



**EB-2014-0109**

**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 PUC  
Distribution Inc. 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**

**March 19, 2015**

PUC Distribution Inc. (“PUC”) filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) on September 26, 2014 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, seeking approval for changes to the rates that PUC charges for electricity distribution, effective May 1, 2015 (the “Application”).

PUC last appeared before the Board with a cost of service application for the 2013 rate year in the EB-2012-0162 proceeding. To adjust its 2015 rates, PUC selected the Price Cap Incentive Rate-setting option (the “Price Cap IR”) which provides for a mechanistic and formulaic adjustment to distribution rates and charges in the period between cost of service proceedings. The Application met the Board’s filing requirements<sup>1</sup> for filings by rate-regulated electricity distributors (“distributors”) applying for annual rate adjustments under Price Cap IR.

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<sup>1</sup> 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; and
- Retail Transmission Service Rates.

### 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 option<sup>2</sup>, distribution rates are adjusted by an inflation factor, less the sum of a productivity factor and a stretch factor. Based on its established method<sup>3</sup>, 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 Board assigned PUC a stretch factor of 0.45 based on the updated benchmarking study for use for rates effective in 2015<sup>4</sup>.

As a result, the net price cap index adjustment for PUC is 1.15% (i.e. 1.6 % - (0% + 0.45 %)). 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;

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

<sup>3</sup> As outlined in the Report cited at footnote 2 above.

<sup>4</sup> Report to the Ontario Energy Board – "Empirical Research in Support of Incentive Rate-Setting: 2013 Benchmarking Update." Pacific Economics Group LLC. July, 2014.

- 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 kWh<sup>5</sup>. 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 guidelines<sup>6</sup> 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.

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<sup>5</sup> Decision with Reasons and Rate Order, EB-2014-0347

<sup>6</sup> 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, 2015<sup>7</sup>, as shown in the following table:

### 2015 Uniform Transmission Rates

Network Service Rate	\$3.78 per kW
<u>Connection Service Rates</u>	
Line Connection Service Rate	\$0.86 per kW
Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$2.00 per kW

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

### Review and Disposition of Group 1 Deferral and Variance Account Balances

The Board's policy on deferral and variance accounts<sup>8</sup> 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.

PUC's 2013 actual year-end total balance for Group 1 accounts including interest projected to April 30, 2015 is a credit of \$429,422. This amount results in a total credit claim of \$0.0006 per kWh, which does not exceed the preset disposition threshold. PUC 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

<sup>7</sup> 2015 Uniform Electricity Transmission Rate Order, EB-2014-0357

<sup>8</sup> Report of the Board on Electricity Distributors' Deferral and Variance Account Review Initiative (July 31, 2009)

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.

**THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:**

1. 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. PUC Distribution Inc. shall notify its customers of the rate changes no later than the delivery of the first bill reflecting the new rates.

**DATED** at Toronto, March 19, 2015

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original signed by*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary

**Appendix A**

**To Decision and Rate Order**

**Tariff of Rates and Charges**

**Board File No: EB-2014-0109**

**DATED: March 19, 2015**

**PUC Distribution Inc.**  
**TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES**  
**Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015**

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

EB-2014-0109

## RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies 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 a separately metered living accommodation, town house, apartment, semi-detached, duplex, triplex or quadruplex with residential zoning. 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 finished 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.

### MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component

Service Charge	\$	9.91
Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018	\$	0.79
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0171
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0065

### 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

**PUC Distribution Inc.**  
**TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES**  
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## **GENERAL SERVICE LESS THAN 50 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION**

This classification applies to a non residential account taking electricity at 750 volts or less whose average monthly peak demand is less than, or is forecast to be less than, 50 kW. 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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### **MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component**

Service Charge	\$	16.87
Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018	\$	0.79
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0202
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0061

### **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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## **GENERAL SERVICE 50 TO 4,999 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION**

This classification applies to a non residential account whose average monthly peak demand used for billing purposes over the past 12 months is equal to or greater than, or is forecast to be equal to or greater than, 50 kW but less than 5,000 kW. 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	\$	112.82
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	5.3595
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	2.4833
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate - Interval Metered	\$/kW	3.1231

### **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

**PUC Distribution Inc.**  
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## UNMETERED SCATTERED LOAD SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to an account taking electricity at 750 volts or less whose average monthly 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. 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	\$	12.51
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0306
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0061

### 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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## **SENTINEL LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION**

This classification applies to safety/security lighting with a Residential or General Service customer. This is typically exterior lighting, and unmetered. Consumption is estimated based on the equipment rating and estimated hours of use. 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 (per connection)	\$	2.89
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	26.9641
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.8824

### **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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## **STREET LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION**

This classification applies 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. 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 (per connection)	\$	2.90
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	18.8996
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.8728

### **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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## **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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## 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

Account set up charge/change of occupancy charge (plus credit agency costs if applicable)	\$	30.00
Returned cheque (plus bank charges)	\$	15.00
Legal letter	\$	15.00
Meter dispute charge plus Measurement Canada fees (if meter found correct)	\$	30.00
Special meter reads	\$	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
Collection of account charge – no disconnection – after regular hours	\$	165.00
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	Time & Materials
Service call – after regular hours	Time & Materials
Temporary Service – Install & remove – overhead – no transformer	Time & Materials
Temporary Service – Install & remove – underground – no transformer	Time & Materials
Temporary Service – Install & remove – overhead – with transformer	Time & Materials
Specific Charge for Access to the Power Poles - \$/pole/year	\$ 22.35
Removal of overhead lines - during regular hours	Time & Materials
Removal of overhead lines - after hours	Time & Materials
Roadway escort - after regular hours	Time & Materials

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## **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	1.0489
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0385