Ontario Energy Board Commission de l'Énergie de l'Ontario



EB-2013-0326

IN THE MATTER OF Sections 25.20 and 25.21 of the *Electricity Act, 1998*;

AND IN THE MATTER OF a Submission by the Ontario Power Authority to the Ontario Energy Board for the review of its proposed expenditure and revenue requirements and the fees which it proposes for the year 2014.

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 4

August 15, 2014

On March 6, 2014, the Ontario Power Authority (the "OPA") filed with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") its proposed 2014 expenditure and revenue requirement and fees for review.

The OPA is seeking approval for the fees charged through electricity rates to recover its proposed 2014 operating budget of \$60.3 million. The operating budget is based upon the OPA's 2014-2016 Business Plan that was approved by the Minister of Energy on January 29, 2014.

The OPA proposed to charge a usage fee of \$0.439/MWh, an increase of \$0.001 from the 2014 interim approved fee of \$0.438/MWh, and a reduction of \$0.112/MWh from its 2013 approved usage fee of \$0.551/MWh.

The OPA proposed to hold its other fees (which are for registrations and applications that generally do not directly impact residential consumers) constant.

In Procedural Order No. 2, the Board ordered a Settlement Conference for the purpose of settling issues on July 8, 2014 and July 9, 2014. If there was a settlement or partial settlement agreement forthcoming from the Settlement Conference then that agreement would be filed with the Board no later than July 16, 2014.

On July 15, 2014 a motion was filed on behalf of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters ("CME"), Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario ("AMPCO"), Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition ("VECC"), Building Owners and Managers Association, Greater Toronto ("BOMA") and Energy Probe Research Foundation ("Energy Probe") (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Moving Parties") for an Order that the OPA produce certain documents and other information pursuant to four interrogatories (the "Motion").

The Board granted the request on July 16, 2014 and heard submissions on the Motion orally on July 22, 2014. Submissions were made by CME, School Energy Coalition ("SEC"), Energy Probe, VECC, Board staff and the OPA. The Board issued its decision on July 24, 2014.

The parties in the proceeding, including the OPA proposed and extra day of Settlement Conference and the Board agreed to it. The Board in its decision stated that July 31, 2014 would be an extra day to reconvene the Settlement Conference and a settlement or partial settlement agreement forthcoming from the Settlement Conference must be filed with the Board no later than August 8, 2014.

The Board provided and an opportunity for parties to file written submissions on any unsettled issues and whether or not these can be handled by way of written hearing or oral hearing by August 8, 2014. The Board provided the OPA an opportunity to reply by August 12, 2014.

On August 8, 2014, the OPA filed a letter and stated the following:

The Ontario Power Authority ("OPA") is writing to inform the Board that it is unable to file its Settlement Proposal today in accordance with the Board's Decision on Motion for Production of Documents and Other Information dated July 24, 2014.

The OPA is giving consideration to appropriate next steps for it to take in the proceeding in light of recent developments which impact the OPA's budget. The OPA will communicate further to the Board in this regard in the next few days.

A record of all procedural matters that have been dealt with up to this point in this proceeding is available on the Board's website and at the Board's office.

OPA Correspondence

The OPA filed a letter with the Board on August 13, 2014 and stated the following:

The Ontario Power Authority ("OPA") is writing to follow up on its letter sent to the Board on August 8, 2014 regarding the 2014 Revenue Requirement Submission.

The OPA is still not able to advise the Board on the next steps required in the proceeding as consideration is ongoing with respect to issues that impact the OPA's budget.

In the meantime, the OPA asks that the Board release the dates of August 18 and 19 that it has tentatively reserved if the Board were to proceed by way of an oral hearing. The OPA may be in a position to advise the Board of its proposed next steps by the end of this week and therefore, the OPA asks that the Board retain the date of August 20 at this time as it may provide an opportunity for parties to address issues arising from the OPA's proposal to the Board.

The OPA will communicate further to the Board on this matter as soon as it is able.

The Board has considered the OPA's request to hear submissions on August 20, 2014 and has granted the request.

THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

 The Board will hear submissions from Board staff, intervenors and the OPA on proposed next steps in this proceeding. The hearing will be held in the Board's North Hearing Room on the 25th Floor of the Board's offices located at 2300 Yonge Street, Toronto on August 20, 2014 beginning at 9:30 a.m. DATED at Toronto, August 15, 2014

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary