



EB-2009-0230

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 Hydro One
Remote Communities Inc. for an order or orders
approving or fixing just and reasonable distribution rates
and other charges, to be effective May 1, 2010.

BEFORE: Paul Vlahos
Presiding Member

DECISION AND ORDER

Introduction

Hydro One Remote Communities Inc. (“Hydro One Remote”), a licensed distributor of electricity, 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, 2010.

Hydro One Remote is one of about 80 electricity distributors in Ontario that are regulated by the Board. In 2008, the Board announced the establishment of a new multi-year electricity distribution rate-setting plan, the 3rd Generation Incentive Rate Mechanism (“IRM”) process, that will be used to adjust electricity distribution rates starting in 2009 for those distributors whose 2008 rates were rebased through a cost of service review. As part of the plan, Hydro One Remote is one of the electricity

distributors that will have its rates adjusted for 2010 on the basis of the IRM process, which provides for a mechanistic and formulaic adjustment to distribution rates and charges between cost of service applications.

To streamline the process for the approval of distribution rates and charges for distributors, the Board issued its *Report of the Board on 3rd Generation Incentive Regulation for Ontario's Electricity Distributors* on July 14, 2008, its *Supplemental Report of the Board on 3rd Generation Incentive Regulation for Ontario's Electricity Distributors* on September 17, 2008, and its *Addendum to the Supplemental Report of the Board on 3rd Generation Incentive Regulation for Ontario's Electricity Distributors* on January 28, 2009 (together the "Reports"). Among other things, the Reports contained the relevant guidelines for 2010 rate adjustments (the "Guidelines") for distributors applying for distribution rate adjustments pursuant to the IRM process. On July 22, 2009 the Board issued an update to Chapter 3 of the Board's "Filing Requirements for Transmission and Distribution Applications" (the "Filing Requirements"), which outlined the filing requirements for IRM applications by electricity distributors.

Notice of Hydro One Remote's rate application was given through newspaper publication in Hydro One Remote's service area advising interested parties where the rate application could be viewed and advising how they could intervene in the proceeding or comment on the application. There were no intervention requests and no comments were received. The Board proceeded by way of a written hearing. Board staff did not ask any interrogatories and did not file a submission.

As Hydro One Remote is not connected to a transmission grid and is not billed by the IESO and does not pay taxes, many of the issues that apply to other distributors do not apply in this case.

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. The following issues are addressed in this Decision and Order:

- Price Cap Index Adjustment;
- Introduction of MicroFIT Generator Service Classification and Rate.

Price Cap Index Adjustment

As outlined in the Reports, distribution rates under the 3rd Generation IRM are to be adjusted by a price escalator less a productivity factor (X-factor) of 0.72% and a utility specific stretch factor. Based on the final 2009 data published by Statistics Canada, the Board has established the price escalator to be 1.3%. Hydro One Remote suggested that neither the 0.72% productivity factor nor any stretch factor should apply to it given the uniqueness of its system and the fact that no stretch factor ranking was assigned to Hydro One Remote due to the absence of data required to perform the benchmarking evaluations.

As this is the first IRM application for Hydro One Remote, there is no previous determination by the Board that the productivity factor should not apply in the case of Hydro One Remote. The Board sees no persuasive reason to exclude the application of the general productivity factor (0.72%) in this case. With respect to the stretch factor, the Board acknowledges that Hydro One Remote has not been assigned a specific stretch factor ranking, but this is not a reason not to assign a factor. All other electricity distributors that have filed a 3rd Generation IRM application for 2010 were assigned a stretch factor of 0.2%, 0.4% or 0.6%. In the circumstances, the Board finds that a stretch factor should be deemed for Hydro One Remote. The Board deems a stretch factor of 0.2% for 2010. The resulting price cap index adjustment is therefore 0.38%. The Board has adjusted the rate model to reflect the newly calculated price cap index adjustment. The price cap index adjustment applies to distribution rates (fixed and variable charges) uniformly across all customer classes.

The price cap index adjustment will not apply to the following components of distribution rates, as applicable:

- Rate Riders;
- Rate Adders;
- Low Voltage Service Charges;
- Retail Transmission Service Rates;
- Wholesale Market Service Rate;
- Rural Rate Protection Charge;
- Standard Supply service – Administrative Charge;
- Transformation and Primary Metering Allowances;
- Loss Factors;
- Specific Service Charges; and
- Retail Service Charges.

Introduction of MicroFit Generator Service Classification and Rate

Ontario's Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program for renewable energy generation was established in the Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009. The program includes a stream called Micro FIT, which is designed to encourage homeowners, businesses and others to generate renewable energy with projects of 10 kilowatts (kW) or less.

In its EB-2009-0326 Decision and Order, issued February 23, 2010, the Board approved the following service classification definition, which is to be used by all licensed distributors:

microFIT Generator

This classification applies to an electricity generation facility contracted under the Ontario Power Authority's microFIT program and connected to the distributor's distribution system.

On March 17, 2010, the Board approved a province-wide fixed service charge of \$5.25 per month for all electricity distributors effective September 21, 2009.

The microFIT Generator service classification and the service charge will be included in the Tariffs of Rates and Charges.

Rate Model

The Board is providing Hydro One Remote with a rate model (spreadsheet) and a draft Tariff of Rates and Charges (Appendix A) that reflects the elements of this Decision. The Board also reviewed the entries in the rate model to ensure that they were in accordance with the 2009 Board approved Tariff of Rates and Charges and the rate model was adjusted, where applicable, to correct any discrepancies.

The Board Orders That:

1. Hydro One Remote's new distribution rates shall be effective May 1, 2010.
2. Hydro One Remote shall review the draft Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Appendix A. Hydro One Remote shall file with the Board a written confirmation assessing the completeness and accuracy of the draft Tariff of Rates and Charges, or provide a detailed explanation of any inaccuracies or missing information, within seven (7) calendar days of the date of this Decision and Order.

If the Board does not receive a submission by Hydro One Remote to the effect that inaccuracies were found or information was missing pursuant to item 1 of this Decision and Order:

3. The draft Tariff of Rates and Charges set out in Appendix A of this order will become final, effective May 1, 2010, and will apply to electricity consumed or estimated to have been consumed on and after May 1, 2010.

If the Board receives a submission by Hydro One Remote to the effect that inaccuracies were found or information was missing pursuant to item 1 of this Decision and Order, the Board will consider the submission of Hydro One Remote and will issue a final Tariff of Rates and Charges.

4. Hydro One Remote shall notify its customers of the rate changes no later than with the first bill reflecting the new rates.
5. Pursuant to section 30 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, Hydro One Remote shall pay the Board's costs of and incidental to, this proceeding immediately upon receipt of the Board's invoice.

DATED at Toronto, April 14, 2010

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

Appendix A
To Decision and Order
EB-2009-0230
April 14, 2010

Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.
TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES
Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2010
except for the microFIT Generator Class effective date of September 21, 2009

**This schedule supersedes and replaces all previously
approved schedules of Rates, Charges and Loss Factors**

EB-2009-0230

**NON STANDARD A YEAR ROUND RESIDENTIAL SERVICE
CLASSIFICATION – R2**

This classification refers to a residential service that is the principal residence of the customer. This classification may include additional buildings served through the same meter, provided they are not rental income units. To be classed as year round residential, all of the following criteria must be met:

- Occupants must state that this is their principal residence for purposes of the Income Tax Act;
- The occupant must live in this residence for at least 8 months of the year;
- The address of this residence must appear on the occupant's electric bill, driver's licence, credit card invoice, property tax bill, etc.;
- Occupants who are eligible to vote in Provincial or Federal elections must be enumerated for this purpose at the address of this residence.

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

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order 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 Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, or as specified herein.

It should be noted that this schedule does not list any charges or assessments that are required by law to be charged by a distributor and that are not subject to Board approval, such as the Debt Retirement Charge, charges for Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Conservation and Renewable Energy Program, the Provincial Benefit and any applicable taxes.

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Service Charge	\$	17.24
Distribution Volumetric Rate - First 1,000 kWh	\$/kWh	0.0812
Distribution Volumetric Rate - Next 1,500 kWh	\$/kWh	0.1082
Distribution Volumetric Rate - All Additional kWh	\$/kWh	0.1631

Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.
TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES
Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2010
except for the microFIT Generator Class effective date of September 21, 2009

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**NON STANDARD A SEASONAL RESIDENTIAL SERVICE
CLASSIFICATION – R4**

This classification is comprised of any residential service not meeting the year-round residential criteria. As such, the seasonal residential class includes cottages, chalets, and camps. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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It should be noted that this schedule does not list any charges or assessments that are required by law to be charged by a distributor and that are not subject to Board approval, such as the Debt Retirement Charge, charges for Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Conservation and Renewable Energy Program, the Provincial Benefit and any applicable taxes.

