Ontario Energy Board Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario



EB-2014-0360

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND WRITTEN HEARING

Application by Hydro One Networks Inc. for an Extension to its Mandated Time-of-Use Pricing Date for Certain Regulated Price Plan Customers

The Application

Hydro One Networks Inc. ("Hydro One") filed an application dated December 1, 2014 with the Ontario Energy Board ("OEB") under section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the "Act") for a licence amendment granting an extension in relation to the mandated date for the implementation of time-of-use ("TOU") pricing rates for certain Regulated Price Plan ("RPP") customers.

Time-of-Use Pricing

On August 4, 2010 the Board issued a determination under Section 1.2.1 of the Standard Supply Service Code to require the implementation of TOU pricing for RPP customers. The determination established mandatory TOU implementation dates for each electricity distributor. On December 21, 2012 Hydro One was granted an extension to its mandated TOU pricing date for certain identified hard to reach RPP customers that are outside Hydro One's smart meter telecommunications infrastructure. Hydro One stated that there were no current options that would meet full compliance to providing TOU pricing to these customers. Hydro One indicated that the options that were available to reach these customers would achieve only partial compliance and create excessive costs. Hydro One stated that the situation was not expected to be resolved until there is improved telecommunication infrastructure in place or when future technological advancements in automated meter infrastructure become available. The extension began on January 1, 2013 and expires on December 31, 2014.

On December 1, 2014 Hydro One filed an application for a further extension to its TOU pricing date for these hard to reach customers. Hydro One requested that the extension

begin on January 1, 2015 and remain in place until December 31, 2019. Hydro One states that during the previous extension period 12,000 of the identified hard to reach customers were successfully migrated to TOU pricing. Hydro One requests that this extension apply to the remaining 110,000 hard to reach customers as well as 50,000 customers currently on TOU pricing that demonstrate consistently unreliable communication resulting in billing errors and consumer dissatisfaction. Hydro One also requests that the extension apply for approximately 10,000 new customers who are projected to be connected to Hydro One's service area during the requested five year exemption period.

The application will be decided by an employee of the OEB who has been delegated this authority pursuant to section 6 of the Act. The OEB does not intend to provide for an award of costs when deciding the application.

How to see the Application

To see a copy of the application, go to the Consumer page of the OEB's website and enter the case number EB-2014-0360 in the "Find an Application" box. A copy can also be seen at the OEB's office and at Hydro One's office at the address indicated below.

How to Participate

Interested persons may participate in the Board's hearing of the application by following the steps set out in this notice.

Oral vs. Written Hearings

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. The OEB intends to proceed with this application by way of a written hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why. Your submission must be received by the OEB and copied to Hydro One by **January 12, 2015.**

Interrogatories

If you wish to obtain information from the applicant that is in addition to the application materials already filed with the OEB (i.e. the "pre-filed evidence") and that is relevant to the hearing, you must request it by written interrogatories filed with the OEB, and delivered to the applicant, on or before **January 16, 2015**. Please ensure that each interrogatory request includes a reference to the relevant page or item in the pre-filed evidence.

The applicant shall file complete responses to each interrogatory with the OEB, and deliver them to all interested parties in the proceeding, no later than **January 30, 2015**.

Written Submissions

You may express your views on the application by filing a written submission with the OEB. Your submission must be received by the OEB and copied to Hydro One by **February 13, 2015.**

If Hydro One wishes to respond to any submissions, its reply shall be made in writing, and filed with the OEB and copied to any party who made a written submission by **February 27, 2015.**

All written submissions sent to the OEB will be placed on the public record, which means that the written submissions will be available for viewing at the OEB's offices and will be placed on the OEB's website. If the written submission is from a private citizen, the OEB will remove any personal (i.e., not business) contact information from the written submission (e.g., the address, phone number, and e-mail address of the individual), before placing the written submission on the public record. However, the name of the individual and the content of the written submission will become part of the public record.

As stated elsewhere in this notice, you must provide a complete copy of your written submission (including your name, contact information, and everything written in the submission) to the applicant.

How to File Documents with the Board

All written submissions filed with the OEB must quote file number EB-2014-0360 and clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number and email address. You must forward two paper copies and, if possible, an electronic copy in Word format and in searchable PDF format, of your written submission to the OEB and one copy to the applicant. All written submissions to the OEB should be directed to the attention of the Board Secretary at the address below, and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date.

Need More Information?

For more information on how to participate please click on "Get Involved" under the "OEB and You" menu on the Consumer page of the OEB's website

<u>www.ontarioenergyboard.ca</u>. If you do not have internet access, please call 1-877-632-2727 (toll free) to receive information about this proceeding and how to participate.

IMPORTANT

IF YOU DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN SUBMISSION OBJECTING TO A WRITTEN HEARING OR DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING BY FILING INTERROGATORIES OR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS NOTICE, THE OEB MAY PROCEED WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION AND YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO FURTHER NOTICE IN THIS PROCEEDING.

ADDRESSES

Ontario Energy Board:

Ontario Energy Board P.O. Box 2319 27th Floor 2300 Yonge Street Toronto ON M4P 1E4 Attention: Board Secretary Filings: www.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/ Email: boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free) Fax: 416-440-7656

DATED at Toronto, December 22, 2014

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary

Applicant:

Hydro One Networks Inc. 483 Bay Street 8th Floor - South Tower Toronto ON M5G 2P5 Attention: Susan Frank

Email: <u>Regulatory@hydroone.com</u> Tel: 416-345-5700 Fax: 416-345-5870