

PETERBOROUGH DISTRIBUTION INC.

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John Zych
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
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SMART METERS FILE NUMBER RP-2004-0196

First of all, thanks for the speedy approval for the use of a deferral account to help provide an incentive to the many customers buying appliances as a result of our recent flood. Although I only received the good news yesterday, I can tell you that there is already a high awareness of the incentive within our community. I always find all of our local media to be most co-operative in spreading the news. I'm sure our incentive will help to convince customers to purchase EnergyStar rated appliances.

While I have submitted brief comments on the Smart Meter issue, there is one point that I would like to add and I have not heard raised by any parties to date. At present there is a mix of methods used by LDC's to read meters, by contract and by staff. I know first hand that some LDC's have collective agreements that protect existing employees to the point that there will not be any jobs lost as a result of technology change or organizational change. As a result of the strike in 1985, Hydro One even has very tight limits on the amount of work that can be contracted out. The issue is this, if a decision is made to employ interval meters, which are read by use of phone lines or wireless technology, and not time of use meters, which would continue to use meter readers, where they now exist, there will not be any savings for the LDC's and the LDC will have to deal with a significant HR problem. Believe me, they have enough now. Please consider this in your deliberations.

Yours very truly,

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