



**Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.**

**Application for electricity distribution rates and other  
charges beginning January 1, 2022**

**Decision on Issues List and Interim Rate Order  
February 15, 2022**

Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc. (Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board on December 1, 2021, under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution is seeking approval to change the rates that it charges for electricity distribution, beginning January 1, 2022.

The OEB approved School Energy Coalition and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition as intervenors in this proceeding. The OEB also made a provision for Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution, intervenors and OEB staff to develop a proposed issues list for the OEB's consideration.

On February 11, 2022, OEB staff filed a proposed issues list which all parties had agreed on. OEB staff advised the OEB that parties may wish to propose additional matters for inclusion on the Issues List after the interrogatory responses from Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution are received. The parties jointly asked to number interrogatories by exhibit number rather corresponding to issues on the Issues List.

## **Findings**

### **Issues List**

The OEB has reviewed the proposed issues list and approves it for this proceeding. The OEB may update the approved Issues List as necessary.

Concerning the organization of interrogatories, the OEB will allow the numbering of interrogatories by exhibit number.

### **Interim Rates**

In its application, Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution asked that its current rates be approved on an interim basis pending the OEB's final rate order.

This request is granted. The currently approved rates will remain in effect on an interim basis from January 1, 2022 until a final rate order is issued. This determination is made without prejudice to the OEB's decision on Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution's application, and should not be construed as predictive, in any way whatsoever, of the OEB's final determination with regards to the effective date for Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution's rates arising from this application. Despite granting an interim rate order at this time, the OEB retains the discretion to set the effective date at a later than the date of the interim rate order. The OEB will ultimately set the effective date of the final rate order to whatever date it ultimately determines to be just and reasonable.

**THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:**

1. The Issues List attached to this Decision as Schedule A is approved.
2. Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.'s current Tariff of Rates and Charges will remain in effect on an interim basis as of January 1, 2022, and until a final rate order is issued by the OEB.

**DATED** at Toronto, **February 15, 2022**

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Nancy Marconi  
Acting Registrar

**Schedule A**

**Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.**

**EB-2021-0056**

**Approved Issues List**

**February 15, 2022**



**PROPOSED ISSUES LIST**  
**EB-2021-0056**  
**Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.**

## **1.0 PLANNING**

### **1.1 Capital**

Is the level of planned capital expenditures appropriate and is the rationale for planning and pacing choices appropriate and adequately explained, giving due consideration to:

- customer feedback and preferences
- productivity
- benchmarking of costs
- reliability and service quality
- impact on distribution rates
- investment in non-wire alternatives, including distributed energy resources, where appropriate
- trade-offs with OM&A spending
- government-mandated obligations
- the objectives of Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution and its customers
- the distribution system plan
- the business plan

### **1.2 OM&A**

Is the level of planned OM&A expenditures appropriate and is the rationale for planning choices appropriate and adequately explained, giving due consideration to:

- customer feedback and preferences
- productivity
- benchmarking of costs
- reliability and service quality
- impact on distribution rates
- trade-offs with capital spending
- government-mandated obligations
- the objectives of Rideau St. Lawrence and its customers
- the distribution system plan
- the business plan

- 1.3** Has Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution appropriately considered measures to cost-effectively reduce distribution losses in its planning processes and included such measures where appropriate?

## **2.0 REVENUE REQUIREMENT**

- 2.1** Are all elements of the revenue requirement reasonable, and have they been appropriately determined in accordance with OEB policies and practices?
- 2.2** Has the revenue requirement been accurately determined based on these elements?
- 2.3** Is the proposed shared services cost allocation methodology and the quantum appropriate?

## **3.0 LOAD FORECAST, COST ALLOCATION AND RATE DESIGN**

- 3.1** Are the proposed load and customer forecast, loss factors, and resulting billing determinants appropriate, and, to the extent applicable, are they an appropriate reflection of the energy and demand requirements of Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution's customers?
- 3.2** Are the proposed cost allocation methodology, allocations, and revenue-to-cost ratios, appropriate?
- 3.3** Are Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution's proposals, including the proposed fixed/variable splits, for rate design appropriate?
- 3.4** Are the proposed Retail Transmission Service Rates and Low Voltage Service Rates appropriate?
- 3.5** Are the Specific Service Charges, Retail Service Charges, and Pole Attachment Charge appropriate?
- 3.6** Are rate mitigation proposals required for any rate classes?

## **4.0 ACCOUNTING**

- 4.1** Have all impacts of any changes in accounting standards, policies, estimates and adjustments been properly identified and recorded, and is the rate-making treatment of each of these impacts appropriate?

- 4.2** Are Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution's proposals for deferral and variance accounts, including the balances in the existing accounts and their disposition, requests for discontinuation of accounts, and the continuation of existing accounts, appropriate?

**5.0 OTHER**

- 5.1** Is the proposed effective date (i.e. January 1, 2022) for 2022 rates appropriate?
- 5.2** Is the amount proposed for inclusion in rate base for the Incremental Capital Module approved in EB-2017-0265 and the proposed treatment of the associated true-up appropriate?
- 5.3** Has Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution responded appropriately to all relevant OEB directions from previous rate proceedings including its agreement in EB-2015-0100 that "prior to its next cost of service rebasing application, it will carry out an assessment of the underlying causes of its level of planned outages and scheduled outages and will file that assessment together with Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution's recommendations as part of Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution's next cost of service rebasing application"<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> EB-2015-0100, Settlement Proposal, Page 12