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DECISION AND ORDER

EB-2020-0239

SMART METERING ENTITY

**Amendment to Smart Metering Entity Licence ES-2016-0284
(to Align with Amendments to the Standard Supply Service Code)**

BY DELEGATION, BEFORE: Brian Hewson
Vice President,
Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

October 2, 2020

BACKGROUND

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is designated as the Smart Metering Entity (SME) by O. Reg. 393/07 (Smart Metering Entity) made under the *Electricity Act, 1998* and holds an SME licence issued by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) under section 57 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

On September 8, 2020, the OEB adopted amendments to the Standard Supply Service Code (SSSC). The amendments, which will come into force on October 13, 2020, will enable consumers on the Regulated Price Plan (RPP) to opt out of time-of-use (TOU) prices and to elect instead to be charged on the basis of tiered pricing. Section 3.5.13 of the amended SSSC specifies that “A distributor shall rely on the Smart Metering Entity for the provision of consumption amounts for billing purposes in respect of all residential consumers or general service < 50kW consumers” who have elected to be charged tiered prices.

The reason for this rule was explained in the OEB’s August 25, 2020 Notice of Revised Proposal to Amend the Standard Supply Service Code (EB-2020-0152):

All distributors currently receive billing quantities for residential and general service less than 50 kilowatt (kW) TOU consumers from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) in its capacity as the SME. The July Proposed Amendments proposed that the SME would continue to perform this function for any residential or general service less than 50 kW RPP consumer that makes the switch to tiered pricing. As explained in the July Notice, an advantage of this approach is that it would facilitate the centralized collection and reporting of data the OEB expects to require as an input to RPP price-setting (such as reporting on the number of RPP consumers that have switched from TOU to tiered, and their associated load shape and energy volumes). This data would otherwise be required to be reported by distributors.

The OEB is making changes to the SME licence to align with the amendments to the SSSC. The changes clarify that the SME is responsible for providing consumption amounts for billing purposes in respect of residential and general service < 50kW consumers who have elected to be charged tiered pricing.

In addition, the changes codify in the licence a requirement for the SME to ensure that distributors provide it with the commodity rate class for each meter (e.g. TOU or tiered) by using the “commodity rate class” flag that is already built into the SME’s Meter Data Management and Repository (MDM/R). The SME is already required by OEB order to collect information from distributors about the commodity rate class associated with each meter;¹ the amendment provides greater clarity and certainty in this regard. As noted in the August 25, 2020 Notice, the centralized collection of that information by the SME will facilitate the reporting on switching behaviour that the OEB may require. The SME is already required by its licence to provide to the OEB such information as the OEB may require from time to time.

The OEB therefore commenced this proceeding, on its own motion, pursuant to section 19(4) of the OEB Act, to amend the SME licence. This Decision and Order is being issued by delegated authority without a hearing pursuant to section 6(4) of the OEB Act. The IESO was provided with an opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments.

DECISION

The OEB finds it to be in the public interest to amend section 3 of the SME licence ES-2016- 0284 as follows (changes underlined):

3 Authorization

3.1 The Licensee is authorized, under Part V of the Act, to exercise its powers and perform its duties under the Act or under the Electricity Act subject to the terms and conditions set out in this Licence.

3.2 The Licensee shall require licensed Distributors to provide information associated with each meter (modified where necessary to sufficiently render it non-personal information) as required by the Licensee in order to ensure that the Licensee is able to effectively and reliably carry out its mandate. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Licensee shall require licensed Distributors to provide the commodity rate class associated with each meter.

¹ EB-2015-0297, January 26, 2016; EB-2016-0284, November 24, 2016.

3.3 The Licensee shall provide a Distributor with consumption amounts for billing purposes in respect of residential consumers and general service < 50kW consumers served by the Distributor that have elected under the Standard Supply Service Code to be charged on the basis of tiered prices, and has the authority to receive smart metering data for that purpose.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The SME licence ES-2016-0284 is amended, effective October 13, 2020.

The amended licence is attached to this Decision and Order.

DATED at Toronto October 2, 2020

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance