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



EB-2018-0020

Brantford Power Inc.

Application for electricity distribution rates effective January 1, 2019

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 2 November 2, 2018

Brantford Power Inc. (Brantford Power) filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on August 13, 2018 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, *1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B) and under the OEB's Filing Requirements for Incentive Regulation Rate Applications seeking approval for changes to its electricity distribution rates to be effective January 1, 2019.

The OEB issued a Notice of Hearing on September 5, 2018. The School Energy Coalition (SEC) and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) applied for intervenor status and were granted intervenor status.

In the application, Brantford Power advised that there were anomalies in its settlement process due to errors identified in the smart meter data provided by its third party data provider. This led to inaccuracies in Brantford Power's settlement data, which in turn had impacts on its RPP settlements with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO). Brantford Power sought approval for adjustments to the balances in accounts 1588 and 1589 for 2015 and 2016. Brantford Power's 2015 Retail Settlement Variance Account (RSVA) balances had previously been disposed of on a final basis. However, Brantford Power stated that by correcting the 2015 approved RSVA balances, it could mitigate bill increases for RPP customers.

During the interrogatory process, Brantford Power advised that corrections were required to the adjustments made to the 2015 and 2016 balances for accounts 1588

and 1589.¹ Once Brantford Power corrected the errors for 2015 in accounts 1588 and 1589, the impacts to RPP customers were no longer favourable.² As a result, Brantford Power advised in its responses to OEB staff interrogatories that it wished to withdraw its request for approval of adjustments to the OEB-approved 2015 balances.³ Brantford Power also advised in its interrogatory responses that there was an error affecting the quantum of the 2016 balances in accounts 1588 and 1589, and Brantford Power corrected those account balances as well.⁴ Although the request for an adjustment to 2015 balances is being withdrawn, the OEB also observes that there appears to be inconsistencies in the quantum of the proposed 2015 adjustment based on Brantford Power's responses to SEC-3 Table SEC-3.2, and Staff-1 c. and Staff-5 a.1 (related to principal and interest adjustments).

The OEB finds that Brantford Power's request to amend its application by withdrawing the previously proposed correction to the 2015 OEB-approved RSVA balances necessitates an additional step in this proceeding. The OEB believes that it is important to ensure that the record is accurate, particularly as it relates to the impact of withdrawing the proposed adjustment to the OEB-approved 2015 balance, and that 2015-related adjustments (if any) are accurately reflected in the application.⁵ As a result, the OEB finds that it is appropriate to allow for supplementary interrogatories to clarify the revised evidence filed by Brantford Power on October 18, 2018.

Parties are reminded to consult sections 26 and 27 of the OEB's *Rules of Practice and Procedure* regarding required naming and numbering conventions and other matters related to interrogatories.

It is necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. The OEB may issue further procedural orders from time to time.

¹ Response to OEB staff interrogatory, IR 2 b) i.

² Response to OEB staff interrogatory, IR 1 c).

³ Ibid.

⁴ Response to OEB staff interrogatory, IR 2 b) i.

⁵ Brantford Power's request to return (\$279,884) in settlement amounts to the IESO as noted in its response to Staff-1 c) appears to be inconsistent in sign with the amount noted in response to Staff-2 b ii).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- 1. OEB staff and intervenors shall request any information and material from Brantford Power that is in addition to Brantford Power's written interrogatory responses by way of written supplementary interrogatories filed with the OEB and delivered to Brantford Power and all other parties by **November 8, 2018.**
- Brantford Power shall file with the OEB complete written responses to the supplementary interrogatories and deliver them to intervenors by November 15, 2018.
- 3. Unless the OEB orders otherwise, any written submission by OEB staff and intervenors shall be filed with the OEB and delivered to all other parties by **November 22, 2018**.
- 4. Unless the OEB orders otherwise, Brantford Power may file a written reply submission with the OEB, and deliver it to intervenors by **November 29, 2018.**

All filings to the OEB must quote the file number, EB-2018-0020 and be made electronically in searchable/unrestricted PDF format through the OEB's web portal at <u>https://pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/</u>. Two paper copies must also be filed at the OEB's address provided below. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at <u>http://www.oeb.ca/OEB/Industry</u>. If the web portal is not available parties may email their documents to the address below. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit all filings on a CD in PDF format, along with two paper copies. Those who do not have computer access are required to file 7 paper copies.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Board Secretary at the address below, and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Judy But at <u>Judy.But@oeb.ca</u> and OEB Counsel, Richard Lanni at <u>Richard.Lanni@oeb.ca</u>.

ADDRESS

Ontario Energy Board P.O. Box 2319 2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor Toronto ON M4P 1E4 Attention: Board Secretary

E-mail: <u>boardsec@oeb.ca</u> Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free) Fax: 416-440-7656

DATED at Toronto, November 2, 2018

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

By delegation, before: Rudra Mukherji

Original signed by

Rudra Mukherji Acting Manager, Registrar