

March 26, 2020

Ms. C. Long  
Registrar and Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Long

Re: **EB-2018-0287/2018-0288**

I am writing to you seeking a further extension to April 30 for filing comments in the above-named matters.

The Electricity Distributors Association (EDA) and its members are participants in these proceedings and have participated in all related activities and events, including attending the one-day session where Board staff presented their thinking. On March 9 the EDA requested that the Ontario Energy Board (OEB, the Board) extend the March 20 deadline for comments to March 27; the Board granted the extension on March 10, for which we are greatly appreciative.

Since that time, several unique events have occurred, and many things have changed in unanticipated ways:

- March 11: the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic of COVID-19
- March 17: Ontario's provincial government declared a State of Emergency
- March 17: the provincial government worked with local distribution companies (LDCs) to gain acceptance of an extension to the disconnection moratorium, which the OEB subsequently formally extended (on March 19) to July 31
- March 24: the provincial government provided interim bill relief to small volume consumers through the unusual step of authorizing a change to Time of Use Regulated Price Plan rates effective March 24

All of these events stem from the COVID-19 pandemic. The severity and duration of the COVID-19 pandemic is unknown at this time and the situation is evolving rapidly. LDCs are on the frontlines of managing pandemic-related issues for their customers.

Ontario's LDCs have performed a vital role in implementing the relief described above and flowing it through to consumers - while continuing to provide customer care and continuity of distribution service. They continue to responsibly and effectively adapt and revise their processes (e.g., by equipping staff to work remotely, increasing their use of telecommunications technology) while making plans for the continuity of service, potentially at reduced staff levels, and preparing for the likely financial consequences of non-payment as businesses are now shuttered and consumers' incomes are at risk.

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As LDC staff prioritize these activities they have deferred other activities, including providing comments on certain OEB subjects.

Under these unprecedented circumstances I request that the OEB extending the filing deadline for LDCs and the EDA to April 30. Because the duration of the State of Emergency and pandemic conditions are unknown, the EDA commits to updating the Board no later than April 23 on its progress to finalize these comments.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Kathi Farmer, the EDA's Senior Regulatory Affairs Advisor at [kfarmer@eda-on.ca](mailto:kfarmer@eda-on.ca) or at 905.265.5333.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by*

Ted Wigdor  
Vice-President, Policy, Government & Corporate Affairs