



RP-2003-0230

**NOTICE OF AMENDED PROPOSAL  
TO AMEND THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM CODE**

To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors

On December 4, 2003, the Ontario Energy Board issued a Notice of Proposal to Amend the Distribution System Code (DSC). The proposed amendment would establish a requirement that electricity distributors provide standard fire safety information to affected parties upon disconnection.

In response to the proposed DSC amendment, the Board received fourteen submissions. The Board has reviewed the submissions and has made a number of changes to the proposed amendment.

**Amended Proposal**

The Board is proposing to amend the DSC by adding the following provisions:

4.2.1.1 Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, prior to disconnecting a property for non-payment, a distributor shall provide to any person that, according to the distributor's Conditions of Service, receives notice of the disconnection:

- (a) the Fire Safety Notice of the Office of the Fire Marshall; and
- (b) any other public safety notices or information bulletins issued by public safety authorities and provided to the distributor, which provide information to consumers respecting dangers associated with the disconnection of electricity service.

4.2.1.2 A distributor shall include a copy of the notices or bulletins referred to in s. 4.2.1.1 along with any notice of disconnection that is left at the property at the time of actual disconnection for non-payment.

Only sections 4.2.1.1 and 4.2.1.2 of the Code would be affected by the amended proposal.

A copy of the Fire Safety Notice is included with this Notice of Amended Proposal.

## Substantive changes

The amended proposal makes three substantive changes to the original proposal of December 4, 2003 and has the following advantages over the original proposal:

1. Disconnections covered are those that occur for non-payment. This would exclude situations such as disconnections for maintenance, which are of short duration.
2. The wording “to any person that, according to the distributor’s Conditions of Service, receives notice of the disconnection” would give distributors the ability to provide the Fire Safety Notice, and other relevant notices where applicable, in a manner consistent with current procedures, thereby minimizing costs. This approach also provides certainty as to who is the recipient of the public safety notices or bulletins.
3. The wording of the amended proposal would require distributors to provide a customer with any other public safety notices or information bulletins issued by public safety authorities, which provide information to consumers respecting dangers associated with the disconnection of electricity service. This would include, for instance, notices or bulletins issued by local public health authorities concerning the risks posed by spoiled food, where electricity is disconnected.

## Impact of Amended Proposal

The Board anticipates that public safety would be enhanced by the amended proposal, which would establish a uniform standard for the provision of relevant public safety information. The Fire Safety Notice in particular would provide information on, for instance, the impact of disconnection on devices such as smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

It is anticipated that the amended proposal would not impose substantial costs on electricity distributors or adversely affect electricity market participants.

Interested parties are invited to make written submissions with respect to the amended proposal, no later than April 2, 2004.

Written submissions on the amended proposal should be sent in triplicate to:

Assistant Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street, 26th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4P 1E4  
boardsec@oeb.gov.on.ca

Your submission should refer to 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, the proposed amendments, and the submissions received by the Board will be available for public inspection at the Board during normal business hours. The proposed amendments are also available at the Board's website at [www.oeb.gov.on.ca](http://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, March 17, 2004.

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Peter H. O'Dell  
Assistant Secretary

Attachment: Draft Fire Safety Notice (not available electronically)

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