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**BY PRIORITY POST**

December 17, 2002

To: All Gas Distributors, and Participants of RP-2000-0001

Re: **Gas Distribution Access Rule, Board File No. RP-2000-0001**

On December 11, 2002, the Ontario Energy Board exercised its authority under section 44 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the "Act") to make the Gas Distribution Access Rule ("the Rule"). Enclosed is a copy of the Rule.

In its November 7, 2002 Report to the Board, a Panel of the Board recommended specific periods of time for the implementation of various GDAR provisions and related filings. The Board is establishing longer time periods.

To facilitate a staged implementation of the Rule, the Board directs each gas distributor, under section 1.6.1 of the Rule and subsection 21(1) of the Act, to:

- (a) file by March 31, 2003, its implementation plan; and
- (b) file by April 30, 2003, the form of Service Agreement that it intends to offer gas vendors for Board approval.

Implementation plans must identify significant milestone dates. Significant milestones should include system modeling, designing, building, data conversion, and implementation, and the development of consumer communications materials.

The form of Service Agreement should detail the minimum requirements for Service Agreements as set out in section 3.2.2 of the Rule. The document to be filed should be the distributor's draft of a basic service agreement that it would initially present to any gas vendor.

Also attached is a copy of the November 7, 2002 Report to the Board.

Should you require additional information, please contact Brian Hewson, Manager of Energy Licensing, at 416 440-7628 or Lisa Brickenden, Research and Policy Analyst, at 416 440-8113.

Yours truly,

*original signed by*

Peter O' Dell  
Assistant Board Secretary

Enc.