



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

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## **VARY ORDER**

**EB-2019-0068**

## **SYNERGY NORTH CORPORATION**

**Order Varying the Decision and Order issued on April 16, 2020  
Application for rates and other charges to be effective May 1, 2020**

**By Delegation, Before: Jane Scott**

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**April 28, 2020**

## INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has, on its own motion, pursuant to section 41 of the OEB's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*, decided to review and vary its Decision and Rate Order in this proceeding issued on April 16, 2020 (Decision).

The Decision approved the incentive rate-setting mechanism application filed by Synergy North Corporation for new rates effective May 1, 2020. In light of the uncertainty regarding the severity and duration of the COVID-19 emergency, the Decision also granted Synergy North Corporation the option to postpone implementation of its new rates until November 1, 2020.

Attached to the Decision, at Schedule A, was a Tariff of Rates and Charges for each of Synergy North Corporation's two rate zones: the Thunder Bay rate zone, representing the legacy service territory of the former Thunder Bay Hydro Electricity Distribution; and, the Kenora rate zone, representing the legacy service territory of the former Kenora Hydro Inc. As noted in the Decision, the distributor will continue to operate the two rate zones until such time as rates are rebased.

On April 23, 2020, Synergy North Corporation filed a letter with the OEB, advising that the utility intends to postpone the implementation of its new rates for both rate zones. Synergy North Corporation requests that the OEB approves Synergy North Corporation'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 30th, 2020 continue to be in place until October 31st, 2020.

Notwithstanding that it intends to postpone implementation of its new rates until November 1, 2020, Synergy North Corporation seeks the OEB's authorization to implement the reduction to the microFit charge on May 1, 2020. Synergy North Corporation submits that this proposal is to the benefit of its customers.

In a letter, issued April 17, 2020, the OEB provided the following guidance regarding the implementation of the Decision to distributors:

Postponing distributors do not yet have authorization to apply the new charge as of May 1, 2020, but should track the differential in Account 1509 - Impacts Arising from the COVID-19 Emergency, Sub-account Lost Revenues for the microFit customer class as of May 1, 2020. This difference should be tracked by customer so that it may be refunded in the future.

## THE PROCESS

The OEB has decided, pursuant to sections 6(4) and 21(4) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, to review and vary the Decision and Rate Order without a hearing as no person will be adversely impacted by the outcome of this proceeding.

## OEB FINDINGS

The OEB finds that Synergy North Corporation's proposal is in the best interest of consumers. It is therefore necessary to vary the Decision, such that Synergy North Corporation shall be authorized to postpone implementation of its new rates to November 1, 2020, except for the microFit charge of \$4.55, which shall be implemented on its effective date of May 1, 2020.

**THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:**

1. The Decision and Rate Order in EB-2019-0068, issued April 16, 2020, is varied such that paragraphs 1 to 5 of the Order section are replaced, in their entirety, with the following:
  1. Subject to paragraph 2, the Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Schedule A of this Decision and Rate Order is approved effective May 1, 2020 for electricity consumed or estimated to have been consumed on and after such date.
  2. In light of the COVID-19 emergency, the Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Schedule A is approved to be implemented November 1, 2020.
  3. Any temporarily forgone distribution revenue associated with the postponement referred to in paragraph 2 may be tracked in Account 1509 - Impacts Arising from the COVID-19 Emergency, Sub-account Lost Revenues.
  4. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, the portion of the Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Schedule A relating to the microFit Service Classification shall be implemented on its effective date of May 1, 2020.
  5. Synergy North Corporation shall notify its customers of the rate changes no later than the delivery of the first bills reflecting the new final rates.

**DATED** at Toronto, April 28, 2020

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original Signed By*

Christine E. Long  
Registrar and Board Secretary