

Monitoring Report Smart Meter Deployment and TOU Pricing – August 2011

November 8, 2011

This report summarizes the activities by licensed distribution companies with respect to the implementation of smart meters and time-of-use (TOU) pricing for Regulated Price Plan (RPP) consumers during the period August 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011.

- Most distributors remain on track to achieve each of their mandatory TOU dates.
- As of August 31, 2011 there were 4,704,462 installed smart meters, 3,749,488 meters enrolled with the MDM/R (90,726 added in August) and 3,126,957 customers on TOU billing (170,174 added in August).
- In its monthly report, the SME states that it is confident “the MDM/R will continue to offer a stable system and effectively support LDCs’ time-of-use implementation plans and ramp up of meters to full provincial volumes.”

Background

On August 4, 2010 the Board issued a determination that set mandatory dates by which distributors must complete the implementation of time-of-use (TOU) billing. The Board’s determination requires that a distributor commence TOU billing of consumers with the first billing cycle following the mandatory date, this recognizes that distributors may implement TOU billing as a practical matter with the first bill to a consumer after the mandatory date. There are three important activities that a distributor must undertake to implement TOU pricing. These three activities are meter installation, smart meter enrolment with the MDM/R (Meter Data Management Repository), and activation of TOU pricing no later than the first billing cycle following a distributor’s mandatory TOU date.

In order to monitor progress towards meeting the requirements of the determination, the Board is requiring distributors to submit monthly progress reports. Further, the Board is also requiring the Smart Meter Entity (SME) to submit monthly reports regarding its status and readiness in supporting the implementation of TOU billing.

The remainder of this report provides a summary of the activities undertaken by licensed distribution companies and the SME reflecting the mandatory TOU implementation requirements as of August 31, 2011.

Distributor Summary

- As of August 31, 2011 there were 4,704,462 installed smart meters, 3,749,488 meters enrolled with the MDM/R, and 3,126,957 customers on TOU billing
- As of August 31, 2011, 28 distributors were billing some or all of their customers TOU prices.
 - Chatham-Kent Hydro, Halton Hills Hydro, Milton Hydro Distribution, Midland Power, Middlesex Power Distribution, Lakeland Power Distribution, and Lakefront Utilities have completed TOU roll-out for all of their eligible RPP customers.
 - Hydro One Networks, Orillia Power Distribution Corporation and Veridian Connections Inc. have completed TOU implementation for all of their RPP-eligible customers except for certain customers who have been temporarily exempted from TOU billing by the Board due to technical issues.
 - Chapleau Public Utilities Corporation, E.L.K. Energy Inc., Guelph Hydro Electric Systems, Horizon Utilities, Hydro One Brampton, Hydro Ottawa, Innisfil Hydro Distribution Systems, Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro, Kingston Hydro Corporation, Lakefront Utilities, Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution, Norfolk Power Distribution, Northern Ontario Wires Inc., Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc., Oshawa PUC Networks, PowerStream, Toronto Hydro Electric Systems, Waterloo North Hydro, and Woodstock Hydro have reported that they are transitioning their RPP eligible customers over to TOU pricing by billing cycle in accordance with, or in advance of, their mandatory TOU dates.
 - Seven distributors (representing 32,029 customers) have not implemented TOU in accordance with their mandatory dates.
 - Renfrew Hydro, and Tillsonburg Hydro, submitted applications for extensions which are still under review by the Board. These and the other extension applications before the Board are discussed further below.
 - Atikokan Hydro, Kenora Hydro, Fort Frances Power, and Sioux Lookout Hydro have not yet commenced TOU billing. These distributors are working as a group with Thunder Bay Hydro (whose TOU date is September 2011) and have experienced a delay due to problems with their CIS system. Staff followed up and learned that this group of distributors is working with their vendors to deploy a solution that will allow them to commence TOU billing in September

- Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro had an August 2011 TOU date, but has not yet commenced TOU billing. Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro has informed the Board that its AMI vendor has yet to achieve contracted read rate levels that would allow them to produce accurate and reliable TOU bills. Staff is monitoring their progress closely.
- A total of 31 distributors (representing 935,576 customers) have applied to the Board to extend their mandatory date. Most of the extension requests would only result in a short delay to ensure a smooth transition for their customers. To date, decisions have been issued for 25 of these applications. A list of these distributors is below.
- A total of 10 distributors, all of which have mandatory TOU dates of June 2011, have applied to the Board for partial exemptions for limited numbers of their RPP eligible customers to allow more time to bring these customers onto TOU. The Board has issued a decision for 9 of these requests so far. Seven requests were granted by the Board based on technical and/or operational reasons. Two applications cited concerns about bill impacts on General Service customers as a result of TOU these were denied by the Board. A list of these distributors is below.

Smart Meter Entity (SME) Summary

In its monthly report, the SME states that it “remains confident that with ongoing tuning, planned infrastructure improvements, and collaborative support of LDCs, that the MDM/R will continue to offer a stable system and effectively support LDCs time-of-use implementation plans and ramp up of meters to full provincial volumes.”

