



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

DECISION AND ORDER

EB-2017-0010

EB-2017-0124

VERIDIAN CONNECTIONS INC.

Application for a Service Area Amendment

BY DELEGATION, BEFORE: Brian Hewson
Vice President
Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

April 20, 2017

DECISION AND ORDER

THE APPLICATIONS

Veridian Connections Inc. (Veridian) filed two applications, EB-2017-0010, dated January 19, 2017 and EB-2017-0124, dated March 3, 2017 under section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) for an order of the Board to amend Veridian's service area as described in Schedule 1 of its distribution licence ED-2002-0503. Since the two applications address the same matter, the proceedings were combined pursuant to the Board's power under section 21(5) of the OEB Act.

The proposed service area amendments are required in order for Veridian to provide electricity distribution services to Sunderland Meadows Phase 1 in the Township of Brock (Subject Area 1) and part of Lots 7 and 8, Broken Front Concession, Municipality of Clarington (Subject Area 2), both in the Regional Municipality of Durham. Subject Area 1 consists of 90 residential lots, 22 of which are located in Hydro One Networks Inc.'s (Hydro One) service area, while Subject Area 2 consists of 234 residential lots, 49 of which are located in Hydro One's service area.

FINDINGS

Based on the evidence, I find it to be in the public interest to approve the service area amendments proposed by Veridian for Subject Areas 1 and 2. I have considered the applications without holding a hearing pursuant to section 6(4) of the OEB Act. The following facts are relevant to this decision.

The evidence filed with the applications demonstrates that it is more economically efficient for Veridian to serve the proposed developments. The applicant notes that following discussions between Veridian and Hydro One, the parties concluded that Veridian's fully allocated connection costs to service the properties are less than the equivalent costs for Hydro One for both applications, therefore, service from Veridian is practical and involves the lowest costs to connect the potential customers.

The incumbent distributor, Hydro One, has confirmed its support of the applications through two separate consent letters filed as part of each application. In addition, the developers have indicated that they prefer Veridian as the distributor for Subject Area 1 and 2, via two separate letters of support filed as part of each application.

The applicant states that the service area amendments will not result in stranded or duplicated assets nor creation or elimination of any load transfer arrangements in both cases. No negative impact on rates, safety, reliability or service quality of Veridian or Hydro One has been identified as a result of the proposed amendments. The evidence filed with the OEB demonstrates that the outcome of the proceeding would not produce any adverse effects on the existing customers of the distributors, nor on potential customers who may locate in Subject Areas 1 or 2.

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.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Schedule 1 of Veridian Connections Inc.'s electricity distribution licence (ED-2002-0503) is amended. The amended licence is attached to this Decision and Order.

DATED at Toronto April 20, 2017

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance