



RP-2005-0020
EB-2005-0403

IN THE MATTER OF the *Ontario Energy Board Act*,
1998, S.O. 1998, c.15 (Schedule B);

AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application by Ottawa
River Power Corporation for an order or orders approving
or fixing just and reasonable distribution rates and other
charges, effective May 1, 2006.

BEFORE: Paul Vlahos
Presiding Member

DECISION AND ORDER

Ottawa River Power Corporation (“ORPC” or the “Applicant”) is a licensed distributor providing electrical service to consumers within its defined service area. ORPC filed an application (the “Application”) with the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) for an order or orders approving or fixing just and reasonable rates for the distribution of electricity and other matters, to be effective May 1, 2006. According to the Board’s schedule for filings, ORPC was to have filed its application no later than September 6, 2005. ORPC actually filed a complete application in December 2006.

ORPC is one of over 90 electricity distributors in Ontario that are regulated by the Board. To streamline the process for the approval of distribution rates and charges for these distributors, the Board developed and issued the *2006 Electricity Distribution Rate Handbook* (the “Handbook”) and complementary spreadsheet-based models. These materials were developed after extensive public consultation with distributors, customer groups, public and environmental interest groups, and other interested parties. The Handbook contains requirements and guidelines for filing an application. The models determine the amounts to be included for the payments in lieu of taxes (“PILs”) and calculate rates based on historical financial and other information entered by the distributor.

Also included in this process was a methodology and model for the final recovery of regulatory assets flowing from the Board's decision dated December 9, 2004 on the Review and Recovery of Regulatory Assets – Phase 2 for Toronto Hydro, London Hydro, Enersource Hydro Mississauga and Hydro One. In Chapter 10 of the decision, the Board outlined a Phase 2 process for the remaining distributors. By letter of July 12, 2005, the Board provided guidance and a spreadsheet-based model to the distributors for the inclusion of this recovery as part of their 2006 distribution rate applications.

As a distributor that is embedded in Hydro One Network's low voltage system, the Applicant has included the recovery of certain Regulatory Assets that have been allocated by Hydro One Networks. The amount claimed by the Applicant was provided by Hydro One Networks as a reasonable approximation of the actual amount that Hydro One Networks will assess the Applicant. To the degree that the amount differs from the actual amount approved for Hydro One Networks in another proceeding (RP-2005-0020/EB-2005-0378), this difference will be reconciled at the end of the Regulatory Asset recovery period, as set out in the Phase II regulatory assets decision issued on December 9, 2004 (RP-2004-0064/RP-2004-0069/RP-2004-0100/RP-2004-0117/RP-2004-0118).

In its preliminary review of the 2006 rate applications received from the distributors, the Board identified several issues that appeared to be common to many or all of the distributors. As a result, the Board held a hearing (EB-2005-0529) to consider these issues (the "Generic Issues Proceeding") and released its decision (the "Generic Decision") on March 21, 2006. The rulings flowing from that Generic Decision apply to this Application, except to the extent noted in this Decision. The Board notes that pursuant to ss. 21 (6.1) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, and to the extent that it is pertinent to this Application, the evidentiary record of the Generic Issues Proceeding is part of the evidentiary record upon which the Board is basing this Decision.

In December 2001, the Board authorized the establishment of deferral accounts by the distributors related to the payments that the distributors make to the Ministry of Finance in lieu of taxes. The Board is required, under its enabling legislation, to make an order with respect to non-commodity deferral accounts once every twelve months. The Board has considered the information available with respect to these accounts and orders that the amounts recorded in the accounts will not be reflected in rates as part of the Rate

Order that will result from this Decision. The Board will continue to monitor the accounts with a view to clearing them when appropriate.

Public notice of the rate Application made by ORPC was given through newspaper publication in its service area. The evidence filed was made available to the public. Interested parties intervened in the proceeding. The evidence in the Application was tested through written interrogatories from Board staff and intervenors, and intervenors and ORPC had the opportunity to file written argument. While the Board has considered the entire record in this proceeding, it has made reference in this Decision only to such evidence and argument as is necessary to provide context to its findings.

On April 28, 2006, the Board issued an Order declaring rates then existing for ORPC to be interim, effective May 1, 2006, until such time as the Board issued a final rate order for 2006 rates. This Decision and Order is final with respect to 2006 rates and supersedes the Order of April 28.

ORPC has requested an amount of \$3,880,674 as revenue to be recovered through distribution rates and charges. Included in this amount is a debit of \$5,799 for the recovery of regulatory assets. Except where noted in this Decision, the Board finds that ORPC has filed its Application in accordance with the Handbook and the guidelines for the recovery of regulatory assets.

Notwithstanding ORPC's general compliance with the Handbook and associated models, in considering this Application the Board reviewed the following matters in detail:

- Low Voltage Rates;
- Adjustments to Accumulated Amortization; and
- Consequences of the Generic Decision (EB-2005-0529).

Low Voltage Rates

ORPC included in its Application recovery of ongoing Low Voltage ("LV") charges that Hydro One Networks will be levying on ORPC for Low Voltage wheeling distribution services provided to ORPC.

The Board notes that this estimate reflects Hydro One Networks' current approved LV rate of \$0.56/kW. The Board further notes that Hydro One Networks has applied for an LV rate of \$0.63/kW in its 2006 rate application RP-2005-0020/EB-2005-0378, and the Board has approved this rate.

The Board is of the view that the LV adjustment that ORPC has included in its Application is insufficient to recover its expected LV charges in 2006, as this amount does not reflect the updated Hydro One Networks rate. Although the Generic Decision provides that embedded distributors are to track differences between LV costs charged by the host distributor(s) and corresponding revenues recovered from ratepayers, the Board seeks to minimize systemic sources of variance. The Board is of the view that ORPC's rates should reflect the LV rates authorized by the Board for the host distributor. Accordingly, the Board has revised the amount for LV charge recovery in ORPC's revenue requirement.

Adjustments to Accumulated Amortization

During an audit in February 2006, the Applicant's auditors determined that amortization expenses had been understated for the years 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004. In total across the four years, amortization expenses had been understated by \$387,653. The Applicant re-filed its application to include the corrected amortization information and Financial Statements.

The Applicant included the new amortization information in the model according to the model's instructions. However, the model was not designed to allow for changes in prior year amortization amounts and, as result, the model only included part of the additional amortization in the Revenue Requirement. Accordingly, the Board has adjusted the model to reflect the correct, revised accumulated amortization.

Consequences of the Generic Decision on this Application

The Generic Decision contains findings relevant to funding for smart meters for electricity distributors. The Applicant did not file a specific smart meter investment plan or request approval of any associated amount in revenue requirement. Absent a specific plan or discrete revenue requirement, the Generic Decision provides that \$0.30 per residential customer per month be reflected in the Applicant's revenue requirement.

The Board finds that this increase in the revenue requirement amount will be allocated equally to all metered customers and recovered through their monthly service charge. This increment is reflected in the approved monthly service charges contained in the Tariff of Rates and Charges appended to this Decision. Pursuant to the Generic Decision, a variance account will be established, the details of which will be communicated in due course.

Resulting Revenue Requirements

As a result of the Board's determinations on these issues, the Board has adjusted the revenue requirement to be recovered through distribution rates and charges to \$3,935,817, including a debit amount of \$5,799 for the recovery of Regulatory Assets.

In its letter of December 20, 2004 to electricity distributors, the Board indicated that it would consider the disposition of the 2005 OEB dues recorded in Account 1508 in this proceeding. However, given that the final 2005 OEB dues are not available because of the difference in fiscal years for the Board and the distributors, and given that the model used to develop the Application does not incorporate this provision, the Board will review and dispose of the 2005 OEB dues at a later time.

Cost Awards

This Application is one of a number of applications before the Board dealing with 2006 rates chargeable by distributors. Intervenors may be parties to multiple applications and, if eligible, their costs associated with a specific distributor may not be separable. Therefore, for these applications, the matter of intervenor cost awards will be addressed by the Board at a later date, upon the conclusion of the current rate applications. If an intervenor that is eligible to recover its costs is able to uniquely identify its costs associated with this Application, it must file its cost claim within 10 days from the receipt of this Decision.

THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. The Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Appendix "A" of this Order is approved, effective May 1, 2006, for electricity consumed or estimated to have been consumed on and after May 1, 2006. The application of the revised

distribution rates shall be prorated to May 1, 2006. If Ottawa River Power Corporation's billing system is not capable of prorating changed loss factors jointly with distribution rates, the revised loss factors shall be implemented upon the first subsequent billing for each billing cycle.

2. The Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Appendix "A" of this Order supersedes all previous distribution rate schedules approved by the Ontario Energy Board for Ottawa River Power Corporation, and is final in all respects.
3. Ottawa River Power Corporation shall notify its customers of the rate changes no later than with the first bill reflecting the new rates.

DATED at Toronto, July 6, 2006.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Peter O'Dell
Assistant Board Secretary

Appendix "A"

THE TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

RP-2005-0020
EB-2005-0403

July 6, 2006

Ottawa River Power Corporation

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective May 1, 2006

This schedule supersedes and replaces all previously approved schedules of Rates, Charges and Loss Factors

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APPLICATION

- The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Codes, Guidelines or Orders of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.
- No rates and charges for the distribution of electricity and charges to meet the costs of any work or service done or furnished for the purpose of the distribution of electricity shall be made except as permitted by this schedule, unless required by the Distributor's Licence or a Code, Guideline or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, or as specified herein.
- This schedule does not contain any rates and charges relating to the electricity commodity (e.g. the Regulated Price Plan).

