



RP-2003-0230

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO AMEND A CODE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM CODE

To: All Licenced Electricity Distributors

On July 14, 2000, the Ontario Energy Board issued the Distribution System Code. The Code sets out the minimum conditions that a licensed electricity distributor must meet in carrying out its obligations to distribute electricity under the *Energy Competition Act, 1998*. The Code specifies the distributor's obligations to retailers, generators, other distributors and consumers. All licensed electricity distributors in the province must comply with the provisions of this Code as a condition of licence.

On November 1, 2000, the Board revised s. 1.7, the coming-into-force provision of the Code, to align it with the coming-into-force date of subsection 26(1) of the *Electricity Act, 1998*.

Section 4.2 of the Code relates to disconnection and reconnection of electricity service. Section 4.2.1 of the Code states:

4.2.1 A distributor shall establish a process for disconnection and reconnection that specifies timing and means of notification consistent with the *Electricity Act, 1998*. In developing physical and business processes for reconnection, a distributor shall consider safety and reliability as a primary requirement. A distributor shall document its business process for disconnection in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

In order to enhance public safety in circumstances where a distributor disconnects a customer, the Board is proposing to amend the Code by adding the following section:

4.2.1.1 Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, prior to disconnecting a property, a distributor shall provide the customer and the occupant(s) with the current, standard Electricity Disconnection Fire Safety Notice, either for Residential Dwelling Units (Houses or Apartment Units) or Other Buildings and Occupancies as the case may be, published by the Office of the Fire Marshall, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, and distributed through its website or otherwise.

Only section 4.2.1 of the Code would be affected by the Proposed Amendment.

The Board anticipates that public safety will be enhanced by the Proposed Amendment. In particular, the Proposed Amendment will establish a uniform standard notification of fire safety information outlining, for instance, the impact of disconnection on devices such as smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

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It is anticipated that electricity distributors will not incur substantial costs due to the Proposed Amendment.

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It is further anticipated that no electricity market participant will be adversely affected by the Proposed Amendment.

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Interested parties are invited to make written submissions with respect to the Proposed Amendment. Submissions received by **December 23, 2003** will be considered.

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Written submissions on the Proposed Amendment should be sent in triplicate to:

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Your submission should quote file number RP-2003-0230 and include your name, address, e-mail address and fax number. A diskette containing submissions (in pdf format) should also be submitted.

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The Code and the written representations received by the Board with respect to the Proposed Amendment will be available for public inspection at the office of the Board during normal business hours. The Board's proposed amended version of the Code is available at the Board's website at www.oeb.gov.on.ca.

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If you have any questions regarding the Code, please contact Tobi Baumhard, Advisor, Licensing at 416-440-8110, or toll free at 1-888-632-6273.

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DATED at Toronto, December 4, 2003.

Paul B. Pudge
Assistant Secretary