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BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

February 16, 2024

**NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS TO A CODE TO FACILITATE CONNECTION OF
ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE**

AMENDMENTS TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM CODE

OEB FILE NO.: EB-2019-0207

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Participants in Consultation Process EB-2019-0207
All Other Interested Parties**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is giving notice, under section 70.2 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 (Act)*, of final amendments to the *Distribution System Code (DSC)* to facilitate the connection of non-residential electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure to an electricity distributor's system. These amendments will facilitate timely deployment of EV charging infrastructure across the province by removing potential barriers for EV charging service providers that could have emerged from variations in connection procedures among distributors.

These amendments to the DSC, which will come into force on **May 27, 2024**, establish requirements for electricity distributors to follow a standardized procedure that will create a streamlined and enforceable process for connecting non-residential EV charging infrastructure to an electricity distributor's system. The standardized procedure applies in cases where the installation of EV charging facilities requires modifications or additions to the distributor's system such as the connection of public charging facilities that service multiple EVs, and fleet charging stations designed for commercial use.

The DSC amendments, and the OEB's *Electric Vehicle Charging Connection Procedures (EVCCP)* document, represent the outcomes of the OEB's work to support a priority identified in a Letter of Direction issued by the Minister of Energy¹. In that Letter, the Minister endorsed the OEB's plan, among other matters, to examine

¹ Minister of Energy's [Letter of Direction](#) to the Chair of the OEB Board of Directors, October 21, 2022.

connection processes for EV charging stations, and advised that work should proceed as quickly as possible.

A. Background

On December 15, 2023, the OEB issued for comment a [Notice of Proposal to amend the DSC](#) (December Notice) in which it proposed amendments (December Proposed Amendments) aimed at improving consistency, clarity, efficiency and transparency of non-residential electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) connections, through standardization and clarification of certain areas of the connection process across all licensed electricity distributors, including:

- New EVSE-related definitions;
- A new section requiring distributors to comply with a newly established EVCCP document; and
- A provision requiring distributors to provide a separate appendix in their Conditions of Service (CoS) document setting out any distributor-specific requirements related to the connection of EVSE not specified in the DSC or EVCCP.

The OEB received eight written comments, all of which are posted on the OEB's [Engage with Us](#) website. Generally, all stakeholders supported the proposed revisions to the DSC and the establishment of the EVCCP. The OEB has considered all comments and has determined that no material changes need to be made to the December Proposed Amendments. The OEB is finalizing amendments to the DSC as set out in the December Notice. Final DSC amendments are set out in Appendix A (final text for DSC) of this Notice.

In their comments, stakeholders also provided feedback on the EVCCP. In response, the OEB has made a number of revisions to the EVCCP. As explained in the December Notice, while the EVCCP does not form part of the DSC, it was provided with the Notice to inform consideration of the amendments. As such, stakeholder views and comments were considered in the finalization of the amendments. The December Notice also noted that the OEB recognizes the value of monitoring the experience gained from implementation of the EVCCP, and that it is open to assessing the effectiveness of the EVCCP and making any necessary revisions pending feedback from stakeholders. For reference, the OEB has provided three additional appendices to this Notice in relation to the EVCCP:

- Appendix B is a comparison document that shows all EVCCP revisions relative to what was provided with the December Notice;
- Appendix C is a document that shows the “clean” version of the EVCCP; and
- Appendix D contains a summary of stakeholder comments on the version of the EVCCP accompanying the December Notice, and how they are addressed.

The OEB appreciates the ongoing and collaborative efforts of the Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Connections Review Working Group and its EV sub-group.

B. Stakeholder Comments

One distributor suggested that the requirement to specify distributors' connection requirements applicable to EVSE facilities in a separate appendix of their CoS should be added to DSC section 2.4.6 along with the other CoS requirements and not as a standalone requirement under DSC section 6. The OEB is of the view that section 2.4.6 sets out the minimum information that must be included in a distributor's CoS and is not an exhaustive listing. Given that the new appendix requirement is already addressed in section 6.1.6.1, as part of an EVSE-specific area of the DSC, there is no need for an amendment to section 2.4.6.

