

April 23, 2020

Ms. Kirsten Walli Board Secretary Ontario Energy Board P.O. Box 2319 27<sup>th</sup> Floor – 2300 Yonge Street Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli,

Re: SYNERGY NORTH Corporation 2020 IRM Rate Proceeding (EB-2019-0068)

In light of the uncertainty regarding the severity and duration of the COVID-19 emergency, and its impact on Electricity Distributors and their customers the OEB issued a letter on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 addressing rate considerations for distributors currently in the 2020 Incentive Rate Setting Proceedings for rates and charges effective May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. This letter provided optionality at distributor discretion to postpone regularly scheduled May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 rate changes to a later date of November 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 upon Board Staff Final Rate Approval. Subsequent to this letter Synergy North Corporation (SYNERGY NORTH) received its Final 2020 Decision and Rate Order (EB-2019-0068) on April 16, 2020 approving its application for rates effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Following an internal bill impact review SYNERGY NORTH has made the decision to defer its regular May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 rate change until November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to help assist its customers during these uncertain times. SYNERGY NORTH respectfully requests herein that the OEB approves SYNERGY NORTH's current rate orders EB-2018-0069 for Thunder Bay Rate Zone and EB-2018-0046 for Kenora Rate Zone as interim rate orders and that all rates and other charges originally effective to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 continue to be in place until October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

SYNERGY NORTH acknowledges as per the OEB letter issued April 17th 2020 that:

- Impacts arising from the postponement of changes to monthly fixed service charges and variable distribution charges will be tracked in Account 1509 – Impacts Arising from COVID-19, Sub Account Lost Revenues;
- Group One Deferral and Variance Accounts will continue to be disposed of into account 1595-2020 and drawn down commencing the November 1st 2020 Implementation date;
- Share Tax Savings in Kenora Rate Zone will be booked as per the EB-2019-0068 approval;
- Retail Transmission Service Rates will be postponed to commence on the November 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 Implementation date;
- Thunder Bay Rate Zone will discontinue the rate riders approved in EB-2018-0069 following their sunset date of April 30, 2020.



Additionally SYNERGY NORTH confirms that it has updated its rates for the Retail Service Charges, Pole Attachment and reduced the Monthly Microfit Service Charge (as this is to the customers benefit).

Please consider this letter to be SYNERGY NORTH's formal request for the OEB to approve April 16, 2020 Decision and Rate Order EB-2019-0068 as the rates and other charges to be implemented on November 1, 2020.

Should there be any further questions, please to not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Warmest Regards,

Brittany J. Ashby, вмемт

Supervisor, Business & Regulatory Affairs

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