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Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.

April 23, 2021

Registrar
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
P.O. Box 2319
Suite 2700
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4
registrar@oeb.ca

Attention: Registrar

**Re: Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd. (“NT Power”),
Application for an Amendment to its Electricity Distribution
License – ED-2007-0624
Provide a Temporary Exemption from Section 5.1.3 (b) of the Distribution
System Code (“DSC”)**

NT Power seeks a temporary exemption from section 5.1.3 (b) of the DSC to implement Metering Inside the Settlement Timeframe (“MIST”) infrastructure for all customers with a monthly average peak demand of over 50 kW by March 31, 2021 (EB-2013-0311).

Background

On May 21, 2014, the Ontario Energy Board (“OEB”) introduced an amendment to the Distribution System Code (“DSC”) to effect changes to the metering of energy delivery to certain customers. Specifically, the amendment sought to encode similar metering treatment for customers with a monthly average peak demand of over 50 kW to that of customers billed Time-of-Use (“TOU”) or hourly prices, using MIST meters.

The following section of the DSC describes electricity distributors’ obligations in this regard:

5.1.3 For the purposes of measuring energy delivered to the customer, a distributor shall:

(a) install a MIST meter on any new installation that is forecast by the distributor to have a monthly average peak demand during a calendar year of over 50 kW; and

(b) have until August 21, 2020 to install a MIST meter on any existing installation that has a monthly average peak demand during a calendar year of over 50 kW.

NT Power submitted a letter on June 16, 2020 for an extension of the timeline to implement section 5.1.3 of the DSC to July 30, 2021. The request for the extension was due to challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic that resulting in significant delays from the meter supplier and installation social distance requirements to ensure worker safety.

On July 23, 2020, a Decision and Order was issued amending licenses of electricity distributors to provide a temporary exemption from Section 5.1.3 (b) of the distribution system code until March 31, 2021.

The Decision and Order issued by the OEB indicated that if distributors required any extension beyond March 31, 2021, they would be required to make a separate application.

Application

NT Power has implemented MIST meter installations as the standard operating procedure for new installations according to the DSC section 5.1.3 (a). NT Power has installed interval meters for all MIST accounts, however, the CIS billing procedures required for MIST accounts will not be ready for April billing required for DSC section 5.1.3 (b).

In 2020, NT Power ordered meters required for the MIST conversion program with an expected delivery date of November to December. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and delays with manufacturing, NT Power received the majority of the meters in February, 2021. In order to attain the March 31, 2021 deadline, NT Power contracted additional field resources for the meter installations. All MIST meters across its service territories were successfully installed by the March 31, 2021.

In conjunction with the MIST installations, NT Power is undergoing a CIS merger between its two rate zones. A tremendous amount of time and effort from the Information Technology and Customer Service teams has been required for the CIS implementation. Based on original project timelines, NT Power expected the CIS merger to be successfully tested and completed in time for the first MIST billing month.

Delays and integration complexities were encountered with the CIS merger impacting the MIST conversion program. NT Power believes it is prudent, and in the best interest of its customers, to test the MIST billing impacts of its merged CIS.

NT Power seeks approval for a further temporary exemption of its license from the requirement to implement MIST metering for all customers to whom the code applies until December 31, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

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cc: Ysni Semsedini, President and Chief Executive Officer (email)
cc: Alex Braletic, Vice-President of Engineering & Operations (email)