



RP-2005-0020
EB-2005-0371

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 Grimsby Power Inc. 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

Bob Betts
Member

DECISION AND ORDER

Grimsby Power Inc. ("GPI" or the "Applicant") is a licensed distributor providing electrical service to consumers within its defined service area. The Applicant 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.

The Applicant 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 Networks Inc. (“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 (“LV”) 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 in due course.

Public notice of the rate Application made by the Applicant 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 the Applicant 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.

The Applicant has requested an amount of \$3,731,786 as revenue to be recovered through distribution rates and charges. Included in this amount is a debit of \$57,358 for the recovery of regulatory assets. Except where noted in this Decision, the Board finds that GPI has filed its Application in accordance with the Handbook and the guidelines for the recovery of regulatory assets.

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

- Low Voltage Rates; and
- Impact of the Generic Decision (EB-2005-0529).

Low Voltage Rates

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

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 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 GPI 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 GPI'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 GPI's revenue requirement.

Consequences of the Generic Decision on this Application

The Generic Decision contains findings relevant to funding for smart meters and stand by rates 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.

Second, with respect to standby rates, the Generic Decision provided that existing and proposed standby rates should be declared interim upon the effective date of the rates approved in this decision. Given that GPI's current standby rates are the same as the General Service over 50kW class and that GPI proposed to continue this legacy rate, those rates are declared interim at the proposed level as of the effective date of the rate order accompanying this Decision.

Resulting Revenue Requirement

As a result of the findings contained in this Decision, GPI revenue requirement has been adjusted to \$3,762,512, including a debit amount of \$57,358 for regulatory assets. These adjustments are reflected in the approved Tariff of Rates and Charges.

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 Grimsby Power Inc.'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 Grimsby Power Inc. and is final in all respects, with the exception of standby rates, which are interim.
- 3) Grimsby Power Inc. shall notify its customers of the rate changes no later than with the first bill reflecting the new rates.

DATED at Toronto, April 12, 2006.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Zych". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Zych".

John Zych
Board Secretary

Appendix "A"

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April 12, 2006

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Grimsby Power Incorporated

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 class refers to the supply of electricity to residential customers residing in detached or semi-detached dwelling units, as defined in the local zoning by-law. **Residential Service** – means a service which is less than 50kW supplied to single-family dwelling units that is for domestic or household purposes, including seasonal occupancy. At Grimsby Power's discretion, residential rates may be applied to apartment buildings with 6 or less units by simple application of the residential rate or by blocking the residential rate by the number of units.

General Service Less Than 50 kW

This classification applies to a non-residential customer that is identified by the billing system as registering under 50 kW on a demand meter in any one month of the year.

General Service 50 to 4,999 kW

This classification applies to a non-residential customer that is identified by the billing system as registering equal to or over 50 kW on a demand meter in any one month of the year.

Unmetered Scattered Load

This classification applies to electricity consumption that is not metered and is billed based on estimated usage. Such connections include street lighting equipment not owned by or operated for a municipality or the Province of Ontario, traffic signals and other small services etc.

Street Lighting

All services to street lighting equipment owned by or operated for a municipality or the Province of Ontario shall be classified as Street lighting Service.

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Residential

Service Charge	\$	15.37
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0092
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	0.001
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0060
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Regulated Price Plan – Administration Charge	\$	0.25

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General Service Less Than 50 kW

Service Charge	\$	25.81
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0106
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	(0.0000)
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0055
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0047
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	\$	165.22
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	1.6984
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	(0.1467)
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	2.2250
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.8598
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate – Interval Metered	\$/kW	2.2535
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate – Interval Metered	\$/kW	1.9603
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Regulated Price Plan – Administration Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Unmetered Scattered Load

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	12.77
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0106
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	0.0031
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0055
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0047
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)	\$	0.65
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	3.4516
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	(0.6448)
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.6780
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.4377
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Regulated Price Plan – Administration Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

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Specific Service Charges

Customer Administration		
Arrears Certificate	\$	15.00
Statement of Account	\$	15.00
Pulling Post Dated Cheques	\$	15.00
Duplicate Invoices for Previous Billing	\$	15.00
Easement Letter	\$	15.00
Account History	\$	15.00
Credit reference/credit check (plus credit agency costs)	\$	15.00
Returned Cheque Charge (plus bank charges)	\$	15.00
Charge to Certify Cheque	\$	15.00
Legal Letter Charge	\$	15.00
Account set up charge/change of occupancy charge (plus credit agency costs if applicable)	\$	30.00
Special Meter Reads	\$	30.00
Meter dispute charge plus Measurement Canada fees (if meter found correct)	\$	30.00
Interval Meter Interrogation	\$	20.00
Non-Payment of Account		
Late Payment - per month	%	1.50
Late Payment - per annum	%	19.56
Collection of Account Charge – No Disconnection	\$	30.00
Collection of Account Charge – No Disconnection – After Regular Hours	\$	165.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charges at Meter – During Regular Hours	\$	65.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charges at Meter – After Regular Hours	\$	185.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charges at Pole– During Regular Hours	\$	185.00
Disconnect/Reconnect Charges at Pole – After Regular Hours	\$	415.00
Service Call – Customer-owned Equipment	\$	30.00
Service Call – After Regular Hours	\$	165.00
Install/Remove Load Control Device – During Regular Hours	\$	65.00
Install/Remove Load Control Device – After Regular Hours	\$	185.00
Temporary Service Install & Remove – Overhead – No Transformer	\$	500.00
Temporary Service Install & Remove – Underground – No Transformer	\$	300.00
Temporary Service Install & Remove – Overhead – with Transformer	\$	1,000.00
Specific Charge for Access to the Power Poles – per pole/year	\$	22.35
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	1.0502
Total Loss Factor – Secondary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW	N/A
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0397
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW	N/A