



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

DECISION AND ORDER

EB-2019-0163

ALGOMA POWER INC.

**Application for Extension to Mandated Time-of-Use Pricing Date &
Extension to Exemption from Sections 2.10.1, 7.11.1 to 7.11.7 of
the Distribution System Code**

BY DELEGATION, BEFORE: Brian Hewson

Vice President,
Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

November 14, 2019

DECISION AND ORDER

Algoma Power Inc. (API) filed a complete application on August 12, 2019 with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), under section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) for an extension to its existing exemption from sections 2.10.1 and 7.11.1 to 7.11.7 of the Distribution System Code (DSC) and an for an extension to its mandated date for Time-of-Use (TOU) pricing for certain “hard to reach” Regulated Price Plan (RPP) customers. API requested the DSC exemption and TOU pricing mandated date extension to be in effect until December 31, 2024.

This Decision and Order is being issued by the Delegated Authority, without holding a hearing pursuant to Section 6(4) of the OEB Act.

On October 8, 2015, the OEB issued a Decision and Order in the EB-2015-0199 proceeding in which API's licence was amended, exempting API from sections 2.10.1 and 7.11.1 to 7.11.7 of the DSC with respect to 191 RPP customers, who are outside the reach of API's smart meter telecommunication infrastructure, until December 31, 2019. The order also extended API's mandated date for TOU pricing for the identified hard to reach customers until December 31, 2019, for which API received a previous extension in OEB proceeding EB-2013-0056.

In its application, API stated that it is still not possible to economically connect up to 350 meters to its Advanced Metering Infrastructure network or to make all meters communicate reliably enough to issue regular TOU bills based on actual meter readings to approximately 191 hard to reach RPP customers. API stated that it continues to explore cost-effective solutions for implementation of TOU billing and for providing monthly bills based on actual reads 98% of the time, however the existing communication infrastructure is not reliable and the costs associated with the options available are excessively high.

The OEB accepts that it is not yet feasible to economically implement TOU billing and to make all meters communicate reliably enough to issue regular monthly TOU bills based on actual meter readings. The OEB finds that the extension of the exemption from sections 2.10.1 and 7.11.1 to 7.11.7 of the DSC with regard to estimated billing and billing accuracy and the extension to API's TOU pricing date for the identified customers should be granted. API will continue to be exempted from the requirement to provide monthly bills based on actual reads 98% of the time for approximately 191 hard to reach customers until December 31, 2024. API's mandated date for TOU Pricing for up to 350 of its hard to reach customers is extended to December 31, 2024.

API is expected to continue its efforts to identify cost-effective technological solutions during the exemption period.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Algoma Power Inc.'s Electricity Distribution Licence ED-2009-0072, specifically Schedule 3 List of Code Exemptions, is amended to include an exemption from Section 2.10.1 and Sections 7.11.1 to 7.11.7 of the Distribution System Code in respect of approximately 191 Regulated Price Plan customers who are outside the smart meter telecommunications infrastructure reach of Algoma Power Inc. This exemption expires on December 31, 2024.
2. Algoma Power Inc.'s Electricity Distribution Licence ED-2009-0072, specifically Schedule 3 List of Code Exemptions, is amended to include an exemption to the provisions of the Standard Supply Service Code for Electricity Distributors requiring time-of-use pricing for Regulated Price Plan consumers with eligible time-of-use meters, as of the mandatory date for the identified up to 350 hard to reach customers. This exemption expires on December 31, 2024.

DATED at Toronto, November 14, 2019

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance