



**EB-2014-0096**

**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 Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc. for an order approving just and reasonable rates and other charges for electricity distribution to be effective May 1, 2015.

**ISSUES LIST DECISION**  
**January 29, 2015**

Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc. (“NPEI”) filed a complete cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) on September 23, 2014 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B), seeking approval for changes to the rates that NPEI charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2015.

Procedural Order No. 1 made provision for the establishment of an issues list subsequent to the filing of interrogatory responses.

NPEI filed its interrogatory responses on December 23, 2014. To clarify any matters arising from the interrogatories, a transcribed Technical Conference was held January 20, 2015. On January 23, 2015 Board staff filed a proposed issues list, which was agreed to by parties and Board staff, for the Board’s consideration. The Board has reviewed the proposed issues list and has made certain wording changes to the issues listed under topic 5-Other. The approved issues list for the purpose of this proceeding is attached as Appendix A.

A Settlement Conference will be held among the parties and Board staff on February 3 and 4, 2015 as indicated in Procedural Order No. 2.

**DATED** at Toronto, January 29, 2015

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original signed by*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary

**Appendix 'A'**

**Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.**

**EB-2014-0096**

**Approved Issues List**

**January 29, 2015**

**Approved Issues List  
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Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.**

**1. PLANNING**

**1.1 Capital**

Is the level of planned capital expenditures appropriate and is the rationale for planning and pacing choices appropriate and adequately explained, giving due consideration to:

- customer feedback and preferences;
- productivity;
- benchmarking of costs;
- reliability and service quality;
- impact on distribution rates;
- trade-offs with OM&A spending;
- government-mandated obligations; and
- the objectives of the Applicant and its customers.

**1.2 OM&A**

Is the level of planned OM&A expenditures appropriate and is the rationale for planning choices appropriate and adequately explained, giving due consideration to:

- customer feedback and preferences;
- productivity;
- benchmarking of costs;
- reliability and service quality;
- impact on distribution rates;
- trade-offs with capital spending;
- government-mandated obligations; and
- the objectives of the Applicant and its customers.

**2. REVENUE REQUIREMENT**

2.1 Are all elements of the Base Revenue Requirement reasonable?

2.2 Has the Base Revenue Requirement been accurately determined based on these elements?

**3. LOAD FORECAST, COST ALLOCATION AND RATE DESIGN**

3.1 Are the proposed load and customer forecast, loss factors, CDM adjustments and resulting billing determinants appropriate? Are they an appropriate reflection of the energy and demand requirements of the applicant's customers?

3.2 Is the proposed cost allocation methodology, allocations, and revenue-to-cost ratios appropriate?

3.3 Are the applicant's proposals for rate design appropriate?

3.4 Are the proposed Retail Transmission Service Rates appropriate?

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**4. ACCOUNTING**

- 4.1 Have all impacts of any changes in accounting standards, policies, estimates and adjustments been properly identified and recorded, and is the rate-making treatment of each of these impacts appropriate?
- 4.2 Are the applicant's proposals for deferral and variance accounts, including the balances in the existing accounts and their disposition, the continuation of existing accounts, and any new accounts, appropriate?

**5. OTHER**

- 5.1 Is the applicant's proposal with respect to the purchase of the Niagara Parks Commission Assets appropriate from a capital-planning, service and rate-making perspective?
- 5.2 Is the termination of water billing appropriately reflected in the application and the proposed revenue requirement?
- 5.3 Are all aspects of the merger, including savings (between the former Niagara Falls Hydro Inc. and the former Peninsula West Utilities Ltd.) appropriately accounted for in the application and the proposed revenue requirement?