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



EB-2014-0087

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 Kenora Hydro Electric Corporation Ltd. for an order approving just and reasonable rates and other charges for electricity distribution to be effective May 1, 2015.

By Delegation, Before: Lynne Anderson

DECISION and RATE ORDER

[Date]

Kenora Hydro Electric Corporation Ltd. ("Kenora Hydro") filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on October 24, 2014 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, seeking approval for changes to the rates that Kenora Hydro charges for electricity distribution, effective May 1, 2015 (the "Application").

Kenora Hydro last appeared before the Board with a cost of service application for the 2011 rate year in the EB-2010-0135 proceeding. To adjust its 2015 rates, Kenora Hydro selected the Annual Incentive Rate-setting ("Annual IR") Index option, which provides for a mechanistic and formulaic adjustment to distribution rates and charges. The Application met the Board's filing requirements¹ for filings by rate-regulated electricity distributors ("distributors") applying for annual rate adjustments under the Annual IR Index.

¹ Report of the Board: Renewed Regulatory Framework for Electricity Distributors: A Performance-Based Approach (October 18, 2012); and Filing Requirements for Electricity Distribution Rate Applications (July 25, 2014)

While the entire record in this proceeding has been considered by me, this decision will make reference only to such information as is necessary to provide context to my conclusions. The following issues are addressed in this Decision and Rate Order:

- Price Cap Index Adjustment;
- Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge;
- Retail Transmission Service Rates;
- Review and Disposition of Group 1 Deferral and Variance Account Balances.

Price Cap Index Adjustment

The Price Cap IR option is a streamlined regulatory process designed to provide distributors with sufficient revenue to cover cost increases due to inflation while providing an incentive structure to drive productivity improvements.

Under the Price Cap IR option², distribution rates are adjusted by an inflation factor, less the sum of a productivity factor and a stretch factor. Based on its established method³, the Board has set the inflation factor for 2015 rates at 1.6% and the productivity factor remains zero percent. The Board also determined that the stretch factor can range from 0.0% to 0.6%, assigned based on a distributor's cost evaluation ranking. The stretch factor is 0.6% for distributors selecting the Annual IR Index option regardless of their cost evaluation ranking.

As a result, the net price cap index adjustment for Kenora Hydro is 1.00% (i.e. 1.6% - (0% + 0.6%)). The price cap index adjustment applies to distribution rates (fixed and variable charges) uniformly across all customer classes. The price cap index adjustment does not apply to the components of delivery rates set out in the list below:

- Rate Riders;
- Rate Adders;
- Low Voltage Service Charges;
- Retail Transmission Service Rates;
- Wholesale Market Service Rate;
- Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge;

² Report on Rate Setting Parameters and Benchmarking under the Renewed Regulatory Framework for Ontario's Electricity Distributors (December 4, 2013)

As outlined in the Report cited at footnote 2 above.

- Standard Supply Service Administrative Charge;
- Transformation and Primary Metering Allowances;
- Loss Factors;
- Specific Service Charges;
- MicroFit Charge; and
- Retail Service Charges.

Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge

The Board has determined that the Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection ("RRRP") benefit and charge for 2015 shall remain \$0.0013 per kWh⁴. The Tariff of Rates and Charges flowing from this Decision and Rate Order reflects this RRRP charge.

Retail Transmission Service Rates

Electricity distributors are charged for transmission costs at the wholesale level and then pass on these charges to their distribution customers through their Retail Transmission Service Rates ("RTSRs"). Variance accounts 1584 and 1586 are used to capture differences in the rate that a distributor pays for wholesale transmission service relative to the retail rate that the distributor is authorized to charge when billing its customers.

The Board has issued guidelines⁵ which outline the information that the Board requires electricity distributors to file in order to adjust their RTSRs for 2015. The RTSR guideline requires electricity distributors to adjust their RTSRs based on a comparison of historical transmission costs adjusted for the new Uniform Transmission Rates ("UTR") and the revenues generated under existing RTSRs.

⁴ Decision with Reasons and Rate Order, EB-2014-0347

⁵ Guideline G-2008-0001 - Electricity Distribution Retail Transmission Service Rates, revision 4.0 (June 28, 2012)

The Board has adjusted the UTRs effective January 1, 2015⁶, as shown in the following table:

Network Service Rate	\$3.78 per kW
Connection Service Rates	
Line Connection Service Rate	\$0.86 per kW
Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$2.00 per kW

2015 Uniform Transmission Rates

I conclude that these 2015 UTRs are to be incorporated into the filing module to adjust the RTSRs that Kenora Hydro will charge its customers accordingly.

