



EB-2014-0136

EB-2014-0151

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 Link Energy Supply Inc. for an electricity retailer licence;

AND IN THE MATTER OF an application by Link Energy Supply Inc. for a gas marketer licence.

By delegation, before: Theodore Antonopoulos

DECISION AND ORDER

September 4, 2014

Link Energy Supply Inc. (“Link Energy”) filed two complete applications on May 2, 2014 with the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) under section 60 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the “Act”) for an electricity retailer licence and under section 50 of the Act for a gas marketer licence. The Board assigned the application file numbers EB-2014-0136 and EB-2014-0151, respectively. Due to their similar nature, the applications were combined into one proceeding pursuant to section 21(5) of the Act.

The Board issued a combined Notice of Application and Hearing on May 26, 2014, inviting interventions and comments on the application. No parties responded to the Notice. Board staff participated in the hearing. Board staff filed written interrogatories on June 24, 2014. Link Energy responded to the interrogatories on July 17, 2014. Board staff filed a submission on August 12, 2014. Link Energy did not file a reply submission.

Board Findings

In order to obtain the Board licences to retail electricity and market natural gas to low-volume consumers, an applicant must establish that it meets the minimum requirements set out in the O. Reg. 90/99 “Licence Requirements – Electricity Retailers and Gas Marketers” made under the Act:

1. Having regard to the financial position of the applicant, the applicant can reasonably be expected to be financially responsible in the conduct of business.
2. The past conduct of the applicant affords reasonable grounds for belief that the applicant will carry on business in accordance with law and with integrity and honesty.
3. If the applicant is a corporation, the past conduct of its officers and directors affords reasonable grounds for belief that its business will be carried on in accordance with law and with integrity and honesty.
4. The applicant is not carrying on activities that are, or will be, if the applicant is licensed, in contravention of the OEB Act or the regulations or the codes, orders or rules issued or made by the Board.

In its submission, Board staff submitted that Link Energy can reasonably be expected to be financially responsible in the conduct of its business and has adequate technical capabilities to operate in the Ontario market. Link Energy has not previously been licensed in Ontario and has no past history of conducting business in Ontario. However, the applicant has demonstrated that all key individuals identified in the applications have extensive experience in the energy sector. In its reply to Board staff interrogatories, the applicant provided detailed descriptions of the experience on the part of its key individuals in addressing legal and regulatory obligations.

I find that it is in the public interest to grant Link Energy an electricity retailer licence under Part V of the Act and a gas marketer licence under Part IV of the Act.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The application for an electricity retailer licence is granted, on such conditions as are contained in the attached licence.
2. The application for a gas marketer licence is granted, on such conditions as are contained in the attached licence.

DATED at Toronto, **September 4, 2014**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Theodore Antonopoulos
Manager, Electricity Rates and Accounting



Electricity Retailer Licence

ER-2014-0136

Link Energy Supply Inc.

Valid Until

September 3, 2019

Original Signed By

Theodore Antonopoulos
Manager, Electricity Rates and Accounting
Ontario Energy Board
Date of Issuance: September 4, 2014

Ontario Energy Board
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	Table of Contents	Page No.
1	Definitions	1
2	Interpretation	1
3	Authorization	1
4	Obligation to Comply with Legislation, Regulations and Market Rules	2
5	Obligation to Comply with Codes	2
6	Agent for Service.....	2
7	Market Power Mitigation Rebates	2
8	Provision of Information to the Board.....	2
9	Customer Complaint and Dispute Resolution.....	3
10	Term of Licence	3
11	Fees and Assessments.....	3
12	Communication	3
13	Copies of the Licence.....	3
	SCHEDULE 1 AUTHORIZED TRADE NAMES.....	4
	APPENDIX A MARKET POWER MITIGATION REBATES.....	5

1 Definitions

In this Licence:

“**Act**” means the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, Schedule B;

“**consumer**” means a person who uses, for the person’s own consumption, electricity that the person did not generate;

“**Electricity Act**” means the *Electricity Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, Schedule A;

“**Licensee**” means Link Energy Supply Inc.;

“**Market Rules**” means the rules made under section 32 of the Electricity Act; and

“**regulation**” means a regulation made under the Act or the Electricity Act;

“**residential or small business consumer**” means a consumer who annually uses less than 150,000 kWh of electricity;

For the purpose of this Licence, the terms “retailer” and “retailing” do not apply to a Licensed Distribution Company fulfilling its obligations under section 29 of the Electricity Act.

2 Interpretation

- 2.1 In this Licence, words and phrases shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Act or the Electricity Act. Words or phrases importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa. Headings are for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Licence. Any reference to a document or a provision of a document includes an amendment or supplement to, or a replacement of, that document or that provision of that document. In the computation of time under this Licence, where there is a reference to a number of days between two events, they shall be counted by excluding the day on which the first event happens and including the day on which the second event happens. Where the time for doing an act expires on a holiday, the act may be done on the next day that is not a holiday.

3 Authorization

- 3.1 The Licensee is authorized, under Part V of the Act and subject to the terms and conditions set out in this Licence:
- a) to sell or offer to sell electricity to a consumer;
 - b) to act as the agent or broker for a retailer with respect to the sale or offering for sale of electricity; and
 - c) to act or offer to act as the agent or broker for a consumer with respect to the sale or offering for sale of electricity.
- 3.2 The Licensee is authorized to conduct business in the name under which this Licence is issued, or any trade name(s) listed in Schedule 1.

4 Obligation to Comply with Legislation, Regulations and Market Rules

- 4.1 The Licensee shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Act, the Electricity Act and regulations under these Acts, except where the Licensee has been exempted from such compliance by regulation.
- 4.2 The Licensee shall comply with all applicable Market Rules.

5 Obligation to Comply with Codes

- 5.1 The Licensee shall at all times comply with the following Codes (collectively the “Codes”) approved by the Board, except where the Licensee has been specifically exempted from such compliance by the Board:
- a) the Electricity Retailer Code of Conduct;
 - b) the Retail Settlement Code; and
 - c) the Retail Metering Code.
- 5.2 The Licensee shall:
- a) make a copy of the Codes available for inspection by members of the public at its head office and regional offices during normal business hours; and
 - b) provide a copy of the Codes to any person who requests it. The Licensee may impose a fair and reasonable charge for the cost of providing copies.

6 Agent for Service

- 6.1 If the Licensee does not have an office or other place of business in Ontario, the Licensee shall ensure the continuing appointment at all times of an individual who is a resident of Ontario and is at least 18 years old, or a corporation that has its head office or registered office in Ontario, as the Licensee’s agent for service in Ontario on whom service of process, notices or other documentation may be made.

7 Market Power Mitigation Rebates

- 7.1 The Licensee shall comply with the pass through of Ontario Power Generation rebate conditions set out in Appendix A of this Licence.

8 Provision of Information to the Board

- 8.1 The Licensee shall maintain records of and provide, in the manner and form determined by the Board, such information as the Board may require from time to time.
- 8.2 Without limiting the generality of paragraph 8.1, the Licensee shall notify the Board of any material change in circumstances that adversely affects or is likely to adversely affect the business, operations or assets of the Licensee as soon as practicable, but in any event no more than twenty (20) days past the date upon which such change occurs.

9 Customer Complaint and Dispute Resolution

9.1 The Licensee shall participate in a consumer complaints resolution process selected by the Board.

10 Term of Licence

10.1 This Licence shall take effect on September 4, 2014 and expire on September 3, 2019. The term of this Licence may be extended by the Board.

11 Fees and Assessments

11.1 The Licensee shall pay all fees charged and amounts assessed by the Board.

12 Communication

12.1 The Licensee shall designate a person that will act as a primary contact with the Board on matters related to this Licence. The Licensee shall notify the Board promptly should the contact details change.

12.2 All official communication relating to this Licence shall be in writing.

12.3 All written communication is to be regarded as having been given by the sender and received by the addressee:

- a) when delivered in person to the addressee by hand, by registered mail, or by courier;
- b) ten (10) business days after the date of posting if the communication is sent by regular mail; or
- c) when received by facsimile transmission by the addressee, according to the sender's transmission report.

13 Copies of the Licence

13.1 The Licensee shall:

- a) make a copy of this Licence available for inspection by members of the public at its head office and regional offices during normal business hours; and
- b) provide a copy of this Licence to any person who requests it. The Licensee may impose a fair and reasonable charge for the cost of providing copies.

SCHEDULE 1 AUTHORIZED TRADE NAMES

1. None

APPENDIX A

MARKET POWER MITIGATION REBATES

“OPGI” means Ontario Power Generation Inc.

A retailer shall promptly pass through a portion of the rebate received from a distributor to those consumers who are not receiving the fixed price under sections 79.4, 79.5 and 79.16 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* and who are served by the retailer but who have not assigned the benefit of the rebate payment to the retailer.

If requested in writing by OPGI, the retailer shall ensure that all rebates paid to consumers are identified as coming from OPGI in the following form on or with each bill or cheque.

“ONTARIO POWER GENERATION INC. rebate”

A retailer shall promptly return to a distributor any portion of the rebate received from the distributor which relates to low-volume or designated consumers receiving the fixed commodity price for electricity under sections 79.4, 79.5 and 79.16 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, who are served by the retailer but who have not assigned the benefit of the rebate payment to the retailer or another party.

