

March 5, 2021

Christine Long  
Registrar  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street  
P.O. Box 2319  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms Long:

**EB-2020-0020 –Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation – 2021 Rates**

Please find, attached, interrogatories on behalf of the Consumers Council of Canada for Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation pursuant to the above-referenced proceeding.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Yours truly,

**Julie E. Girvan**

Julie E. Girvan

CC: All parties

**INTERROGATORIES FOR ESPANOLA REGIONAL HYDRO DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION**

**FROM THE CONSUMERS COUNCIL OF CANADA**

**RE: 2021 DISTRIBUTION RATES**

**EB-2020-0020**

**CCC-1**

Please provide all documents and presentations that were provided to ERHDC's Board of Directors related to this Application, and its approval of this Application, and the underlying budgets.

**CCC-2**

**Ex. 1/p. 8**

Please explain why ERHDC did not choose to rebase its 2012 rates earlier. Please explain why the actual ROEs in the years 2016-2020 were significantly less than the Board approved levels whereas in earlier years the ROEs were much higher. What was EERHDC's actual ROE for 2020?

**CCC-3**

**Ex. 1/p. 10**

ERHDC is seeking recovery of regulatory costs related to its Application of \$582,539:

- a) Has ERHDC benchmarked these costs and compared them to other LDCs. If so, please provide the results of the benchmarking. If not, why not?
- b) Were the consulting costs and legal costs (for the Application and the DSP) subject to an RFP process? If not, why not? Please provide the terms of reference for this work.

**CCC-4**

**Ex. 1/p. 11**

Please provide the amounts recorded in each of the Account 1509 sub-accounts, and the amounts expect to be recorded going forward. Please provide all assumptions.

**CCC-5**

**Ex. 1/p. 39**

Please set out the distribution rate increases in each year 2013-2021 for each customer class. What are the increases expected to be from 2021-2025 assuming the OEB approves the move to full fixed charges as proposed? What are the expected annual increases 2021-2025 including the DVA rate riders?

**CCC-6**

**Ex 1/p. 38**

ERHDC is moving to fully fixed rates for residential customers over the next five years. Has ERHDC undertaken any communication plans regarding the change? If so, please describe the plans. If not, why not? What type of communication is being planned for the May 1, 2021 rate changes?

**CCC-7**

**Re: Ex. 1/p. 60**

The evidence states that in 2019 ERHDC had increased costs due to higher administration costs from the sale of ERHDC to North Bay Hydro. Were these all one-time costs?

**CCC-8**

**Re: Ex. 1/p. 68**

When do ERHDC and North Bay Hydro intend to harmonize their rates? Is this likely to result in an increase or decrease for ERHDC customers?

**CCC-9**

**Re: Ex.2, Appendix 2-AA**

- a) Please add 2016 data to Appendix 2-AA.
- b) Please update capital 2020 as required.

**CCC-10**

**Re: Ex. 2, Appendix B, DSP p. 21 Table 2-9**

Please explain the significant increase in Scheduled Outages in 2019.

**CCC-11**

**Re: Ex. 2, Appendix B, DSP p. 61 Table 4-2**

- a) Please add 2016 data to Table 4-2.
- b) Please update 2020 capital data as required.

**CCC-12**

**Re: Ex. 2, Appendix C Overhead Renewal – Poles Job #70 System Renewal**

- a) Please provide the number of poles replaced in each of the years 2016 to 2020.
- b) Please provide the number of poles in poor and very poor condition from the 2015 Asset Condition Assessment (ACA) and in 2020.

- c) Please provide the condition of the 10 poles to be replaced in 2021.

**CCC-13**

**Re: Ex. 2, Appendix C Massy Line Rebuild Job #71 System Renewal**

- a) Please provide a summary of the equipment to be replaced as part of the Massy Line Rebuild.
- a) Please provide the condition assessment of the equipment to be replaced.

**CCC-14**

**Re: Ex 2/ p. 39**

ERHDC plans to replace trans closures at a cost of \$38,795. Please provide the driver for the replacements and indicate how many are to be replaced.

**CCC-15**

**Re: Ex. 2/ p. 39**

ERHDC plans to spend \$44,318 on MS 3 conductor replacement.

- a) Please provide the drivers for the replacement and the equipment to be replaced.
- b) The amount shown for this work in Appendix 2-AA is \$46,318. Please reconcile.

**CCC-16**

**Re: Ex. 2/ p. 39**

ERHDC plans to spend \$41,821 on Line replacement at Clear Lake. Please provide the driver for the replacement and the equipment to be replaced.

**CCC-17**

**Re: Ex. 4/p. 11**

Please provide a timeline for the development of the budgets underlying this Application.

**CCC-18**

**Re: Ex. 4/p. 14**

Of the total OM&A for 2021 how much if it relates to the contract with PUC Services? Are the costs fixed for the rate year, or can the actuals vary? Please explain the extent to which they can vary.