Review and Disposition of Group 1 Deferral and Variance Account Balances

The Board's policy on deferral and variance accounts⁷ provides that, during the IRM plan term, the distributor's Group 1 account balances will be reviewed and disposed if the preset disposition threshold of \$0.001 per kWh, whether in the form of a debit or credit, is exceeded. The onus is on the distributor to justify why any account balance in excess of the threshold should not be disposed. If the balances are below this threshold, the distributor may propose to dispose of balances.

Kenora Hydro's 2013 actual year-end total balance for Group 1 accounts including interest projected to April 30, 2015 is a credit of \$96,646. This amount results in a total credit claim of \$0.0009 per kWh, which does not exceed the preset disposition threshold. Kenora Hydro did not seek disposition of balances in its application.

I conclude that no disposition is required at this time.

Rate Model

With this Decision and Rate Order are a rate model, applicable supporting models and a Tariff of Rates and Charges (Appendix A). Entries in the rate model were reviewed to ensure that they were in accordance with the 2014 Board-approved Tariff of Rates and Charges. The rate model was adjusted, where applicable, to correct any discrepancies.

⁶ 2015 Uniform Electricity Transmission Rate Order, EB-2014-0357

⁷ Report of the Board on Electricity Distributors' Deferral and Variance Account Review Initiative (July 31, 2009)

THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

 The Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Appendix A of this Decision and Rate Order is approved effective May 1, 2015 for electricity consumed or estimated to have been consumed on and after such date. Kenora Hydro Electric Corporation Ltd. shall notify its customers of the rate changes no later than the delivery of the first bill reflecting the new rates.

DATED at Toronto, [Date] ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary Appendix A To Decision and Rate Order Tariff of Rates and Charges Board File No: EB-2014-0087 DATED: [Date]

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

EB-2014-0087

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

All services supplied to single-family dwelling units for domestic or household purposes shall be classified as residential service. Subclasses would be:

Overhead

Transformers not on private property

Transformers on private property

Underground

Transformers not on private property Transformers on private property

Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order 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 or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, or as specified herein.

Unless specifically noted, this schedule does not contain any charges for the electricity commodity, be it under the Regulated Price Plan, a contract with a retailer or the wholesale market price, as applicable. In addition, the charges in the MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES – Regulatory Component of this schedule do not apply to a customer that is an embedded wholesale market participant.

It should be noted that this schedule does not list any charges, assessments or credits that are required by law to be invoiced by a distributor and that are not subject to Board approval, such as the Debt Retirement Charge, the Global Adjustment, the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit and the HST.

Service Charge	\$	19.43
Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018	\$	0.79
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0142
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0072
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0019
MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Regulatory Component		

Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0044
Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge (RRRP)	\$/kWh	0.0013
Standard Supply Service - Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

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

EB-2014-0087

GENERAL SERVICE LESS THAN 50 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

All services other than those designated as residential service, municipal street lighting service. This includes combination type services where a variety of uses are made of the same service by the Customer (e.g. General Service less than 50 kVA combined with residential service). Subclasses would be:

Demand less than 50 kVA - (100A @ 120/208V; 100A @ 120/240V, 60A @ 347/600V) Demand equal to 50 kVA, up to 500 kVA - (1600A @ 120/208V; 600A @ 347/600V; 600A @ 120/240V) Demand equal to 500 kVA, up to 5,000 kVA - (greater than 1600A @ 120/208V OR greater than 600A @ 347/600V and service from the 44 kV distribution system)

For new installations, demand sizing is based on the main switch size in amps converted to kVA. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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Service Charge Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018 Distribution Volumetric Rate Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$ \$ \$/kWh \$/kWh \$/kWh	38.15 0.79 0.0060 0.0063 0.0016
MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Regulatory Component		
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0044
Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge (RRRP)	\$/kWh	0.0013
Standard Supply Service - Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

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EB-2014-0087

GENERAL SERVICE 50 TO 4,999 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

All services other than those designated as residential service, municipal street lighting service. This includes combination type services where a variety of uses are made of the same service by the Customer (e.g. General Service less than 50 kVA combined with residential service). Subclasses would be:

Demand less than 50 kVA - (100A @ 120/208V; 100A @ 120/240V, 60A @ 347/600V) Demand equal to 50 kVA, up to 500 kVA - (1600A @ 120/208V; 600A @ 347/600V; 600A @ 120/240V) Demand equal to 500 kVA, up to 5,000 kVA - (greater than 1600A @ 120/208V OR greater than 600A @ 347/600V and service from the 44 kV distribution system)

For new installations, demand sizing is based on the main switch size in amps converted to kVA. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

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Service Charge	\$	527.83
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	1.6818
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	2.6143
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	0.5998
MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Regulatory Component		
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0044
Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge (RRRP)	\$/kWh	0.0013
Standard Supply Service - Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

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EB-2014-0087

UNMETERED SCATTERED LOAD SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to an account whose average monthly maximum demand is less than, or is forecast to be less than, 50 kVA and the consumption is unmetered. Such connections include cable TV power packs, bus shelters, telephone booths, traffic lights, railway crossings, etc. The level of the consumption will be agreed to by the distributor and the customer, based on detailed manufacturer information/documentation with regard to electrical consumption of the unmetered load or periodic monitoring of actual consumption. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

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Service Charge (per connection)	\$	13.85
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0041
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0063
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0016
MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Regulatory Component		
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/k\//h	0 0044

Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0044
Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge (RRRP)	\$/kWh	0.0013
Standard Supply Service - Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

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EB-2014-0087

STREET LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

All service supplied to any electrical street lighting equipment owned by, or operated for, the City of Kenora that is used to illuminate roadways and sidewalks, etc. The street light equipment is not metered, and they turn on and off by photoelectric cells. The consumption will be based on the calculated connected load times the required lighting times established in the approved OEB street lighting load shape template. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

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Service Charge (per connection) Distribution Volumetric Rate Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$ \$/kW \$/kW	5.08 3.3477 1.9713 0.4637
MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Regulatory Component		
Wholesale Market Service Rate Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge (RRRP) Standard Supply Service - Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$/kWh \$/kWh \$	0.0044 0.0013 0.25

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EB-2014-0087

microFIT SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to an electricity generation facility contracted under the Ontario Power Authority's microFIT program and connected to the distributor's distribution system. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge

5.40

\$

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EB-2014-0087

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)

SPECIFIC SERVICE CHARGES

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Customer Administration

Arrears certificate	\$	15.00
Statement of Account	\$	15.00
Duplicate Invoices for previous billing	\$	15.00
Request for other billing information	\$	15.00
Easement Letter	\$	15.00
Income Tax Letter	\$	15.00
Account History	\$	15.00
Credit check (plus credit agency costs)	\$	25.00
Returned cheque (plus bank charges)	\$	25.00
Legal letter charge	\$	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
Disconnect/Reconnect Charge - At Meter – during regular hours	\$	65.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charge – At Meter – After Hours	\$	185.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charge – At Pole – During Regular Hours	\$	185.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charge – At Pole – After Hours	\$	415.00
Install/Remove load control device – during regular hours	\$	65.00
Install/Remove load control device – after regular hours	\$	185.00
Other		
Service call – customer owned equipment	\$	65.00
Service Call – Customer-owned Equipment – After Regular Hours	\$	165.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charge - At Meter – During regular hours	\$	65.00
Specific Charge for Access to the Power Poles - \$/pole/year	\$	22.35

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EB-2014-0087

RETAIL SERVICE CHARGES (if applicable)

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Retail Service Charges refer to services provided by a distributor to retailers or customers related to the supply of competitive electricity.

One-time charge, per retailer, to establish the service agreement between the distributor and the retailer	\$	100.00
Monthly Fixed Charge, per retailer	\$	20.00
Monthly Variable Charge, per customer, per retailer	\$/cust.	0.50
Distributor-consolidated billing monthly charge, per customer, per retailer	\$/cust.	0.30
Retailer-consolidated billing monthly credit, per customer, per retailer	\$/cust.	(0.30)
Service Transaction Requests (STR)		
Request fee, per request, applied to the requesting party	\$	0.25
Processing fee, per request, applied to the requesting party	\$	0.50
Request for customer information as outlined in Section 10.6.3 and Chapter 11 of the Retail		
Settlement Code directly to retailers and customers, if not delivered electronically through the		
Electronic Business Transaction (EBT) system, applied to the requesting party		
Up to twice a year	\$	no charge
More than twice a year, per request (plus incremental delivery costs)	\$	2.00

LOSS FACTORS

If the distributor is not capable of prorating changed loss factors jointly with distribution rates, the revised loss factors will be implemented upon the first subsequent billing for each billing cycle.

Total Loss Factor – Secondary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0430
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0325