The amounts paid out to consumers or returned to the distributor shall be based on energy consumed and calculated in accordance with the rules set out in the Retail Settlement Code.

Amounts payable by the retailer may be made by way of set off at the discretion of the retailer.

ONTARIO POWER GENERATION INC. REBATES

For the payments that relate to the period from May 1, 2006 to April 30, 2009, the rules set out below shall apply.

A retailer shall promptly pass through a portion of the rebate received from a distributor to those consumers who are not receiving the fixed price under sections 79.4, 79.5 and 79.16 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* and who are served by the retailer but who have not assigned the benefit of the rebate payment to the retailer.

If requested in writing by OPGI, the retailer shall ensure that all rebates paid to consumers are identified as coming from OPGI in the following form on or with each bill or cheque.

“ONTARIO POWER GENERATION INC. rebate”

The amounts paid out to consumers or returned to the distributor shall be based on energy consumed and calculated in accordance with the rules set out in the Retail Settlement Code.

Amounts payable by the retailer may be made by way of set off at the discretion of the retailer.



Gas Marketer Licence

GM-2014-0151

Link Energy Supply Inc.

Valid Until

September 3, 2019

Original Signed By

Theodore Antonopoulos
Manager, Electricity Rates and Accounting
Ontario Energy Board
Date of Issuance: September 4, 2014

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	Table of Contents	Page No.
1	Definitions	1
2	Interpretation	1
3	Authorization	1
4	Obligation to Comply with Legislation and Regulations	1
5	Obligation to Comply with Codes	2
6	Agent for Service.....	2
7	Provision of Information to the Board.....	2
8	Customer Complaint and Dispute Resolution	2
9	Term of Licence	2
10	Fees and Assessments.....	2
11	Communication	2
12	Copies of the Licence.....	3
	SCHEDULE 1 AUTHORIZED TRADE NAMES.....	4

1 Definitions

In this Licence:

“**Act**” means the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, Schedule B;

“**low-volume consumer**” means a person who annually uses less than 50,000 cubic meters of gas;

“**Licensee**” means Link Energy Supply Inc.;

“**regulation**” means a regulation made under the Act.

2 Interpretation

- 2.1 In this Licence, words and phrases shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Act. Words or phrases importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa. Headings are for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Licence. Any reference to a document or a provision of a document includes an amendment or supplement to, or a replacement of, that document or that provision of that document. In the computation of time under this Licence, where there is a reference to a number of days between two events, they shall be counted by excluding the day on which the first event happens and including the day on which the second event happens. Where the time for doing an act expires on a holiday, the act may be done on the next day that is not a holiday.

3 Authorization

- 3.1 The Licensee is authorized, under Part IV of the Act, and subject to the terms and conditions set out in this Licence:
- a) to sell or offer to sell gas to a low-volume consumer;
 - b) to act as the agent or broker for seller of gas to a low-volume consumer; and
 - c) to act or offer to act as the agent or broker of a low-volume consumer in the purchase of gas.
- 3.2 The Licensee is authorized to conduct business in the name under which this Licence is issued, or any trade name(s) listed in Schedule 1.

4 Obligation to Comply with Legislation and Regulations

- 4.1 The Licensee shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Act and regulations under the Act except where the Licensee has been exempted from such compliance by regulation.

5 Obligation to Comply with Codes

- 5.1 The Licensee shall at all times comply with all applicable provisions of the Code of Conduct for Gas Marketers, as issued and amended by the Board from time to time under Part III of the Act.
- 5.2 This Licensee shall:
- a) make a copy of the Code available for inspection by members of the public at its head office and regional offices during normal business hours; and
 - b) provide a copy of the Code to any person who requests it. The Licensee may impose a fair and reasonable charge for the cost of providing copies.

6 Agent for Service

- 6.1 If the Licensee does not have an office or other place of business in Ontario, the Licensee shall ensure the continuing appointment at all times of an individual who is a resident of Ontario and is at least 18 years old, or a corporation that has its head office or registered office in Ontario, as the Licensee's agent for service in Ontario on whom service of process, notices or other documentation may be made.

7 Provision of Information to the Board

- 7.1 The Licensee shall maintain records of and provide, in the manner and form determined by the Board, such information as the Board may require from time to time.
- 7.2 Without limiting the generality of paragraph 7.1, the Licensee shall notify the Board of any material change in circumstances that adversely affects or is likely to adversely affect the business, operations or assets of the Licensee as soon as practicable, but in any event no more than twenty (20) days past the date upon which such change occurs.

8 Customer Complaint and Dispute Resolution

- 8.1 The Licensee shall participate in a consumer complaints resolution process selected by the Board.

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SCHEDULE 1 AUTHORIZED TRADE NAMES

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