

Board Staff Interrogatories
Application for Extension to Mandated Time-of-Use Pricing Date
for Certain Regulated Price Plan Consumers
Hydro One Networks Inc.
EB-2012-0384
Dated October 31, 2012

Board Staff questions

Preamble

Hydro One Networks Inc. ("Hydro One") filed an application dated September 21, 2012 with the Ontario Energy Board under section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for a licence amendment granting an extension in relation to the mandated date for the implementation of time-of-use ("TOU") pricing rates for certain Regulated Price Plan ("RPP") customers.

Hydro One has requested an extension to the exemption from its mandated TOU pricing date granted by the Board's Decision and Order of January 13, 2011, in the proceeding EB-2010-0282. In that Decision and Order the Board granted an exemption from the requirement to apply TOU pricing in respect of approximately 150,000 RPP customers who are outside the smart meter telecommunications infrastructure reach of Hydro One. The exemption applies until December 31, 2012. Hydro One is applying for an extension on that exemption and requests it to begin on January 1, 2013 and have an indefinite expiry date. Hydro One states that there are no current options that will meet full compliance. Hydro One indicates that the options that are available to reach these customers will achieve only partial compliance and create excessive costs. Hydro One states that the situation is not expected to be resolved until there is improved telecommunication infrastructure in place or when future technological advancements in automated meter infrastructure become available.

Questions

- a) Please provide the most current data available of the number of hard to reach customers affected by Hydro One's TOU extension application.
- b) Please confirm the current status of the smart meter deployment and TOU implementation for Hydro One's service territory.
- c) Please provide details on how Hydro One intends to make progress with transitioning the affected customers if it is granted the indefinite exemption. Please include detailed figures and time frames on how many affected

customers can be transitioned through the use of existing technology and other low cost options.

- d) Please describe in detail, including costs and timelines, Hydro One's plan to extend its smart meter telecommunications infrastructure to reach those affected customers that have "available cellular network" and transition them to TOU billing.
- e) Please describe in detail, including costs and timelines, Hydro One's plan to "monitor the industry for economic options to comply with the current Code requirements" with regard to those affected customers that do not have available cellular network.
- f) Please describe in detail the cost consequences of the delay on Hydro One's Smart Meter and TOU implementation plan for these affected customers.
- g) Hydro One has proposed to eliminate the exemption reporting as it states the number of customers on TOU pricing is already reported quarterly in the Board's *Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements*. If Hydro One is granted the indefinite exemption what reporting measures would be appropriate for Hydro One to report on its progress regarding transitioning the affected hard to reach customers to TOU pricing?