



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

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## **DECISION AND ORDER**

**EB-2015-0293**

### **NORTHERN RIDGE UTILITIES CORP.**

**Application for a Unit Sub-Metering Licence**

**BY DELEGATION, BEFORE:**     **Peter Fraser**  
Vice President  
Industry Operations & Performance

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**Issued January 28, 2016 and corrected on February 5, 2016**

## DECISION AND ORDER

Northern Ridge Utilities Corp. (Northern Ridge) filed an application on October 28, 2015 with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), under section 60 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (Act) for a unit sub-metering licence.

A Notice of Application and Written Hearing (Notice) was posted on the OEB's website on November 10, 2015. The Notice provided that the OEB intended to proceed with this matter by way of a written hearing and that anyone wishing to participate must file a written submission with the OEB and copy the applicant by December 1, 2015. No one responded to the Notice by that deadline. Four customers of Northern Ridge did however submit letters to the OEB on January 4, 2016. Northern Ridge responded to the letters on January 14, 2016. While these letters and the applicant's response were filed after the deadline set out in the Notice, I have reviewed them and considered them in making my decision in respect of Northern Ridge's application.

Northern Ridge is a company operating the distribution system on the property of Sunpark land leased mobile home community located in Gravenhurst, Ontario. Northern Ridge delivers electricity to the dwellings situated on the leased land as well as to the common elements, maintains the distribution system, and provides meter reading and billing services. As Northern Ridge is engaged in metering and billing activities in the multi-unit complex connected to a bulk meter provided by a licensed electricity distributor (Veridian Connections Corp.), Northern Ridge is required to hold a unit sub-metering licence pursuant to section 57(c.1) of the Act.

The customer letters express concerns regarding Northern Ridge's billing practices, including the manner in which customers are charged for electricity usage in the common elements of the property, and the manner in which the information on the bill is presented. The letters also expressed concerns about the age and maintenance of the unit sub-metering equipment on the property, and the inability of Northern Ridge customers to sign up for the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) due to the fact that Northern Ridge is not a licensed unit sub-meter provider.

I have considered the record of this proceeding, including the late-filed submissions of the Sunpark residents and the applicant's response, and I find that it is in the public interest to grant Northern Ridge a unit sub-metering licence under Part V of the Act. The record indicates that Northern Ridge has the financial resources and the technical capability to engage in unit sub-metering activities. Although I am mindful of the concerns raised in this proceeding by some Northern Ridge customers, in my view the

OEB would be better able to address such concerns once Northern Ridge is licensed. In that respect, Northern Ridge is reminded that as a licensed unit sub-meter provider it must comply with all regulatory requirements and have the policies, processes and procedures in place to ensure such compliance. In particular, Northern Ridge must ensure that it complies with the requirement to make OESP rate assistance available to its eligible customers.

This Decision and Order is being issued by Delegated Authority, pursuant to Section 6 of the Act.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The application for a unit sub-metering licence is granted, on such conditions as are contained in the attached licence.

**DATED** at Toronto, January 28, 2016

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original signed by*

Peter Fraser  
Vice President, Industry Operations & Performance