



RP-2005-0020
EB-2005-0382

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 Innisfil
Hydro Distribution Systems Ltd. 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

Innisfil Hydro Distribution Systems Ltd. (“Innisfil Hydro” or the “Applicant”) is a licensed distributor providing electrical service to consumers within its defined service area. Innisfil Hydro 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.

Innisfil Hydro 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. 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 2 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 Innisfil Hydro 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.

Innisfil Hydro has requested an amount of \$7,735,541 as revenue to be recovered through distribution rates and charges. Included in this amount is a debit of \$734,606 for the recovery of regulatory assets. Except where noted in this Decision, the Board finds that Innisfil Hydro has filed its Application in accordance with the Handbook and the guidelines for the recovery of regulatory assets.

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

- Distribution Loss Adjustment Factor;
- Interest Rate Applied to Account 1508, OEB Cost Assessment; and
- Impact of the Generic Decision (EB-2005-0529).

Distribution Loss Adjustment Factor

Innisfil Hydro used a two year average in calculating its distribution loss factor as opposed to the three year average methodology outlined in the Handbook. Innisfil Hydro stated that it did not use 2002 data because it felt this data was not reliable (due to market opening and system upgrades) and distorted the loss factor.

The 2002 distribution loss factor as determined on schedule 10-5 of the EDR model is 10.86%, which appears to be unusual when compared to the 2003 and 2004 loss factors of 5.93% and 3.90% respectively. The Board is satisfied that the 2002 data was anomalous for this distributor and will therefore accept the distribution loss factor as calculated on the two year average using data from 2003 and 2004. The Board also notes that certain mathematical errors occurred on schedule 10-5 when calculating the loss factors for 2003 and 2004. Accordingly, the Board has made the appropriate adjustments in the EDR model to correct these errors.

Interest Rate Applied to Account 1508, OEB Cost Assessment

In a letter dated December 20, 2004 the Board directed distributors to use an interest rate of 5.75% for carrying costs related to the OEB cost assessment, instead of the deemed debt rate which is applied to all other regulatory asset accounts. Innisfil Hydro did not apply the updated rate but instead applied its deemed rate of 7.25%.

With regard to the interest rate, the Board finds that the rate that should apply is the one communicated to all distributors in the December 20, 2004 letter which is 5.75%. The Board found no material justification to stray from the application of the standard rate. Accordingly, the Board has made the adjustment to the regulatory assets worksheet to reflect this rate.

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 Requirement

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 \$7,780,948 including an amount of \$734,401 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 Innisfil Hydro Distribution Systems Ltd.'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 Innisfil Hydro Distribution Systems Ltd., and the rates and charges are final in all respects.

- 3) Innisfil Hydro Distribution Systems Ltd. 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

Innisfil Hydro Distribution Systems Ltd.

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 residential customers residing in detached, semi detached, townhouse (freehold or condominium) dwelling units duplexes or triplexes. Supply will be limited up to a maximum of 200 amp @ 240/120 volt. Further servicing details are available in the utility's Conditions of Service.

General Service Less Than 50 kW

This classification refers to a non-residential account taking electricity at 750 volts or less whose monthly peak demand is less than or expected to be less than 50 kW. Further servicing details are available in the utility's Conditions of Service.

General Service 50 to 4,999 kW

This classification refers to a non-residential account whose monthly average peak demand is equal to or greater than, or is expected to be equal to or greater than 50 kW but less than 5000 kW. Further servicing details are available in the utility's Conditions of Service.

Unmetered Scattered Load

This classification refers to a non-residential account taking electricity at 240/120 or 120 volts whose monthly peak demand is less than or expected to be less than 50 kW and the consumption is unmetered. A detailed calculation of the load will be calculated for billing purposes. Further servicing details are available in the utility's Conditions of Service.

Sentinel Lighting

This classification refers to accounts that are an unmetered lighting load supplied to a sentinel light. Further servicing details are available in the utility's Conditions of Service.

Street Lighting

This classification refers to accounts concerning roadway lighting for a Municipality, Regional Municipality, and/or the Ministry of Transportation. This lighting will be controlled by photocells. The consumption for these customers will be based on the calculated connected load times as established in the approved OEB Street Lighting Load Shape Template. Further servicing details are available in the utility's Conditions of Service.

Innisfil Hydro Distribution Systems Ltd.

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Residential

Service Charge	\$	19.41
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0154
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	0.0039
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0063
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0037
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	\$	36.55
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0120
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	0.0029
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0057
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0034
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	\$	357.94
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	3.3372
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	0.6634
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	2.3267
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.3369
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)	\$	18.14
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0120
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	0.0053
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0057
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0034
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Regulated Price Plan – Administration Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Sentinel Lighting

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	1.33
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	6.9693
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	1.0251
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.7636
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.0551
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010

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0.25

Regulated Price Plan – Administration Charge (if applicable) \$

Street Lighting

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	0.66
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	5.0213
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	0.7686
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.7547
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.0335
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
Easement Letter	\$	15.00
Credit reference/credit check (plus credit agency costs)	\$	15.00
Account set up charge/change of occupancy charge (plus credit agency costs if applicable)	\$	15.00
Returned Cheque (plus bank charges)	\$	15.00
Meter dispute charge plus Measurement Canada fees (if meter found correct)	\$	30.00
Special meter reads	\$	30.00

Non-Payment of Account

Late Payment - per month	%	1.50
Late Payment - per annum	%	19.56
Collection of account charge – no disconnection	\$	15.00
Collection of account charge – no disconnection – after regular hours	\$	165.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at meter – during regular hours	\$	40.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at Meter - after regular hours	\$	185.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at Pole – during regular hours	\$	185.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at Pole – after regular hours	\$	415.00

Install/Remove load control device – during regular hours	\$	40.00
Install/Remove load control device – after regular hours	\$	185.00
Temporary service install and remove – overhead – no transformer	\$	500.00
Temporary service install and remove – underground – no transformer	\$	300.00
Temporary service install and 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	1.0539
Total Loss Factor – Secondary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW	1.0539
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0434
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW	1.0434