



RP-2000-0001

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT  
TO THE GAS DISTRIBUTION ACCESS RULE**

February 13, 2004

On December 11, 2002, the Ontario Energy Board exercised its authority under section 44 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, to make the Gas Distribution Access Rule. Section 1.4 of the Rule sets out the following implementation dates:

1.4.1 This Rule shall come into force on December 11, 2002, subject to subsections 1.4.2, 1.4.3, and 1.4.4.

1.4.2 Section 3.2 of this Rule shall come into force on December 1, 2003.

1.4.3 Chapter 4 of this Rule shall come into force on March 1, 2004.

1.4.4 Subsection 6.1.2.3 of this Rule shall come into force on March 1, 2004.

Gas distributors and gas vendors have written to the Board expressing concern that owing to unresolved issues relating to the form of service agreement to be offered to gas vendors by gas distributors, service transaction requests and electronic business transaction requirements, the March 1, 2004 implementation date is impractical.

The Board proposes to change the implementation dates as follows:

1.4.2 Section 3.2 of this Rule shall come into force on December 1, 2004.

1.4.3 Chapter 4 of this Rule shall come into force on February 1, 2005.

1.4.4 Subsection 6.1.2.3 of this Rule shall come into force on February 1, 2005.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to provide a reasonable time frame in which to address unresolved issues relating to the form of service agreement to be offered to gas vendors by gas

distributors and issues relating to service transaction requests and electronic business transaction requirements.

The Board recognizes that parties may incur some costs arising from information technology system changes, customer acquisition and customer mobility constraints, as a result of changing the implementation dates. There will, however, be benefits resulting from the resolution of issues relating to the form of service agreement, service transaction requests and electronic business transactions requirements, allowing for a more effective and efficient implementation of the Rule.

Any party wishing to make a written representation shall file with the Board Secretary, no later than 4:45 p.m. on Monday, March 15, 2004, **original and 12 paper copies** of the representation, and an electronic copy, in PDF format, if possible.

The written representations received by the Board will be available for public inspection on the Board's website at [www.oeb.gov.on.ca](http://www.oeb.gov.on.ca) and at the office of the Board during normal business hours.

If you have any questions, please contact Judith Fernandes at 416 440-7654 or Jim MacDougall at 416 440-8141.

Yours truly,

Peter H. O'Dell  
Assistant Secretary