB-2012-0152 Decision and Order in NBHDL’s 2013 IRM proceeding, the Board ordered NBHDL to file a stand-alone smart meter cost recovery application as soon as possible in 2013.¹

- a) Please explain why NBHDL has included its smart meter application with its 2014 IRM application, rather than filing a stand-alone application as ordered by the Board.

¹ Decision and Order EB-2012-0152, April 4, 2013, page 8

Board Staff Interrogatory #3

Ref: Appendix J, Page 3

NBHDL states that it incurred smart meter OM&A costs in 2012 and has on-going and forecasted costs related to smart meters throughout 2013 and 2014. However, NBHDL states that these costs have been absorbed into its normal business operations of the company, and have not been included for recovery.

- a) Please explain why NBHDL has not included these costs for recovery in this application.
- b) Is NBHDL recovering the on-going OM&A expenses associated with smart meters and associated communications and computer storage systems (e.g. licensing fees, communications costs, etc.) through existing rates in place of the analogous OM&A expenses (e.g. meter reading) associated with the conventional meters replaced by the smart meters?

Board Staff Interrogatory #4

Ref: Appendix J, Pages 3, 9

NBHDL states that it has installed 98% of total residential and GS<50kW meters as of June 2013.

- a) Please provide a status update on implementation for the remaining 2% of residential and GS<50kW meters.
- b) Are all of the outstanding meters the 3-phase meters as described at page 9 of Appendix J?
- c) Does NBHDL have any remote meters that can't be reliably read by its smart meter infrastructure? If so, please explain what NBHDL is doing in these situations.

Board Staff Interrogatory #5

Ref: Appendix J, Page 8

NBHDL states that some of the Metro locations were in remote areas and the electrical grid had to be extended in some situations to provide service.

- a) Please provide the cost of the grid extensions.
- b) Have the costs of these extensions been included for smart meter cost recovery?
- c) If so, please indicate where the costs have been included in the smart meter model.
- d) Are these grid extensions dedicated to NBHDL's AMI infrastructure, or are they serving, or intended to serve, regular customers?

Board Staff Interrogatory #6

Ref: Appendix J, Pages 8-9 and 17

NBHDL describes the Remote Meter Application exchange process, whereby Sensus exchanged meters that had not communicated with the system over an extended period of time.

- a) How many meters were affected?
- b) Are these meters related to the warranty replacement described at page 17 of Appendix J?
- c) Were these meters returned to NBHDL inventory upon completion of the warranty work?
- d) Please confirm that no costs were incurred to perform this warranty work.

Board Staff Interrogatory #7

Ref: Appendix J, Pages 9, 20

NBHDL states that it is currently in the process of completing installation of 3-phase meters to eligible GS <50kW customers. NBHDL also states that the average cost of a GS <50kW meter is \$226.01.

- a) Please provide a status update regarding these installations.
- b) How many GS <50kW customers will have 3 phase meters?
- c) Please provide a calculation of the average cost per GS <50kW meter of \$226.01.

Board Staff Interrogatory #8

Ref: Appendix J, Page 9

NBHDL states that, in one situation, a FNP had to be connected by phone line to NBHDL's office and re-routed to the RNI, due to poor cellular reception in more rugged areas of the territory.

- a) Please define the term "FNP".
- b) Is this a permanent or temporary solution?
- c) How many smart meters submit data through this FNP?
- d) Were new phone lines required to reach the FNP?
- e) If so, how have these costs been recovered?

Board Staff Interrogatory #9

Ref: Appendix J, Page 10

NBHDL states that it has joined a consortium to contract for smart meter network security audit services and has budgeted for an annual security audit.

- a) What are the total costs for security services for NBHDL?

- b) Please explain how these costs are shared and/or allocated among the participating utilities.
- c) When did the security audits begin?
- d) Have any of these costs been included for recovery in this application?

Board Staff Interrogatory #10

Ref: Appendix J, Page 11

NBDHL states that the costs for a CIS module to allow TOU billing and communication with the MDM/R were shared among all utilities using the same CIS platform as NBDHL.

- a) What was the total cost of the module for NBDHL?
- b) Please explain how these costs are shared and/or allocated among the participating utilities.

Board Staff Interrogatory #11

Ref: Appendix J, Page 13

NBDHL states that it has developed its own web presentment tool at considerably lower cost than that to be shared by the D9 group. This was to be operationalized over the summer of 2013.

- a) What was the cost differential between NBDHL's option and the D9 group option?
- b) What is the status of the operationalization?
- c) Have these costs been included in NBDHL's smart meter model for recovery? If so, where do they appear?
- d) If these costs have been included, please explain why they were not documented as costs "beyond minimum functionality", as defined in Guideline G-2011-001: Smart Meter Funding and Cost Recovery – Final Disposition, issued December 21, 2011 and in sections 1.6.3 and 2.6.3 of Sheet 2. Smart_Meter_Costs of the Smart Meter Model?

Board Staff Interrogatory #12

Ref: Appendix J, Page 4

Ref: Smart Meter Model, Sheet 2, Smart Meter Costs

NBDHL was authorized to proceed with smart metering activities on June 28, 2008. NBDHL's smart meter model contains professional fees in 2006 and 2007.

- a) Please explain the entries in the model for 2006 and 2007.

Board Staff Interrogatory #13

Ref: Smart Meter Model Sheet 3, Cost of Service Parameters

NBDHL has entered long term debt rates in its smart meter model of 6.25%, 6.25%, 5.00% and 5.00% for the years 2006 through 2009.

- a) Please confirm that the long term debt rate approved in NBDHL's 2006 cost of service proceeding (RP-2005-0020/EB-2005-0397) was 5.00%.
- b) Please explain the rate of 6.25% that has been entered into the model for 2006 and 2007.
- c) If this is an error, please correct the long term debt rates on Sheet 3 of the Smart Meter Model for 2006 and 2007 to 5.00%.

Board Staff Interrogatory #14

Ref: Smart Meter Model, Sheet 8, Funding Adder Revenues

NBDHL's Smart Meter Funding Adder was terminated on April 30, 2012. NBDHL has entered various small amounts (both debits and credits) in the Funding Adder Revenues column of the model between May 1, 2012 and April 30, 2013.

- a) Please explain the entries in the Funding Adder Revenues column for May 2012 to April 2013.
- b) If these amounts have been entered in error, please make the necessary corrections to the model.

Board Staff Interrogatory#15

Ref: Smart Meter Model, Sheet 8, Funding Adder Revenues

Board staff notes that although NBDHL proposes to recover its smart meter costs effective May 1, 2014, it has continued to accumulate interest on its Funding Adder Revenues in the smart meter model from May 2014 to December 2014.

- a) Please correct the smart meter model such that interest on the Funding Adder Revenues on Sheet 8 ceases to accumulate beyond April 2014. This correction will also remove interest on depreciation and OM&A beyond April 30, 2014.

Board Staff Interrogatory #18

Ref: Smart Meter Model

Upon completing responses to all interrogatories from Board staff and intervenors, please provide an updated Smart Meter Model with any corrections or adjustments that the applicant wishes to make. Please provide a short summary of the changes made.