



EB-2007-0525

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 Espanola
Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation for an order or
orders approving or fixing just and reasonable distribution
rates and other charges, to be effective May 1, 2007.

BEFORE: Paul Sommerville
Presiding Member

Paul Vlahos
Member

Ken Quesnelle
Member

DECISION AND ORDER

Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation (“Espanola Regional Hydro”) is a licensed distributor providing electrical service to consumers within its licensed service area. Espanola Regional Hydro filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) for an order or orders approving or fixing just and reasonable rates for the distribution of electricity and other charges, to be effective May 1, 2007.

Espanola Regional Hydro is one of 85 electricity distributors in Ontario that are regulated by the Board. To streamline the process for the approval of distribution rates and charges for these distributors, the Board issued its *Report of the Board on Cost of Capital and 2nd Generation Incentive Regulation for Ontario’s Electricity Distributors* (the “Report”) on December 20, 2006. The Report contained the relevant guidelines for 2007 rate adjustments (“the guidelines”) for distributors applying for rates only on the basis of the cost of capital and 2nd generation incentive regulation mechanism policies set out in the Report.

Public notice of Espanola Regional Hydro's rate application was given through newspaper publication in Espanola Regional Hydro's service area. The evidence filed as part of the rate application was made available to the public. Both Espanola Regional Hydro and interested parties had the opportunity to file written submissions in relation to the rate application. The Board received no submissions. While the Board has considered the entire record in this rate application, it has made reference only to such evidence as is necessary to provide context to its findings.

Espanola Regional Hydro's rate application was filed on the basis of the guidelines. In fixing new rates and charges for Espanola Regional Hydro, the Board has applied the policies described in the Report.

After confirming the accuracy of the 2006 rate tariff and accompanying materials submitted in the rate application, the Board applied its approved price cap index adjustment to distribution rates (fixed and variable) uniformly across all customer classes. The price cap index is calculated as a price escalator less an X-factor of 1.0%, intended to represent input price and productivity trends. Based on the final 2006 data published by Statistics Canada, the Board has established the price escalator to be 1.9%. The resulting price cap index adjustment is therefore 0.9%.

The price cap index adjustment was not applied to the following components of the rates:

- the specific service charges;
- the regulatory asset recovery rate rider; and
- the smart meter rate adder (an amount in the fixed components of the rates associated with smart meter cost recovery).

Espanola Regional Hydro requested an amount for smart meter costs. The Board has approved an amount of \$0.26 per month per metered customer. Espanola Regional Hydro's variance accounts for smart meter program implementation costs, previously authorized by the Board, are continued. It is the Board's understanding that Espanola Regional Hydro will not be undertaking any smart metering activity (i.e. discretionary metering activity) in 2007. The amount collected through the smart meter rate adder will be booked into the existing variance accounts, and retained in those accounts, to help fund future smart meter activity. As the notice of this application indicated, the Board will be holding a combined proceeding to consider, among other things, appropriate recovery of smart meter costs.

The Board has made the necessary adjustments to Espanola Regional Hydro's filed 2006 Tariff of Rates and Charges to produce a new Tariff of Rates and Charges to be effective May 1, 2007. The Board finds the rates and charges in the Tariff of Rates and Charges attached as Appendix A to this decision to be just and reasonable.

THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. The Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Appendix A of this order is approved, effective May 1, 2007, for electricity consumed or estimated to have been consumed on and after May 1, 2007.
2. The Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Appendix A of this order supersedes all previous distribution rate schedules approved by the Ontario Energy Board for Espanola Regional Hydro, and is final in all respects.
3. Espanola Regional Hydro shall notify its customers of the rate changes no later than with the first bill reflecting the new rates.

DATED at Toronto, April 12, 2007

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Peter H. O'Dell
Assistant Board Secretary

Appendix A

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April 12, 2007

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective May 1, 2007

This schedule supersedes and replaces all previously approved schedules of Rates, Charges and Loss Factors

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APPLICATION

- The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Codes, Guidelines or Orders of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.
- No rates and charges for the distribution of electricity and charges to meet the costs of any work or service done or furnished for the purpose of the distribution of electricity shall be made except as permitted by this schedule, unless required by the Distributor's Licence or a Code, Guideline or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, or as specified herein.
- This schedule does not contain any rates and charges relating to the electricity commodity (e.g. the Regulated Price Plan).

EFFECTIVE DATES

DISTRIBUTION RATES – May 1, 2007 for all consumption or deemed consumption services used on or after that date.

SPECIFIC SERVICE CHARGES – May 1, 2007 for all charges incurred by customers on or after that date.

LOSS FACTOR ADJUSTMENT – May 1, 2007 unless the distributor is not capable of prorating changed loss factors jointly with distribution rates. In that case, the revised loss factors will be implemented upon the first subsequent billing for each billing cycle.

SERVICE CLASSIFICATIONS

Residential

This classification refers to an account taking electricity at 750 volts or less where the electricity is used exclusively in a single family unit, non-commercial. This can be separately metered living accommodation, town house, apartment, semi-detached, duplex, triplex or quadruplex with residential zoning.

General Service Less Than 50 kW

This classification refers to a non residential account taking electricity at 750 volts or less whose monthly average peak demand is less than, or is forecast to be less than, 50 kW.

General Service 50 to 4,999 kW

This classification refers to a non residential account whose average peak demand is greater than, or is forecast to be greater than, 50 kW but less than 5,000 kW.

Unmetered Scattered Load

This classification refers to an account taking electricity at 750 volts or less whose monthly average peak demand is less than, or is forecast to be less than, 50 kW and the consumption is unmetered. Such connections include cable TV power packs, bus shelters, telephone booths, traffic lights, railway crossings, etc. The customer will provide detailed manufacturer information/documentation with regard to electrical demand/consumption of the proposed unmetered load.

Sentinel Lighting

This classification applies to safety/security lighting with a Residential, General Service or Large Use customer. This is typically exterior lighting, and unmetered. Consumption is estimated based on the equipment rating and estimated hours of use.

Street Lighting

This classification refers to an account for roadway lighting with a Municipality, Regional Municipality, Ministry of Transportation and private roadway lighting operation, controlled by photo cells. The consumption for these customers will be based on the calculated connected load times the required lighting times established in the approved OEB street lighting load shape template.

Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective May 1, 2007

This schedule supersedes and replaces all previously approved schedules of Rates, Charges and Loss Factors

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Residential

Service Charge	\$	10.39
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0135
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	0.0030
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0053
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0039
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

General Service Less Than 50 kW

Service Charge	\$	13.19
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0203
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	0.0015
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0049
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0035
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

General Service 50 to 4,999 kW

Service Charge	\$	123.37
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	1.7424
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	0.4822
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.9902
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.3968
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate – Interval Metered	\$/kW	2.2535
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate – Interval Metered	\$/kW	1.9603
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Unmetered Scattered Load

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	6.47
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0135
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	0.0015
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0049
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0035
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Sentinel Lighting

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	0.45
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	8.5578
Regulatory Asset Recovery – Effective May 1, 2007 to October 31, 2007	\$/kW	6.5503
Regulatory Asset Recovery – Effective November 1, 2007	\$/kW	12.0503
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.5085
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.1024
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010

Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective May 1, 2007

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Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25	EB-2007-0525
Street Lighting			
Service Charge (per connection)	\$	0.41	
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	2.9711	
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	0.1879	
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.5009	
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.0798	
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052	
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010	
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25	
Specific Service Charges			
Customer Administration			
Arrears certificate	\$	15.00	
Account history	\$	15.00	
Returned Cheque (plus bank charges)	\$	15.00	
Account set up charge/change of occupancy charge (plus credit agency costs if applicable)	\$	30.00	
Special meter reads	\$	30.00	
Meter dispute charge plus Measurement Canada fees (if meter found correct)	\$	30.00	
Non-Payment of Account			
Late Payment - per month	%	1.50	
Late Payment - per annum	%	19.56	
Collection of account charge – no disconnection	\$	30.00	
Disconnect/Reconnect Charges for non payment of account - At Meter During Regular Hours	\$	65.00	
Disconnect/Reconnect at pole – during regular hours	\$	185.00	
Temporary service install & remove – overhead – no transformer	\$	500.00	
Temporary service install & remove – underground – no transformer	\$	300.00	
Specific Charge for Access to the Power Poles – per pole/year	\$	22.35	
Allowances			
Transformer Allowance for Ownership - per kW of billing demand/month	\$/kW	(0.60)	
Primary Metering Allowance for transformer losses – applied to measured demand and energy	%	(1.00)	
LOSS FACTORS			
Total Loss Factor – Secondary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW		1.0724	
Total Loss Factor – Secondary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW		N/A	
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW		1.0617	
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW		N/A	