

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

BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

April 13, 2023

TO: All Licensed Electricity Retailers All Other Interested Parties

RE: Issuance of Revised Price Comparison Templates, Price Comparison Instructions and Consumer-Facing Materials for Energy Supply Contracts and Third-Party Net Metering Related to the Ultra-Low Overnight TOU Price Plan OEB File No. EB-2022-0160

On March 6, 2023, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) invited comment on proposed revisions to the price comparison templates, the price comparison instructions and the disclosure statements that retailers are required to use in their dealings with low-volume consumers. The proposed revisions to the price comparison materials were intended principally to accommodate the new Ultra-Low Overnight (ULO) Price Plan, which electricity distributors may start offering as of May 1, 2023 if they are ready to do so in advance of the mandatory implementation date of November 1, 2023. The disclosure statements were revised to enable the use of a single version, rather than both a print and an online version, as were the price comparison templates.

The OEB received comments from two stakeholders.

One stakeholder offered no comments on the proposed revisions but asked whether parties would be able to review the print and online versions of the disclosure statements and price comparison templates, including those for renewals. As the OEB noted in its March 6, 2023 letter, to reduce regulatory burden on retailers, disclosure statements and price comparison templates have all been redesigned to include only one format, rather than having both online and print versions. The disclosure statement for contract renewals has therefore been redesigned for this purpose in the same manner as the disclosure statement for initial contracts that was issued for comment, but the substantive content of the renewal disclosure statement has not changed.

The other stakeholder recommended that the price comparisons provided to potential participants in the ULO pricing plan take into account consumers that use electric vehicles (EVs) and other distributed energy resources and how this might impact the amount they pay for electricity under the different pricing models. The price comparison templates are currently designed to reflect consumption patterns for typical Ontario residential and small business consumers. However, the OEB has recently updated its online bill calculator to allow customers with EVs to build a usage profile that reflects different levels of EV usage and charging patterns and to see the resulting sample monthly bills for each price plan. Customers also have advanced options that allow them to see how reducing their total usage or shifting their usage to different time periods affects the total bill for each price plan.

Any questions related to the revised price comparison materials and disclosure statements should be directed to Industry.Relations@oeb.ca. The OEB's toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

Brian Hewson Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance