



EB-2007-0524

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 Erie
Thames Powerlines Corporation for an order or orders
approving or fixing just and reasonable distribution rates
and other charges, to be effective May 1, 2007.

BEFORE: Paul Sommerville
Presiding Member

Paul Vlahos
Member

Ken Quesnelle
Member

DECISION AND ORDER

Erie Thames Powerlines Corporation (“Erie Thames Powerlines”) is a licensed distributor providing electrical service to consumers within its licensed service area. Erie Thames Powerlines filed an 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 charges, to be effective May 1, 2007.

Erie Thames Powerlines is one of 85 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 issued its *Report of the Board on Cost of Capital and 2nd Generation Incentive Regulation for Ontario’s Electricity Distributors* (the “Report”) on December 20, 2006. The Report contained the relevant guidelines for 2007 rate adjustments (“the guidelines”) for distributors applying for rates only on the basis of the cost of capital and 2nd generation incentive regulation mechanism policies set out in the Report.

Public notice of Erie Thames Powerlines' rate application was given through newspaper publication in Erie Thames Powerlines' service area. The evidence filed as part of the rate application was made available to the public. Both Erie Thames Powerlines and interested parties had the opportunity to file written submissions in relation to the rate application. The Board received no submissions. While the Board has considered the entire record in this rate application, it has made reference only to such evidence as is necessary to provide context to its findings.

Erie Thames Powerlines' rate application was filed on the basis of the guidelines. In fixing new rates and charges for Erie Thames Powerlines, the Board has applied the policies described in the Report.

After confirming the accuracy of the 2006 rate tariff and accompanying materials submitted in the rate application, the Board applied its approved price cap index adjustment to distribution rates (fixed and variable) uniformly across all customer classes. The price cap index is calculated as a price escalator less an X-factor of 1.0%, intended to represent input price and productivity trends. Based on the final 2006 data published by Statistics Canada, the Board has established the price escalator to be 1.9%. The resulting price cap index adjustment is therefore 0.9%.

The price cap index adjustment was not applied to the following components of the rates:

- the specific service charges;
- the regulatory asset recovery rate rider; and
- the smart meter rate adder (an amount in the fixed components of the rates associated with smart meter cost recovery).

Erie Thames Powerlines requested an amount for smart meter costs. The Board has approved an amount of \$0.27 per month per metered customer. Erie Thames Powerlines' variance accounts for smart meter program implementation costs, previously authorized by the Board, are continued. It is the Board's understanding that Erie Thames Powerlines will not be undertaking any smart metering activity (i.e. discretionary metering activity) in 2007. The amount collected through the smart meter rate adder will be booked into the existing variance accounts, and retained in those accounts, to help fund future smart meter activity. As the notice of this application indicated, the Board will be holding a combined proceeding to consider, among other things, appropriate recovery of smart meter costs.

The Board has made the necessary adjustments to Erie Thames Powerlines' filed 2006 Tariff of Rates and Charges to produce a new Tariff of Rates and Charges to be effective May 1, 2007. The Board finds the rates and charges in the Tariff of Rates and Charges attached as Appendix A to this decision to be just and reasonable.

THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. The Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Appendix A of this order is approved, effective May 1, 2007, for electricity consumed or estimated to have been consumed on and after May 1, 2007.
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 Erie Thames Powerlines, and is final in all respects.
3. Erie Thames Powerlines shall notify its customers of the rate changes no later than with the first bill reflecting the new rates.

DATED at Toronto, April 12, 2007.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Peter H. O'Dell
Assistant Board Secretary

Appendix A

EB-2007-0524

April 12, 2007

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Erie Thames Powerlines Corp.

TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES

Effective May 1, 2007

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 e approved 2006 Electricity Distribution Rate Handbook or any other Licence conditions, Codes, Guidelines or Orders 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, 2007 for all consumption or deemed consumption services used on or after that date.
SPECIFIC SERVICE CHARGES – May 1, 2007 for all charges incurred by customers on or after that date.
LOSS FACTOR ADJUSTMENT – May 1, 2007 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 Customers

This classification refers to the supply of electrical energy to customers residing in residential dwelling units. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

General Service Less Than 50 kW

This classification applies to a non residential account whose average monthly maximum demand is less than or is forecast to be less than, 50 kW, and town houses and condominiums that require centralized bulk metering. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

