



RP-2005-0020
EB-2005-0362

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AN
ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION RATE CHANGE
ESPANOLA REGIONAL HYDRO DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION**

Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation has applied to the Ontario Energy Board to change its distribution rates. The application is in line with the guidelines laid out in the Board's Electricity Distribution Handbook, which included extensive stakeholder consultations including a public hearing held by the Board.

The standard electricity bill for residential and small general service customers has four line items: Electricity; Delivery, Regulatory and Debt Retirement Charge. This application affects the Delivery and Regulatory lines of that bill. Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation is seeking approval of \$1,223,481 as the revenue it requires for electricity distribution. If approved, a residential customer consuming 1,000 kWh per month would experience a 5.8% increase in the electricity bill. A small General Service customer consuming 2,000 kWh per month and having a monthly demand of 50 kW or lower would see a 4.9% increase.

The major items addressed by this application include: distribution costs; distribution revenues; final recovery of costs associated with market opening and certain other deferred costs; and changes in retail transmission rates.

Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Board's offices in Toronto, and at the Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation offices (see below).

Participation

You may participate in this proceeding in one of three ways:

1. You may send the Board a letter of comment. Your letter should include any request to make an oral presentation to the Board, and must be received by the Board no later than 30 days from the publication date of this notice.

2. You may request observer status in order to receive documents issued by the Board in the proceeding. Your request must be made by letter received by the Board no later than 10 days from the publication date of this notice.
3. You may request intervenor status if you wish to actively participate in the proceeding. Your request must be made by letter of intervention received by the Board no later than 10 days from the publication date of this notice. Your letter of intervention must include a description of how you are, or may be, affected by the proceeding; and if you represent a group, a description of the group and its membership. The Board may choose to hold either a written or an oral hearing. The Board will not hold a written hearing if a party satisfies the Board that there is good reason for holding an oral hearing. Your letter of intervention should indicate your preference for a written or oral hearing, and the reasons for that preference. The Board may order costs in this proceeding. 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. You must provide a copy of your letter of intervention to the applicant.

Other rate changes

The Electricity line of the standard bill is an estimate of the actual costs paid by Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation for the electricity consumed by a customer. The distributor has deferral or variance accounts related to the commodity of electricity. At least every three months, the Board will review the status of the accounts and make an order determining whether and how the amounts in the accounts will be reflected in distribution rates. The distributor also has deferral or variance accounts not related to the commodity of electricity. At least once a year, the Board will review the status of the accounts and make an order determining whether and how the amounts in the accounts will be reflected in distribution rates. Only those who intervene in this rate application will receive prior notice of these reviews. If you wish to be notified of a proposed disposition of any variance, you should indicate this in your letter to the Board.

Need more information?

Further information on how to participate may be obtained by visiting the Board's Web site at www.oeb.gov.on.ca or by calling the Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727.

How to contact us

In responding to this notice, please make reference to Board file number RP-2005-0020 /EB-2005-0362. It is also important that you provide your name, telephone number and postal address 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 by 4:45 pm on the required date.

For your convenience, the Board accepts letters of comment by either regular mail or e-mail. The Board's e-mail address is Boardsec@oeb.gov.on.ca. Please include the application file reference number in the subject line of your e-mail.

Letters of intervention must be sent by regular mail to the address below. Please remember that you must send a copy of your request for intervention to the applicant at the address listed below.

ADDRESSES

Mr. John Zych, Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Mr. Doug Bois
Interim General Manager
Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution
Corporation
598 Second Avenue
Espanola ON P5E 1C4

IF YOU DO NOT FILE A LETTER STATING YOUR WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING, THE BOARD MAY PROCEED WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION AND YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO FURTHER NOTICE OF THE PROCEEDING.

Dated at Toronto February 9, 2006

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Peter H. O'Dell
Assistant Board Secretary