



EB-2015-0217

IN THE MATTER OF the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*,
S.O. 1998, c. 15, Schedule B;

AND IN THE MATTER OF an application pursuant to
section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* by St.
Thomas Energy Inc. to amend its Electricity Distribution
Licence ED-2002-0523.

By delegation, before: Peter Fraser

DECISION AND ORDER

July 23, 2015

THE APPLICATION

St. Thomas Energy Inc. (St. Thomas Energy) filed an application on July 8, 2015, with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) under section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the OEB Act) for an order of the Board to amend St. Thomas Energy's licensed service area in Schedule 1 of its electricity distribution licence ED-2002-0523.

This service area amendment is required in order for St. Thomas Energy to provide electricity distribution services to a planned Phase 1 of Parish Farm Estate residential subdivision comprising of both single detached and semi-detached homes for approximately 40 residential dwellings. The vacant land is currently located in Hydro One Networks Inc.'s (Hydro One) licensed service area.

- The subject land is described as Part of Lots 5 and 6, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Yarmouth as in E390923, City of St. Thomas, County of Elgin.

FINDINGS

Based on the evidence, I find that it is in the public interest to amend Schedule 1 of St. Thomas Energy's electricity distribution licence to include the lands described

above. I note that Hydro One's licence is not required to be amended given the manner in which Schedule 1 of Hydro One's licence is presented. The following facts are relevant to this decision.

The evidence filed with the application demonstrates that it is more economically efficient for St. Thomas Energy to serve the proposed residential development as it represents a practical and lowest cost to connect. St. Thomas Energy submitted that it has an existing distribution infrastructure bordering the subject lands that is readily available and adequate to supply the proposed subdivision. Specifically, St. Thomas Energy has a 27.6 kV feeder with sufficient capacity immediately adjacent to the subject area and the source of supply will enter the subject area underground using municipal infrastructure.

A letter from Doug Tarry Limited, the developer of the Parish Farm subdivision, filed with the application indicates that the customer prefers St. Thomas Energy as a service provider. A letter from Hydro One filed with the application indicates that Hydro One supports St. Thomas Energy's application for the proposed service area amendment.

The subject area is vacant land and there are no existing customers of either distributor in the proposed amendment area. No assets will be stranded as a result of the proposed amendment. In addition, no negative impact on rates, safety, reliability or service quality of St. Thomas Energy or Hydro One has been identified as a result of the proposed amendment.

The applicant requested that the OEB decide the application without a hearing. I have done so. All affected parties consented to the application as filed. The evidence filed with the OEB demonstrated that the amendment will not produce any adverse effects on the existing customers of the distributors, nor on potential customers who may locate in the subdivision.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

St. Thomas Energy Inc.'s Electricity Distribution Licence ED-2002-0523, specifically Schedule 1 of the licence, is amended to include the lands described as:

Part of Lots 5 and 6, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Yarmouth as in E390923, City of St. Thomas, County of Elgin.

The amended licence is attached to this Decision and Order.

DATED at Toronto, July 23, 2015

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Peter Fraser
Vice President, Industry Operations and Performance