



Ontario
Energy
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BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

May 20, 2020

To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors

Re: **Clarification of Temporary Monthly Reporting Requirement Related to the Impact on Distributors Arising from the COVID-19 Emergency**

In its [May 12, 2020 letter](#), the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) introduced a new temporary reporting requirement for licensed electricity distributors to monitor the sector's response to the COVID-19 emergency. The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification on certain aspects of that reporting requirement.

Confidentiality of Reported Information

The first eight data points in the temporary reporting requirement will be treated as confidential by the OEB and not publicly disclosed except as may be required by law or with the reporting distributor's consent. The OEB may share or report on aggregated information based on the reporting by distributors on these data points as part of discussions with the sector. The information reported on the balances in the COVID-19 deferral account will not be treated as confidential. The OEB has initiated a consultation on the account and the reporting by distributors may be used to assist OEB staff and stakeholders in identifying proposals for the OEB's guidance on the treatment of the account.

Clarifications of Data Requests

The following provides clarifications on the temporary reporting requirement in response to industry enquiries that OEB staff have received from distributors since the issuance of the letter.

In reporting on *Customer Bill Impacts*, distributors should exclude HST and receipts for non-electricity related items (e.g. water).

The reporting on *Distributor Operation Costs* should include only cash disbursements associated with running the distribution business, other than those reported under *Energy Purchase Costs*.

Distributors have also indicated in enquiries to the OEB that the data being reported will be forecast (both the actual forward looking months and in some cases the previous month information which will be based on forecasts due to the timing of accounting and pass-through energy cost settlements). The OEB understands that these forecast amounts may be subject to change and are being provided on a best effort basis. The OEB does not intend to use these forecasts for any purpose other than as indicated in its May 12 letter, to monitor the industry's financial situation during the period of the emergency and to support the consultation on the COVID-19 deferral account.

The OEB also understands that distributors may or may not have amounts recorded in Account 1509 and the associated sub-accounts when they make their initial submission. It is also understood, as noted above, that amounts may be estimated and subject to change due to the timing of monthly reporting. Distributors should report a zero for any account where there is no balance at the time of the submission of the reporting requirement.

Any questions should be directed to IndustryRelations@oeb.ca noting "COVID-19 Temporary Reporting" in the subject line, or by phone at 1-877-632-2727.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance