



EB-2016-0105

Thunder Bay Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.

Application for electricity distribution rates beginning May 1, 2017

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 3

April 18, 2017

Thunder Bay Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc. (Thunder Bay Hydro) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on September 9, 2016 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B), seeking approval for changes to the rates that Thunder Bay Hydro charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2017.

On March 29, 2017, the OEB issued its Interim Rate Order and Procedural Order No. 2 establishing April 20 and 21, 2017 as the dates for an oral hearing on all unsettled issues.

On April 6, 2017, Thunder Bay Hydro filed a letter with the OEB noting that it had retained Mr. Yury Tsimberg of Kinectrics to review and opine on the Thunder Bay Hydro distribution system plan to assist the OEB on matters related to capital (issue 1.1). Thunder Bay Hydro further noted that it was attaching a copy of Mr. Tsimberg's opinion letter dated March 24, 2017 and that this was being filed on the evidentiary record. Thunder Bay Hydro stated that Mr. Tsimberg would be available for questions during the oral hearing as he would be joining the main Thunder Bay Hydro witness panel. Mr. Tsimberg's biography and a completed acknowledgement of expert's duty were also attached to his letter.

On April 13, 2017, an intervenor in this proceeding, the School Energy Coalition (SEC) filed a letter with the OEB asking that it direct appropriate steps relating to this evidence in advance of the oral hearing. SEC further stated that proper steps would, in its view also require a delay in the date of the oral hearing. SEC's position was supported by

letters filed by two other intervenors in this proceeding, the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition. Thunder Bay Hydro filed a response to these letters, upholding its position, also on April 17, 2017.

The OEB confirms that the oral hearing will begin on April 20, 2017 at 9:30 am. The OEB will first deal with the settlement proposal, for which a presentation will not be necessary. However, the OEB will ask questions regarding the settlement proposal at that time.

The OEB will then hear oral submissions from all parties on the matters raised in the SEC letter and the responses to SEC's letter. In particular, the OEB will ask for submissions regarding the qualifications of Mr. Tsimberg to testify as an expert on matters listed in paragraph 6 of Mr. Tsimberg's letter dated March 24, 2017. The OEB will then make a determination as to the extent of Mr. Tsimberg's participation as a witness and the necessity for any additional procedural steps.

The OEB intends to provide its decision on the settlement proposal on April 20, 2017, and proceed with the oral hearing. Parties should be prepared to proceed with the examination related to Thunder Bay Hydro's proposed cost of capital (issue 2.1) at a minimum.

It is necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. Further procedural orders may be issued by the OEB.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:

1. The oral hearing will commence on April 20, 2017 at 9:30am in the OEB's hearing room at 2300 Yonge Street, 25th floor, Toronto.
2. The OEB will hear oral submissions from all parties on the matters raised by the SEC letter of April 13, 2017 and the responses to SEC's letter.

DATED at Toronto, **April 18, 2017**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary