



CAMBRIDGE AND NORTH DUMFRIES HYDRO INC.

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November 26, 2004

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street
26th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Attn: John Zych, Board Secretary

Dear Mr. Zych:

**Re: Smart Meter Initiative (RP-2004-0196)
Commentary on "Draft Implementation Plan"**

We support the smart meter initiative and believe it will be a valuable tool for consumers to manage their demand for electricity to achieve a more efficient use of Ontario's current supply and reduce reliance on external sources.

We also believe this forward thinking initiative should be implemented in a manner that provides each utility the maximum opportunity to proceed with a solid plan and systematic approach to best serve both the consumer and the utility. This program deserves the time to ensure it is done once, and done right.

Over the past few years, our industry has consistently adapted and successfully delivered on every challenge, to benefit an evolving industry. The need for an Implementation Co-ordinator is not clear. Today, utilities co-ordinate and manage a large variety of capital-intensive projects in our operations. We can and will make it happen, without the introduction of a new provincial overseer.

We have shown good success in our implementation of interval metering to a large portion of our Group 3 customers. Our experience indicates that the communication link requirement becomes more complex as we move to the lower end of this group. Although the plan anticipates the establishment of deferral accounts, we would request the final definition of the cost relationship and mandatory requirements for the communication link be completed as soon as possible.

Our organization is concerned with the timelines outlined, the financing and the length of the technology pilots for the Customer Groups 1 and 2. The availability of proven technology alternatives for the collection and manipulation of the data stream are real and significant issues. We would suggest that the pilots commence later than indicated and should be planned to continue beyond the end of Q-3 2005.

Thank you for inviting our input and considering our comments prior to finalizing this important initiative.

Sincerely,

CAMBRIDGE AND NORTH DUMFRIES HYDRO INC.

Original signed and sent via courier

John Grotheer
President and CEO

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