

LDC COALITION INTERROGATORY #14

INTERROGATORY

Reference: Evidence of Wirebury Connections Inc., August 7, 2003, Paragraph 55

- (a) When assessing impacts on all customers in the "value chain", what factors should the Board consider in determining the impact on end-use consumers?
- (b) Please describe Wirebury's experience in the distribution of electricity.
- (c) Please describe the "new metering and energy management capabilities" that Wirebury suggests that it can offer, and that give it an "advantage in this market" and are these intended to be regulated or unregulated services.
- (d) Please describe the "new service bundle" that Wirebury expects will be "well received by the government, connection customers and end-user consumers".

RESPONSE

- (a) When assessing impacts on end-use consumers, the Board should ensure that the incumbent and applicant distributors' rates are just and reasonable and that the quality of service provided by both distributors meets industry standards that are acceptable to the Board. This is best done through the Board's existing rate and license review and approval processes. Once the Board has approved the rates, service conditions and licensing requirements, customers/consumers should be allowed to select the distributor that provides the most value to them.
- (b) Wirebury will be using 'best-in-class' service providers to design, maintain and operate its electrical infrastructure. These service providers are experts in their fields and many of them provide similar services to other electric LDCs. Some, such as Enbridge (partner and shareholder), have been in the energy distribution business for many years and have a long history of utilizing optimized and efficient distribution practices.
- (c) All of the services provided by Wirebury will be regulated. Meters, Metering, and Meter Data Management are all regulated utility activities and as its standard, Wirebury will be providing Interval Metering Technology. Along with this technology Wirebury will make the associated meter data available to its customers. This will help facilitate better energy use by customers by allowing



them to monitor their loads and thus manage their energy consumption. This capability is not available or practical with traditional metering technology.

- (d) As stated previously in Wirebury's response to LDC Coalition's Ex. J12, T15, S2, Wirebury will be providing a service bundle that utilizes innovative designs, new construction techniques, and optimized business processes and offers as its standard, interval metering technology. This service bundle will maintain lower costs for connection customers as well as providing better energy usage information for end-use consumers.

The use of interval metering technology will allow customers to be responsive to new price signals when the market reopens. Wirebury believes that overall its operating model meets the changing needs of consumers and is consistent with the government's direction for the Ontario Electricity Market.

