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## **NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO A RULE**

### **AMENDMENT TO THE GAS DISTRIBUTION ACCESS RULE**

**BOARD FILE NO: EB-2006-0198**

**To: All Natural Gas Distributors  
All Licensed Natural Gas Marketers  
All Participants in Proceeding RP-2000-0001**

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The Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) will amend the Gas Distribution Access Rule (the “GDAR”) as indicated in section A below, pursuant to sections 44 and 45 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the “Act”).

#### **A. Adoption of Proposed Amendment and Coming into Force**

On August 18, 2006, the Board issued a Notice of Proposal to Amend a Rule under which it proposed an amendment to the GDAR. The proposed amendment would defer the implementation of chapter 4 for a period of five months. Chapter 4, which deals with service transaction requests, is currently scheduled to come into force on January 1, 2007, except in relation to the requirement to accommodate gas distributor-consolidated billing in bill-ready form which has been deferred to January 1, 2008. The proposed amendment would revise the date such that chapter 4 would come into force on June 1, 2007 rather than on January 1, 2007. No change was proposed to revise the date by which gas distributors are required to accommodate gas distributor-consolidated billing in a bill-ready form.

The Board received three written submissions from gas distributors in regard to the proposed change to the GDAR. None of the submissions opposed the proposed amendment. One gas distributor suggested that the deferral be for a period of six rather than five months. Another gas distributor provided an estimate of the incremental costs associated with the deferral and requested that the Board approve a rate increase effective January 1, 2008 to recover the carrying cost.

The Board has considered the submissions received in relation to the proposed amendment, and has determined that no changes need to be made to the amendment

as originally proposed. The text of the amendment is set out in Appendix A to this Notice.

As indicated in the Board's August 18, 2006 Notice of Proposal, the amendment to the GDAR as set out in Appendix A will come into force upon publication in the *Ontario Gazette*.

## **B. Gas-distributor Consolidated Billing in Bill-ready Form**

As noted above, the Board's August 18, 2006 Notice of Proposal did not propose any change to the date by which gas distributors are required to accommodate gas distributor-consolidated billing in a bill-ready form. The submissions received by the Board in response to its Notice of Proposal commented on this issue. Two of the submissions recommended the deferral of this obligation for a period at least as long as the deferral proposed for implementation of chapter 4 of the GDAR. The third submission made reference to the gas distributor's separate application for relief from the requirement to comply with this obligation until the distributor's new customer information system is in service, currently now planned for 2009.

The Board does not consider that it has, at this time, sufficient information to determine whether or how its approach to gas-distributor consolidated billing in a bill-ready form should be revisited. The Board will look to Board staff to conduct further inquiries in this regard, and to report back on a timely basis so that the Board may consider what, if any, action may be required.

This Notice, including the accompanying amendment to the GDAR, all other Board documents referred to in this Notice (including the GDAR) and all submissions received in response to the Board's August 18, 2006 Notice of Proposal are available for inspection on the Board's website at [www.oeb.gov.on.ca](http://www.oeb.gov.on.ca) and at the Board's offices during normal business hours.

If you have any questions regarding the GDAR amendment, please contact Barbara Robertson at 416-440-7718 or call toll-free at 1-888-632-6273.

**DATED** at Toronto, September 29, 2006.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

*Original signed by*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary

Attachment: Appendix A: Amendment to the Gas Distribution Access Rule

## **Appendix A**

### **Amendment to the Gas Distribution Access Rule**

- 1. Section 1.4.3 of the Gas Distribution Access Rule is repealed and replaced with the following:**

Chapter 4 of this Rule shall come into force on June 1, 2007, provided that nothing in Chapter 4 shall require a gas distributor to accommodate gas distributor-consolidated billing in a bill-ready form (as defined in the Service Agreement) until January 1, 2008