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For immediate release

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OEB to begin pilot project testing different electricity pricing structures

Toronto – The Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) today announced that, with the support of Hydro Ottawa, it will begin the *Ontario Smart Price Pilot* project. The pilot is designed to help the Board learn how consumers use opportunities to conserve electricity with smart meters and “time-of-use” (TOU) prices in advance of the province’s plan to provide smart meters to all homes and small businesses by 2010.

The project will provide participating consumers with more information on how they use electricity and how shifting usage to off-peak periods can help them save money.

The Board expects to form three separate groups of Hydro Ottawa consumer volunteers with smart meters installed at their homes. It will be looking for potential consumption differences between those charged according to:

- standard TOU pricing where rates change in relation to periods of Off-peak, Mid-peak and On-Peak demand;
- TOU with critical peak pricing (CPP), and;
- TOU with critical peak rebates (CPR).

The pilot project will run for approximately five months with results to be presented in early 2007.

The Ontario Energy Board regulates the province's electricity and natural gas sectors in the public interest. It envisions a healthy and efficient energy sector with informed consumers, and works towards this vision through regulatory processes that are effective, fair and transparent.

For more information on the Board, please visit our Web site at www.oeb.gov.on.ca or contact the Consumer Relations Centre at 416-314-2455 or toll-free at 1-877-632-2727.

- 30 -

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