EFFECTIVE DATES

- DISTRIBUTION RATES - May 1, 2006 for all consumption or deemed consumption services used on or after that date.
 SPECIFIC SERVICE CHARGES - May 1, 2006 for all charges incurred by customers on or after that date.
 LOSS FACTOR ADJUSTMENT – May 1, 2006 unless the distributor is not capable of prorating changed loss factors jointly with distribution rates. In that case, the revised loss factors will be implemented upon the first subsequent billing for each billing cycle.

SERVICE CLASSIFICATIONS

Residential

This classification refers to the supply of electrical energy to customers residing in residential dwelling units. Energy is generally supplied as single phase, 3-wire, 60-Hertz, having nominal voltage of 120/240 volts and up to 400 amps. There shall be only one delivery point to a dwelling. The Basic Connection for Residential consumers is defined as 100 amp 120/240 volt overhead service. A Residential building is supplied at one service voltage per land parcel. Depending upon the location of the building the supply voltage will be one of the following:

- 120/240 volts 1 phase 3 wire
- 120/208 volts 1 phase 3 wire
- 120/208 volts 3 phase 4 wire
- 347/600 volts 3 phase 4 wire

General Service Less Than 50 kW

This classification refers to the supply of electrical energy to General Service Buildings requiring a connection with a connected load less than 50 kW, and, Town Houses and Condominiums that require centralized bulk metering. General Service buildings are defined as buildings that are used for purposes other than single-family dwellings. A General Service building is supplied at one service voltage per land parcel. Depending upon the location of the building the supply voltage will be one of the following:

- 120/240 volts 1 phase 3 wire
- 120/208 volts 1 phase 3 wire
- 120/208 volts 3 phase 4 wire
- 347/600 volts 3 phase 4 wire

General Service 50 to 4, 999 kW

This classification refers to the supply of electrical energy to General Service Customers requiring a connection with a connected load equal to or greater than 50 kW but less than 5,000kW. A General Service building is supplied at one service voltage per land parcel. Depending upon the location of the building the supply voltage will be one of the following:

- 120/240 volts 1 phase 3 wire
- 120/208 volts 3 phase 4 wire
- 347/600 volts 3 phase 4 wire

Depending upon the location of the building, primary supplies to transformers and customer owned Sub-Station will be one of the following as determined by the Distributor:

- 7,200/12,400 volts 3 phase 4 wire
- 44,000 volts 3 phase 3 wire

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Unmetered Scattered Load

This classification applies to an account taking electricity at 750 volts or less whose average monthly maximum demand is less than, or is forecast to be less than, 50 kW and the consumption is unmetered. Such connections include cable TV power packs, bus shelters, telephone booths, traffic lights, railway crossings, etc. The level of the consumption will be agreed to by the distributor and the customer, based on detailed manufacturer information/documentation with regard to electrical consumption of the unmetered load or periodic monitoring of actual consumption.

Sentinel Lighting

This classification refers to privately owned roadway lighting controlled by photo cells. Consumption is based on calculated connected load times the required lighting hours.

Street Lighting

This classification refers to municipal lighting, Ministry of Transportation operation controlled by photo cells. Consumption is as per OEB Street lighting load shape.

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Residential

Service Charge	\$	10.95
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0118
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	0.0011
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0049
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0053
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Regulated Price Plan – Administration Charge	\$	0.25

General Service Less Than 50 kW

Service Charge	\$	22.18
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0080
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	(0.0003)
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0045
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0048
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Regulated Price Plan – Administration Charge	\$	0.25

General Service 50 to 4,999 kW

Service Charge	\$	264.67
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	2.0393
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	(0.3133)
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.8343
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.8934
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Regulated Price Plan – Administration Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Ottawa River Power Corporation

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

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Unmetered Scattered Load

Service Charge (per customer)	\$	21.93
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0080
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	(0.0003)
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0045
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0048
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Regulated Price Plan – Administration Charge	\$	0.25

Sentinel Lighting

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	1.31
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	4.2855
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	0.5667
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.3904
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.4943
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Regulated Price Plan – Administration Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Street Lighting

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	0.81
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	2.8743
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	(0.4719)
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.3832
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.4637
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Regulated Price Plan – Administration Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Specific Service Charges

Customer Administration		
Arrears Certificate	\$	15.00
Account History	\$	15.00
Returned Cheque Charge (plus bank charges)	\$	15.00
Account set up charge/change of occupancy charge (plus credit agency costs if applicable)	\$	30.00
Non-Payment of Account		
Late Payment - per month	%	1.50
Late Payment - per annum	%	19.56
Collection of account charge – no disconnection	\$	30.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charges at meter - During Regular Hours	\$	65.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charges at meter - After Hours	\$	185.00
Allowances		
Transformer Allowance for Ownership - per kW of billing demand/month	\$	(0.60)
Primary Metering Allowance for transformer losses – applied to measured demand and energy	%	(1.00)

LOSS FACTORS

Total Loss Factor – Secondary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0569
Total Loss Factor – Secondary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW	N/A
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0464
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW	N/A