

Synergy North Corporation

Application for electricity distribution rates and other charges beginning May 1, 2024

Decision on Issues List October 13, 2023

Synergy North Corporation (Synergy North) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on August 16, 2023 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, seeking approval for changes to the rates that Synergy North charges for electricity distribution, beginning May 1, 2024 (Application). The Application was accepted by the OEB as complete on August 30, 2023, and a Notice of Hearing was issued on September 6, 2023.

On September 27, 2023, the OEB issued Procedural Order No. 1 which approved School Energy Coalition, Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario, Consumers Council of Canada and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition as intervenors in this proceeding. Procedural Order No. 1 also made provision for parties to recommend any revisions to the standard Issues List for electricity distribution rate applications for the OEB's consideration.

OEB staff filed a proposed revised Issues List on October 4, 2023, in accordance with Procedural Order No. 1. OEB staff's letter indicated that all parties agreed with the revised Issues List proposed. In addition, OEB staff's letter requested that the OEB waive the requirement under rule 26.02(e)(ii) of the *Rules of Practice and Procedure* that interrogatories correspond to the issues list as parties may want to file interrogatories according to the exhibit numbers in the Application.

OEB staff's October 4, 2023 letter also advised that parties reserve the right to propose additional matters for inclusion on the issues list after the interrogatory responses are received, given that the proposed issues list was prepared prior to the interrogatory process.

Findings

The OEB has reviewed the proposed revised Issues List and approves it for the purposes of this proceeding. The OEB has also considered the request to file interrogatories according to exhibit numbers and approves that request as well for this proceeding.

The OEB may update the Issues List as necessary to further define the scope of the proceeding.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. The approved Issues List is attached to this Decision as Schedule A.

DATED at Toronto, October 13, 2023

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar

SCHEDULE A
APPROVED ISSUES LIST
SYNERGY NORTH CORPORATION
EB-2023-0052
OCTOBER 13, 2023

**APPROVED ISSUES LIST
EB-2023-0052
SYNERGY NORTH CORPORATION.**

1. Capital Spending and Rate Base

- 1.1 Are the proposed capital expenditures and in-service additions appropriate?
- 1.2 Are the proposed rate base and depreciation amounts appropriate?

2. OM&A

- 2.1 Are the proposed OM&A expenditures appropriate?
- 2.2 Is the proposed shared services cost allocation methodology and the quantum appropriate?

3. Cost of Capital, PILs, and Revenue Requirement

- 3.1 Is the proposed cost of capital (interest on debt, return on equity) and capital structure appropriate?
- 3.2 Is the proposed PILs (or Tax) amount appropriate?
- 3.3 Is the proposed Other Revenue forecast appropriate?
- 3.4 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?
- 3.5 Is the proposed calculation of the Revenue Requirement appropriate?

4. Load Forecast

- 4.1 Is the proposed load forecast methodologies and the resulting load forecasts appropriate?

5. Cost Allocation, Rate Design, and Other Charges

- 5.1 Are the proposed cost allocation methodology, allocations, and revenue-to-cost ratios, appropriate?
- 5.2 Is the proposed rate design, including fixed/variable splits, appropriate?
- 5.3 Are the proposed Retail Transmission Service Rates and Low Voltage rates appropriate?
- 5.4 Are the proposed loss factors appropriate?
- 5.5 Are the Specific Service Charges and Retail Service Charges appropriate?
- 5.6 Are rate mitigation proposals required and appropriate?

6. Deferral and Variance Accounts

6.1 Are the proposals for deferral and variance accounts, including the balances in the existing accounts and their disposition, requests for new accounts, requests for discontinuation of accounts, and the continuation of existing accounts, appropriate?

7. Other

7.1 Is the proposed effective date appropriate?

7.2 Has the applicant responded appropriately to all relevant OEB directions from previous proceedings?

7.3 Is the rate harmonization proposal appropriate?