

VERIDIAN CONNECTIONS INTERROGATORY #4

INTERROGATORY

In paragraph 28, is Wirebury suggesting that the Ontario Energy Board (“OEB”) should make a determination on amending an LDC’s service area based on a request from any customer supplied by that local distribution company?

RESPONSE

Wirebury is not suggesting that the Board make a determination on a service area amendment based solely on a request from an existing customer. What it is saying is that in the absence of a safety or public interest concern, the Board does not appear to have specific authority to deny a request, especially where it involves a new (i.e. unmetered) customer. In the case of new customers who request service from a licensed distributor at Board approved rates through an embedded distribution connection using the same upstream assets that the incumbent distributor would have used, there would appear to be no authority to deny the request. However, proposals from existing customers who wish to switch distributors may not be in the public interest if they strand or duplicate existing assets. A case by case review might be required at least initially to determine whether a specific switching proposal was in the public interest. The same concerns could apply to contiguous expansions. Unless the competing utilities can agree on the least cost solution and the amount of stranding compensation, a separate assessment would be required.

