

EB-2014-0112

**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 Sioux Lookout Hydro 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

Sioux Lookout Hydro Inc. ("Sioux Lookout Hydro") filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on October 8, 2014 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, seeking approval for changes to the rates that Sioux Lookout Hydro charges for electricity distribution, effective May 1, 2015 (the "Application").

Sioux Lookout Hydro last appeared before the Board with a cost of service application for the 2013 rate year in the EB-2012-0165 proceeding. To adjust its 2015 rates, Sioux Lookout Hydro 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>&</sup>lt;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;
- Retail Transmission Service Rates; and
- 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 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 Sioux Lookout Hydro a stretch factor of 0.3% 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 Sioux Lookout Hydro is 1.30% (i.e. 1.6 % - (0% + 0.3 %)). 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;

<sup>&</sup>lt;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>&</sup>lt;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.

- Retail Transmission Service Rates;
- Wholesale Market Service Rate;
- Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge;
- 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. Similarly, embedded distributors, such as Sioux Lookout Hydro, must adjust their RTSRs to reflect any changes to the applicable RTSRs of their host distributor, which in this case is Hydro One Networks Inc.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Guideline G-2008-0001 - Electricity Distribution Retail <u>Transmission</u> <u>Service Rates</u>, revision 4.0 (June 28, 2012)

The Board has not yet established Hydro One's sub-transmission class rates for 2015, including the retail transmission service rates for this class. I will therefore approve the RTSRs as adjusted in this Application so that they reflect those which currently apply to this class, as shown in the following table. The differences arising from the new 2015 rates, once approved, will be captured in Accounts 1584 and 1586 for future disposition.

#### 2014 Sub-Transmission RTSRs

Network Service Rate	\$3.23 per kW
Connection Service Rates	
Line Connection Service Rate	\$0.65 per kW
Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$1.62 per kW

I conclude that these 2014 Sub-Transmission class RTSRs are to be incorporated into the filing module to adjust the RTSRs that Sioux Lookout 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 accounts<sup>7</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.

Sioux Lookout Hydro's 2013 actual year-end total balance for Group 1 accounts including interest projected to December 31, 2014 or April 30, 2015 is a debit of \$113,179. This amount results in a total debit claim of \$0.0016 per kWh, which exceeds the preset disposition threshold. Sioux Lookout Hydro proposes to dispose of this debit amount over a one-year period.

The balances proposed for disposition are the same as the amounts reported as part of the Board's *Reporting and Record-Keeping Requirements*. I approve the disposition of a debit balance of \$113,179 as of December 31, 2013, including interest projected to April

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Report of the Board on Electricity Distributors' Deferral and Variance Account Review Initiative (July 31, 2009)

30, 2015 for Group 1 accounts. These balances are to be disposed over a one-year period from May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016.

The table below identifies the principal and interest amounts which the Board approves for disposition.

**Group 1 Deferral and Variance Account Balances** 

Account Name	Account Number	Principal Balance (\$)	Interest Balance (\$)	Total Claim (\$) C = A + B
LV Variance Account	1550	71,129	_	72,486
Smart Meter Entity Variance Charge	1551	2,118	72	2,191
RSVA - Wholesale Market Service Charge	1580	(116,500)	(3,023)	(119,522)
RSVA - Retail Transmission Network Charge	1584	24,127	1,008	25,135
RSVA - Retail Transmission Connection Charge	1586	1,408	(90)	1,318
RSVA - Power	1588	191,813	5,503	197,315
RSVA - Global Adjustment	1589	(74,992)	4,121	(70,872)
Disposition and Recovery of Regulatory Balances (2008)	1595		(436)	(436)
Disposition and Recovery of Regulatory Balances (2011)	1595	1,551	(91)	1,460
Disposition and Recovery of Regulatory Balances (2012)	1595	(59,730)	63,836	4,106
Total Group 1 Excluding Global Adjustment – Account 1589		115,916	68,136	184,051
Total Group 1		40,924	72,256	113,179

The balance of each Group 1 account approved for disposition shall be transferred to the applicable principal and interest carrying charge sub-accounts of Account 1595. Such transfer shall be pursuant to the requirements specified in Article 220, Account Descriptions, of the *Accounting Procedures Handbook for Electricity Distributors*, effective January 1, 2012. The date of the transfer must be the same as the effective date for the associated rates, which is, generally, the start of the rate year. Sioux Lookout Hydro should ensure these adjustments are included in the reporting period ending June 30, 2015 (Quarter 2).

#### 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.

#### 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. Sioux Lookout Hydro 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-2014-0112** 

March 19, 2015

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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

EB-2014-0112

### RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to an account taking electricity at 750 volts or less where the electricity is used exclusively in a separate metered living accommodation. Customers shall be residing in single-dwelling units that consist of a detached house or one unit of a semi-detached, duplex, triplex or quadruplex house, with a residential zoning. Separately metered dwellings within a town house complex or apartment building also qualify as residential customers. All customers are single-phase. 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	\$	27.00
Rate Rider for Recovery of Stranded Meter Assets - effective until August 31, 2015	\$	2.80
Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018	\$	0.79
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0116
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0037
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2015) - effective until April 30, 2016	\$/kWh	0.0026
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Account (2015) - effective until April 30, 2016		
Applicable only for Non RPP Customers	\$/kWh	(0.0030)
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0066
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0015
MONTHLY DATED AND OLIABOED. Be well to me O comment		
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

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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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 maximum 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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Service Charge Rate Rider for Recovery of Stranded Meter Assets - effective until August 31, 2015 Rate Rider for Smart Metering Entity Charge - effective until October 31, 2018	\$ \$ \$	42.10 2.83 0.79
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh \$/kWh	0.0080
Low Voltage Service Rate  Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2015) - effective until April 30, 2016  Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Account (2015) - effective until April 30, 2016	\$/kWh	0.0031 0.0026
Applicable only for Non RPP Customers Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh \$/kWh	(0.0030) 0.0060
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0011
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

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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

This classification applies to a non residential account whose average monthly maximum demand used for billing purposes is equal to or greater than, or is forecast to be equal to or greater than, 50 kW but less than 5,000 kW. Note that for the application of the Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate and the Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate the following sub-classifications apply:

General Service 50 to 1,000 kW non-interval metered General Service 50 to 1,000 kW interval metered General Service >1,000 to 4,999 kW interval metered.

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

#### **APPLICATION**

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Service Charge	\$	374.15
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	1.3034
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kW	1.3088
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2015) - effective until April 30, 2016	\$/kW	0.9952
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Account (2015) - effective until April 30, 2016		
Applicable only for Non RPP Customers	\$/kW	(1.2023)
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	2.4033
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	0.4928
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate - Interval Metered > 1,000 kW	\$/kW	2.5495
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate		
- Interval Metered > 1,000 kW	\$/kW	0.5446

## **Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015**

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### **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

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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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 maximum 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 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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#### **MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Delivery Component**

Standard Supply Service - Administrative Charge (if applicable)

·		
Service Charge (per connection)	\$	22.27
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0086
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0031
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2015) - effective until April 30, 2016	\$/kWh	0.0025
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0060
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0011
MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES - Regulatory Component		
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0044
Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Charge (RRRP)	\$/kWh	0.0013

0.25

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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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, 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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Service Charge (per connection)	\$	10.38
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	27.3836
Low Voltage Service Rate	\$/kW	1.0120
Rate Rider for Disposition of Deferral/Variance Accounts (2015) - effective until April 30, 2016	\$/kW	0.8471
Rate Rider for Disposition of Global Adjustment Account (2015) - effective until April 30, 2016		
Applicable only for Non RPP Customers	\$/kW	(1.0060)
Retail Transmission Rate - Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.8125
Retail Transmission Rate - Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	0.3810
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

Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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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 Condition 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 \$ 5.40

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### **ALLOWANCES**

Transformer Allowance for Ownership - per kW of billing demand/month	\$/kW	(0.37)
Primary Metering Allowance for transformer losses – applied to measured demand and energy	%	(1.00)

## SPECIFIC SERVICE CHARGES

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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#### **Customer Administration**

Statement of Account	\$ 15.00
Duplicate Invoices for previous billing	\$ 15.00
Easement Letter	\$ 15.00
Income Tax Letter	\$ 15.00
Credit Reference/credit check (plus credit agency costs)	\$ 15.00
Returned cheque charge (plus bank charges)	\$ 15.00
Charge to certify cheque	\$ 15.00
Account set up charge/change of occupancy charge (plus credit agency costs if applicable)	\$ 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
Collection of account charge – no disconnection	\$	30.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at meter – during regular hours	\$	110.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at meter – after hours	\$	245.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at pole – during regular hours	\$	245.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at pole – after regular hours	\$	415.00
Install/Remove load control device – during regular hours	\$	110.00
Install/Remove load control device – after regular hours	\$	245.00

#### Other

Temporary Service – Install & remove – overhead – no transformer	\$ 500.00
Temporary Service – Install & remove – underground – no transformer	\$ 300.00
Temporary Service – Install & remove – overhead – with transformer	\$ 1,000.00
Specific Charge for Access to the Power Poles - per pole/year	\$ 22.35

### Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2015

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## RETAIL SERVICE CHARGES (if applicable)

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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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	1.0897
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0788