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Service Charge	\$	29.13
Distribution Volumetric Rate - First 1,000 kWh	\$/kWh	0.0812
Distribution Volumetric Rate - Next 1,500 kWh	\$/kWh	0.1082
Distribution Volumetric Rate - All Additional kWh	\$/kWh	0.1631

Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.
TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES
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**NON STANDARD A GENERAL SERVICE SINGLE PHASE SERVICE
CLASSIFICATION – G1**

This classification is applicable to any service that does not fit the description of the year-round residential or seasonal residential. Generally, it is comprised of commercial, administrative, recreational, and auxiliary services. It includes combination of services where a variety of uses are made of the service by the owner of one property, and all multiple services except residential. This classification is applicable to General Service Single Phase customers. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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It should be noted that this schedule does not list any charges or assessments that are required by law to be charged by a distributor and that are not subject to Board approval, such as the Debt Retirement Charge, charges for Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Conservation and Renewable Energy Program, the Provincial Benefit and any applicable taxes.

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Service Charge	\$	29.29
Distribution Volumetric Rate - First 6,000 kWh	\$/kWh	0.0909
Distribution Volumetric Rate - Next 7,000 kWh	\$/kWh	0.1206
Distribution Volumetric Rate - All Additional kWh	\$/kWh	0.1631

Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.
TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES
Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2010
except for the microFIT Generator Class effective date of September 21, 2009

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**NON STANDARD A GENERAL SERVICE THREE PHASE SERVICE
CLASSIFICATION – G3**

This classification is applicable to any service that does not fit the description of the year-round residential or seasonal residential. Generally, it is comprised of commercial, administrative, recreational, and auxiliary services. It includes combination of services where a variety of uses are made of the service by the owner of one property, and all multiple services except residential. This classification is applicable to General Service Three Phase customers. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order 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 Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, or as specified herein.

It should be noted that this schedule does not list any charges or assessments that are required by law to be charged by a distributor and that are not subject to Board approval, such as the Debt Retirement Charge, charges for Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Conservation and Renewable Energy Program, the Provincial Benefit and any applicable taxes.

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Service Charge	\$	36.68
Distribution Volumetric Rate - First 25,000 kWh	\$/kWh	0.0909
Distribution Volumetric Rate - Next 15,000 kWh	\$/kWh	0.1206
Distribution Volumetric Rate - All Additional kWh	\$/kWh	0.1631

Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.
TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES
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UNMETERED SCATTERED LOAD SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies where connections can be provided without metering. These loads are generally small in size and consistent in magnitude of load. Remotes reserves the right to review all cases and may request a meter be installed at its sole discretion. All unmetered connections fall under the General Service or Lights rate classifications. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

STREET LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

The energy consumption for street lights is estimated based on Remote's profile for street lighting load, which provides the amount of time each month that the street lights are operating. Streetlight charges include:

- An energy charge based on installed load, at a rate approved annually (Dollars per kWh x # of fixtures x billing);
- A pole rental charge approved annually, when the light is attached to a Remotes pole.

Remotes must approve the location of new lighting installations on its poles and the streetlight owner must enter into an agreement to use such poles. Remotes will make the electrical service connection of all streetlights to the distribution system. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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It should be noted that this schedule does not list any charges or assessments that are required by law to be charged by a distributor and that are not subject to Board approval, such as the Debt Retirement Charge, charges for Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Conservation and Renewable Energy Program, the Provincial Benefit and any applicable taxes.

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Distribution Volumetric Rate

\$/kWh 0.0901

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STANDARD A RESIDENTIAL ROAD/RAIL ACCESS SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

Standard A rates are applicable to all accounts paid directly or indirectly out of Federal and/or Provincial government revenue. Exceptions to these are:

- Crown Corporations
- Community Centres/Halls
- Ice Rinks/Arenas
- Radio, Televisions and Cable
- Libraries

Any Standard A account may be reclassified as General Service, Residential Year-Round or Residential-Seasonal at any time. To reclassify a Standard A account, a letter from the accountable Federal and/or Provincial Government agency must be provided to Remotes stating that the account does not receive any direct and/or indirect funding of a continuous nature. An alternative to this letter would be a declaration from a Director of the organization stating that the organization receives no funding. This declaration must be accompanied by an audited statement, which includes the funding source. An example of direct funding is an MTO account paid directly by MTO. An example of indirect funding is a First Nation School account paid by a First Nation through funding by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

This classification is applicable to residential customers in communities that are accessible by a year-round road or by rail.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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It should be noted that this schedule does not list any charges or assessments that are required by law to be charged by a distributor and that are not subject to Board approval, such as the Debt Retirement Charge, charges for Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Conservation and Renewable Energy Program, the Provincial Benefit and any applicable taxes.

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Distribution Volumetric Rate - First 250 kWh	\$/kWh	0.5340
Distribution Volumetric Rate - All additional kWh	\$/kWh	0.6101

Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.
TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES
Effective and Implementation Date May 1, 2010
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STANDARD A RESIDENTIAL AIR ACCESS SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

Standard A rates are applicable to all accounts paid directly or indirectly out of Federal and/or Provincial government revenue. Exceptions to these are:

- Crown Corporations
- Community Centres/Halls
- Ice Rinks/Arenas
- Radio, Televisions and Cable
- Libraries

Any Standard A account may be reclassified as General Service, Residential Year-Round or Residential-Seasonal at any time. To reclassify a Standard A account, a letter from the accountable Federal and/or Provincial Government agency must be provided to Remotes stating that the account does not receive any direct and/or indirect funding of a continuous nature. An alternative to this letter would be a declaration from a Director of the organization stating that the organization receives no funding. This declaration must be accompanied by an audited statement, which includes the funding source. An example of direct funding is an MTO account paid directly by MTO. An example of indirect funding is a First Nation School account paid by a First Nation through funding by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

This classification is applicable to residential customers in communities that are not accessible by a year-round road or by rail.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order 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 Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, or as specified herein.

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Distribution Volumetric Rate - First 250 kWh	\$/kWh	0.8060
Distribution Volumetric Rate - All additional kWh	\$/kWh	0.8821

Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.
TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES
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STANDARD A GENERAL SERVICE ROAD/RAIL ACCESS SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

Standard A rates are applicable to all accounts paid directly or indirectly out of Federal and/or Provincial government revenue. Exceptions to these are:

- Crown Corporations
- Community Centres/Halls
- Ice Rinks/Arenas
- Radio, Televisions and Cable
- Libraries

Any Standard A account may be reclassified as General Service, Residential Year-Round or Residential-Seasonal at any time. To reclassify a Standard A account, a letter from the accountable Federal and/or Provincial Government agency must be provided to Remotes stating that the account does not receive any direct and/or indirect funding of a continuous nature. An alternative to this letter would be a declaration from a Director of the organization stating that the organization receives no funding. This declaration must be accompanied by an audited statement, which includes the funding source. An example of direct funding is an MTO account paid directly by MTO. An example of indirect funding is a First Nation School account paid by a First Nation through funding by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

This classification is applicable to all non-residential Standard A customers in communities that are accessible by a year-round road or by rail.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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It should be noted that this schedule does not list any charges or assessments that are required by law to be charged by a distributor and that are not subject to Board approval, such as the Debt Retirement Charge, charges for Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Conservation and Renewable Energy Program, the Provincial Benefit and any applicable taxes.

MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.6101
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Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.
TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES
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**STANDARD A GENERAL SERVICE AIR ACCESS SERVICE
CLASSIFICATION**

Standard A rates are applicable to all accounts paid directly or indirectly out of Federal and/or Provincial government revenue. Exceptions to these are:

- Crown Corporations
- Community Centres/Halls
- Ice Rinks/Arenas
- Radio, Televisions and Cable
- Libraries

Any Standard A account may be reclassified as General Service, Residential Year-Round or Residential-Seasonal at any time. To reclassify a Standard A account, a letter from the accountable Federal and/or Provincial Government agency must be provided to Remotes stating that the account does not receive any direct and/or indirect funding of a continuous nature. An alternative to this letter would be a declaration from a Director of the organization stating that the organization receives no funding. This declaration must be accompanied by an audited statement, which includes the funding source. An example of direct funding is an MTO account paid directly by MTO. An example of indirect funding is a First Nation School account paid by a First Nation through funding by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

This classification is applicable to all non-residential Standard A customers in communities that are not accessible by a year-round road or by rail.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES

Distribution Volumetric Rate	\$/kWh	0.8821
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microFIT GENERATOR SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

This classification applies to an electricity generation facility contracted under the Ontario Power Authority's microFIT program and connected to the distributor's distribution system. Further servicing details are available in the distributor's Conditions of Service.

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

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MONTHLY RATES AND CHARGES – Delivery Component – effective September 21, 2009

Service Charge	\$	5.25
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Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.
TARIFF OF RATES AND CHARGES
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SPECIFIC SERVICE CHARGES

APPLICATION

The application of these rates and charges shall be in accordance with the Licence of the Distributor and any Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, which may be applicable to the administration of this schedule.

No 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 Code or Order of the Board, and amendments thereto as approved by the Board, or as specified herein.

It should be noted that this schedule does not list any charges or assessments that are required by law to be charged by a distributor and that are not subject to Board approval, such as the Debt Retirement Charge, charges for Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Conservation and Renewable Energy Program, the Provincial Benefit and any applicable taxes.

Customer Administration		
Arrears Certificate	\$	15.00
Account set up charge/change of occupancy charge (plus credit agency costs if applicable)	\$	30.00
Returned Cheque (plus bank charges)	\$	15.00
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/Disconnection/Load Limiter/Reconnection – if in Community	\$	65.00