



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

DECISION AND ORDER

EB-2021-0111

LAKEFRONT UTILITIES INC.

Application for Electricity Distribution Licence Amendment

BY DELEGATION, BEFORE: Brian Hewson

Vice President,

Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

March 18, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Through this Decision and Order, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) amends Lakelfront Utilities Inc.'s (Lakelfront Utilities) electricity distribution licence ED-2002-0545 to exempt it from compliance with section 5.1.3 (b) of the Distribution System Code (DSC) until December 31, 2021.

This Decision and Order is being issued by the Delegated Authority, without holding a hearing pursuant to section 6(4) of the OEB Act.

BACKGROUND

Section 5.1.3 (b) of the DSC came into force on May 21, 2014. It required distributors to install a MIST (Metering Inside Settlement Time) meter on any existing customer facilities where the customer had a monthly average peak demand during a calendar year of over 50 kW (GS>50 kW customers) by no later than August 21, 2020.

On July 23, 2020, the OEB issued a Decision and Order (EB-2020-0187) amending the licences of all electricity distributors to exempt them from having to comply with section 5.1.3 (b) of the DSC until March 31, 2021. In that decision, the OEB acknowledged that the operational challenges related to the COVID-19 emergency could reasonably lead to an unavoidable delay in meeting the August 21, 2020 deadline by many distributors. The OEB also stated that, if any distributor required an extension beyond March 31, 2021, it would need to make a separate application.

APPLICATION

On March 10, 2021, Lakelfront Utilities filed an application with the OEB for an extension of the temporary exemption from section 5.1.3 (b) of the DSC from March 31, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Lakelfront Utilities has stated that it will not be able to comply with section 5.1.3 (b) of the DSC by the March 31, 2021 deadline. Lakelfront Utilities states that the reasons for its request are its inability to gain access to customers' premises in order to safely install the MIST meters, and MIST meter supply delays. Specifically, Lakelfront Utilities states that it currently has about 30 meters remaining to be replaced, and that it is not able to complete replacement of these meters as its MIST meter supplier has delayed delivery

of the MIST meters specified by Lakefront Utilities until third quarter of 2021. After considering the delay in MIST meters supply, Lakefront Utilities expects to replace the remaining meters and be in compliance with section 5.1.3 (b) by December 31, 2021.

FINDINGS

The OEB finds that Lakefront Utilities has reasonably justified its request for an exemption to section 5.1.3 (d) of the DSC due to the ongoing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and delays in MIST meters supply. The OEB therefore grants the application and approves an amendment to Lakefront Utilities' licence which will exempt the utility from compliance with section 5.1.3 (b) of the DSC until December 31, 2021.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Lakefront Utilities Inc.'s Electricity Distribution Licence ED-2002-0545, specifically Schedule 3 "List of Code Exemptions", is amended to include an exemption from section 5.1.3 (b) of the Distribution System Code. This exemption expires on December 31, 2021.

DATED at Toronto, March 18, 2021

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance