



EB-2014-0292

IN THE MATTER OF the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*,
S.O. 1998, c. 15, Schedule B;

AND IN THE MATTER OF an application pursuant to
section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* by
London Hydro Inc. to amend its Electricity Distribution
Licence ED-2002-0557

By delegation, before: Peter Fraser

DECISION AND ORDER

December 18, 2014

London Hydro Inc. ("London Hydro" or the "Applicant") filed an application on September 11, 2014 with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") under section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the "Act") for an order of the Board granting London Hydro an amendment to its electricity distribution licence ED-2002-0557. The amendment seeks a temporary exemption until December 31, 2015 from the requirement under section 5.1.3 a) of the Distribution System Code (the "DSC") to install an interval meter (MIST meter) on any new installation that is forecast to have a monthly average peak demand during a calendar year of over 50 kW effective on or after August 21, 2014. The Board assigned file number EB-2014-0292 to the application.

The Board issued a Notice of Application and Hearing on October 6, 2014. No other party except for Board staff participated in the hearing. Board staff filed interrogatories on November 4, 2014 and London Hydro responded to the interrogatories on November 19, 2014. Board staff filed a submission on December 4, 2014, and London Hydro filed its reply submission on December 5, 2014.

London Hydro seeks an exemption until December 31, 2015 from the requirement listed in section 5.1.3.a) of the DSC only with respect to those customers whose monthly average peak demand is greater than 50 kW but less than 200 kW as London Hydro has been already installing interval meters for its customers with monthly average peak demand over 200 kW.

London Hydro stated that the desired smart meter interface configuration for the MV90 data management system is currently under development by the manufacturer, however not yet ready for implementation. Therefore, for London Hydro to meet the requirement of section 5.1.3.a) of the DSC for this customer subclass at the present time would require installing new interval meters with cellular reading capability as an interim solution which would entail unnecessary stranded assets and additional operating costs. London Hydro further stated that the interim solution meters will not be supported past 2018 due to communications limitations and will required re-installation which would result in the total stranded costs that could exceed \$100K. London Hydro proposed to continue installing legacy pulse meters for this customer subclass as it represents the most economical and cost saving approach until such time as smart meter communication system is tested and installed by the manufacturer by the end of 2015. In its submission, Board staff stated that it would not be prudent for London Hydro to incur significant costs for the interim solution and supported London Hydro's request for the temporary exemption from the requirements of section 5.1.3.a) of the DSC until December 31, 2015.

I find that the reasons provided by London Hydro are sufficient to support the applicant's request for the temporary exemption from the requirement set out in section 5.1.3.a) of the DSC. After considering the application, I find it to be in the public interest to grant the requested amendment.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. London Hydro Inc.'s Electricity Distribution Licence (ED-2002-0557), specifically Schedule 3 of the licence, is amended to reflect an exemption from the requirement of section 5.1.3.a) of the Distribution System Code. This exemption will expire on December 31, 2015.

DATED at **Toronto**, December 18, 2014

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Peter Fraser
Vice President, Industry Operations and Performance