The same distributor also requested that the OEB confirm whether distributors are required to follow the process in section 2.4.8 for updating their CoS to comply with the EVCCP, or if distributors will be permitted to simply provide notification of their CoS update to their customers. The OEB clarifies that, as the new appendix is required as a result of a code amendment, distributors are not required to follow the process outlined in DSC section 2.4.8 for updating their CoS. While a notification regarding the CoS update is not required, the OEB will actively monitor distributors' compliance with this DSC requirement.

Several distributors offered comments concerning the 60-day timeline for providing an Offer to Connect to the customer, and the required information to be included in such an offer. The OEB reminds distributors that these requirements align with existing DSC requirements applicable to all load customers. The OEB will monitor the situation as part of its overall monitoring of the implementation of these amendments.

Several stakeholders recommended additional discussion topics for the OEB to consider, such as sharing distribution capacity information and EV charging station data. The OEB appreciates these suggestions and intends to explore them with the DER Connections Review Working Group.

C. Anticipated Costs and Benefits

The anticipated costs and benefits associated with the final DSC amendments are set out in the December Notice. Interested parties should refer to that Notice for further information in that regard.

D. Coming Into Force

A distributor has projected that implementing the new processes and requirements will require approximately eight months. The distributor provided examples of new processes that would require more time to implement. For instance, the EVCCP requires distributors to confirm the completeness of an EVSE connection application within 15 days of receipt. In addition, distributors will establish a preliminary consultation process to provide EVSE connection applicants with high-level feasibility information when multiple siting options are available.

The OEB notes that most of the requirements in the EVCCP are aligned with existing DSC requirements for load connection processes, and templates of the new forms are provided as part of the EVCCP. The OEB is of the view that three months will provide sufficient time for distributors to be prepared to apply the EVCCP. Therefore, the amendments to the DSC will come into force on **May 27, 2024**.

E. Cost Awards

Cost awards related to this consultation will be addressed in separate correspondence.

If you have any questions regarding the final amendments to the Code described in this Notice, please contact IndustryRelations@oeb.ca. The OEB's toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273.

DATED at Toronto, February 16, 2024

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar

Attachments:

Appendix A — Final Amendments to the Distribution System Code – Clean version
Appendix B — EVCCP – Comparison Version to December Notice
Appendix C — EVCCP – Clean Version
Appendix D — Summary of Stakeholder Comments on EVCCP

Appendix A
to
Notice of Amendments to the
Distribution System Code
February 16, 2024
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Final Amendments to the Distribution System Code – Clean Version

1.2 Definitions

“Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment” or “EVSE” means electrical supply equipment that is dedicated to supplying a source of electricity for the sole purpose of charging electric vehicles;

“Electric Vehicle Charging Connection Procedures” means the document issued from time to time by the Board that sets out a procedure for the connection of EVSE and that is referred to in sections 6.1.6 and 6.1.6.1;

Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Connections for Non-residential Customers

6.1.6 A distributor shall follow the connection and expansion requirements of this Code as well as the requirements of the Electric Vehicle Charging Connection Procedures to process a request for connection of non-residential EVSE where the connection requires modifications or additions to the distributor's distribution system.

6.1.6.1 A distributor shall include in its Conditions of Service an appendix setting out any additional requirements related to the connection of EVSE that are not specified in this Code or the Electric Vehicle Charging Connection Procedures. The appendix shall be in the form of Appendix 1 to the Electric Vehicle Charging Connection Procedures which sets out the minimum information a distributor shall include in the Conditions of Service appendix.

Appendix B
to
Notice of Amendments to the
Distribution System Code
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Electric Vehicle Charging Connection Procedures (EVCCP) – Comparison Version
to December Notice

Note: The EVCCP does not form part of the DSC. This Appendix is provided for information.

[see separate documents attached]

Appendix C
to
Notice of Amendments to the
Distribution System Code
February 16, 2024
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Electric Vehicle Charging Connection Procedures – Clean Version

Note: The EVCCP does not form part of the DSC. This Appendix is provided for information.

[see separate documents attached]

Appendix D
to
Notice of Amendments to the
Distribution System Code
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Summary of Stakeholder Comments on Electric Vehicle Charging Connection Procedures (EVCCP)

For information, the OEB has summarized EVCCP-related comments received from stakeholders in response to the December Notice, and provides the OEB's response to these comments including changes in the EVCCP where appropriate.

The revised EVCCP in Appendices B and C includes changes made in response to a number of comments that were more editorial in nature, and the OEB has not summarized those here.

Introduction (EVCCP s. 1)

Several distributors requested additional clarity related to "multi-unit residential buildings" as this could include individual residential homes with more than one occupant or other similar cases (e.g., duplex, triplex, laneway suites, etc.). The EVCCP has been revised to clarify that the EVCCP is only applicable to the connection of charging stations that are owned or operated by the building owner or a third-party charging provider. The OEB confirms that the EVCCP is not intended to apply to chargers that are owned by individual unit owners.

Distributors requested clarification on the applicability of the EVCCP to "hybrid new loads," wherein customers include EVSE as part of a request to connect their load facility, and the EVSE is not the primary purpose of the new connection. The OEB agrees with this comment and has revised the EVCCP accordingly.

Preliminary Consultation – Step 1 (EVCCP s. 4)

Distributors sought confirmation that the purpose of the meeting contemplated under section 4.2 (b) would be to clarify what has been provided in the EV Preliminary Consultation Report (EVPCR) and not, for example, a meeting for the design of the service for EVSE, as this would likely require a fee charged by the distributor. The OEB confirms that section 4.2 (b) is intended to provide the requesting customer an

opportunity to discuss with the distributor the information provided in the EVPCR. The EVCCP has been revised accordingly.

A distributor commented that the purpose of the preliminary consultation is to offer connection feasibility information to EVSE applicants, particularly those with site flexibility. The distributor suggested revising the preliminary consultation purpose statement to remove the reference to customers “who are unsure about committing to EVSE installations”. The OEB disagrees. Preliminary consultations are also beneficial for customers with a single-site option who are uncertain about committing to EVSE installations. The high-level feasibility information allows the customers to decide whether to proceed with a formal connection request.

Several distributors expressed concerns about an anticipated high volume of EV Preliminary Consultation Information Requests (EVPCIRs) and suggested extending the EVPCR response timelines. Some distributors suggested aligning the preliminary consultation timeline with the treatment of the preliminary consultation timeline for DERs, which allows for 3 PCRs per year, per customer, per project, at no cost to the customer, with additional PCRs incurring charges. A distributor also suggested that the timeline extension thresholds for this stage of the connection process be based on the number of sites submitted in the EVPCIR. The type of information that distributors are required to provide to a customer through the EVPCR is high-level connection feasibility information, and thus, effort to prepare an EVPCR is not expected to be substantial. However, if a distributor faces a significant influx of EVPCIR requests, the OEB is willing to engage in discussions with the distributor regarding potential extension to the 15-day timeline. The OEB will monitor the implementation of this section and should it see an issue with the timeline develop, will engage with the industry to consider changes.

Offer to Connect – Step 4 (EVCCP s. 6)

Several distributors provided comments concerning the 60-day timeline for providing an Offer to Connect (OTC) to the customer, and the required information to be included in such an offer. Several distributors noted that some of the information listed in the OTC cannot be provided within the 60 calendar days, such as cost estimates, engineering design, single line diagram (which is currently listed as an optional in the OTC), and asset age. The OEB disagrees. The OTC requirements in the EVCCP align with existing DSC requirements applicable to all load customers. Therefore, the OEB will not make further changes to the EVCCP regarding these issues. The OEB will monitor the implementation of this requirement to identify if there is a need to review the EVCCP requirement.