General Service 50 to 999 kW

This classification applies to a non residential account whose average monthly maximum demand used for billing purposes is equal to or greater than, or is forecast to be equal to or greater than, 50 kW but less than 1,000 kW. Note that for the application of the Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate and the Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate the following sub-classifications apply:

General Service 50 to 999 kW non-interval metered

General Service 50 to 999 kW interval metered

Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

General Service 1,000 to 2,999 kW

This classification applies to a non residential account whose average monthly maximum demand used for billing purposes is equal to or greater than, or is forecast to be equal to or greater than, 1,000 kW but less than 3,000 kW. Note that for the application of the Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate and the Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate the following sub-classifications apply:

General Service 1,000 to 2,999 kW non-interval metered

General Service 1,000 to 2,999 kW interval metered

Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

General Service 3,000 to 4,999 kW

This classification applies to an account whose average monthly maximum demand used for billing purposes is equal to or greater than, or is forecast to be equal to or greater than, 3,000 kW but less than 5,000 kW. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

Large Use

This classification applies to an account whose average monthly maximum demand used for billing purposes is equal to or greater than, or is forecast to be equal to or greater than, 5,000 kW. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

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Unmetered Scattered Load

This classification refers to an account taking electricity at 750 volts or less whose monthly average peak 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, decorative street lighting, billboards, etc. The level of consumption will be agreed to by the distributor and the customer, based on detailed manufacturer information/documentation with regard to electrical consumption of unmetered load or periodic monitoring of actual consumption. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

Sentinel Lighting

This classification refers to accounts that are an unmetered lighting load supplied to a sentinel light.

Street Lighting

This classification applies to an account for roadway lighting with a Municipality, Regional Municipality, Ministry of Transportation and private roadway lighting, controlled by photo cells. The consumption for these customers will be based on the calculated connection load times the required lighting times established in the approved OEB street lighting load shape template. Street Lighting plant, facilities or equipment owned by the customer are subject to the ESA requirements.

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Residential

Service Charge	\$	13.96
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0136
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	0.0047
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0047
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0050
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

General Service Less Than 50 kW

Service Charge	\$	27.49
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0162
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	0.0030
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0043
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0046
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

General Service 50 to 999 kW

Service Charge	\$	384.46
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	1.9807
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	0.6559
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.9561
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.6359
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

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General Service 1,000 to 2,999 kW

Service Charge	\$	6,323.10
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	2.2198
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	2.0238
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	2.1246
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.7592
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

General Service 3,000 to 4,999 kW

Service Charge	\$	7,086.21
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	2.1579
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	0.1437
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	2.2400
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.8774
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Large Use

Service Charge	\$	14,355.98
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	1.3220
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	(0.0674)
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate – Interval Metered	\$/kW	2.3553
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate – Interval Metered	\$/kW	1.9955
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Unmetered Scattered Load

Service Charge	\$	6.40
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.0370
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kWh	0.0044
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0043
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0046
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

Sentinel Lighting

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	2.07
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	9.8234
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	4.4848
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.5107
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.2633
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Standard Supply Service – Administrative Charge (if applicable)	\$	0.25

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Street Lighting

Service Charge (per connection)	\$	0.52
Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kW	1.8064
Regulatory Asset Recovery	\$/kW	(0.1571)
Retail Transmission Rate – Network Service Rate	\$/kW	1.5107
Retail Transmission Rate – Line and Transformation Connection Service Rate	\$/kW	1.2633
Wholesale Market Service Rate	\$/kWh	0.0052
Rural Rate Protection Charge	\$/kWh	0.0010
Standard Supply Service – Administrative 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
Returned cheque charge (plus bank charges)	\$	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
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 at meter – during regular hours	\$	65.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at meter – after regular hours	\$	185.00
Disconnect/Reconnect at pole – during regular hours	\$	185.00
Temporary service install & remove – overhead – no transformer	\$	500.00
Temporary service install & remove – underground – no transformer	\$	300.00
Specific Charge for Access to the Power Poles \$/pole/year	\$	22.35
Allowances		
Transformer Allowance for Ownership - per kW of billing demand/month	\$/kW	(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	1.0427
Total Loss Factor – Secondary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW	1.0145
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer < 5,000 kW	1.0322
Total Loss Factor – Primary Metered Customer > 5,000 kW	1.0045