- The “combined Release 7.2 and Measurement Canada 2011 Solution was made available for LDC testing on July 12.” And “the IESO will continue to test new Release 7.2 functions and fixes to any defects that emerge in testing this latest release.” It is expected that Release 7.2 will be deployed mid-January 2012.
- Board staff is closely monitoring progress through regular communication with the SME.

Distributor Progress in Implementation

	Previous Total	Added This Period	Current Total	Percent of RPP Eligible Consumers as of August 31, 2011
Smart Meters Installed	4,690,985	13,477	4,704,462	99%
Smart Meters Enrolled with MDM/R	3,658,762	90,717	3,749,488	79%
Customers on TOU Billing	2,956,783	170,174	3,126,957	66%

Distributor Progress in MDM/R Enrolment

	Previous Total	Added this Period	Current Total
LDCs in Enrolment Testing	9	-5	4
LDCs in Production (completed enrolment testing)	51	6	57

Distributors with Customers on TOU Billing

Distributor	RPP-eligible customers	Customers on TOU Billing	% of Customers on TOU Billing
Chapleau	1,274	1,114	87.4%
Chatham-Kent Power	31,772	31,772	100.0%
Guelph Hydro	48,044	44,953	93.6%
Halton Hills Hydro	20,643	20,643	100.0%
Horizon Utilities	232,533	227,487	97.8%
Hydro One Brampton	134,773	129,788	96.3%
Hydro One Networks	1,195,154	1,055,439	88.3%
Hydro Ottawa	299,856	193,028	64.4%
Innisfil Hydro	14,699	14,284	97.2%
Kingston Electricity Distribution Ltd	26,350	6,406	24.3%
Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro	86,498	78,954	91.3%
Lakeland Power	9,503	9,503	100.0%
Lakefront Utilities	9,513	9,513	100.0%
Middlesex Power	7,894	7,894	100.0%
Midland Power	6,828	6,828	100.0%
Milton Hydro	27,971	27,971	100.0%
Newmarket-Tay Hydro	32,342	26,280	81.3%
Norfolk Power	18,800	17,341	92.2%
Northern Ontario Wires	6,057	5,776	95.4%
Oakville Hydro	62,317	54,987	88.2%
Orillia Power	12,826	11,929	93.0%
Oshawa PUC	52,453	51,883	98.9%
Peterborough Distribution Inc.	34,931	184	0.5%
Powerstream Inc.	312,000	286,012	91.7%
Toronto Hydro	699,617	642,264	91.8%
Veridian Connections	112,107	104,747	93.4%
Waterloo North Hydro	51,722	46,271	89.5%
Woodstock Hydro	14,880	13,706	92.1%
Total	3,563,357	3,126,957	-

Pending Applications for Full Extensions

Distributor	Mandatory TOU Date	Requested TOU Date	Number of RPP Eligible Customers Affected
Bluewater Power	Oct-11	Jan-12	35,259
Cooperative Hydro Embrun*	Oct-11	Jan-12	1,780
Hydro 2000*	Oct-11	Jan-12	1,187
Ottawa River Power*	Oct-11	Jan-12	10,301
Renfrew Hydro*	Jun-11	Oct-11	3,748
West Coast Huron	Aug-11	Jan-12	3,822

Pending Applications for Partial Extensions

Haldimand County Hydro Inc.	Sep-11	Jan-12	456
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* Cooperative Hydro Embrun, Hydro 2000, Ottawa River Power and Renfrew Hydro are working together to implementing TOU billing and have filed a joint application for an extension. This is Cooperative Hydro Embrun's second extension application. As listed in the table below, Cooperative Hydro Embrun had previously applied for, and was granted, an extension from their original date of June 2011 to October 2011 (to align with Ottawa River Power's original TOU date).

Approved Applications for Extensions (full and partial)¹

Distributor	Original Mandatory TOU Date	New Mandatory TOU Date	Number of RPP Eligible Customers Affected
Algoma Power Inc.*	Jun-11	Jul-12	11,551
Brantford Power	Jul-11	Nov-11	37,286
Burlington Hydro	Jul-11	Jan-12	63,424
Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro	Oct-11	Feb-12	50,295
Canadian Niagara Power (Fort Erie)*	Dec-11	Jan-12	15,517
COLLUS Power	Jul-11	Dec-11	15,465
Cooperative Hydro Embrun	Jun-11	Oct-11	1,780
Eastern Ontario Power*	Feb-12	Feb-12	3,494
EnWin	Jun-11	Dec-12	83,727
Enersource	Jun-11	May-12	188,787
Essex Powerlines	Jun-11	Dec-11	27,850
Festival Hydro	Sep-11	May-12	19,335
Greater Sudbury Hydro	Jun-11	Dec-11	46,040
Grimsby Power*	Sep-11	Dec-11	10,052
Guelph Hydro (partial)	Jun-11	May-12	1,750
Hydro One Networks (partial)	Jun-11	Est. late 2012	150,000
Kingston Electricity Distribution	Jun-11	Oct-11	26,557
Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro (partial)	Jun-11	Jan-12	6,600
London Hydro	Jun-11	May-12	140,499
Newmarket-Tay Hydro (partial)	Jun-11	Nov-11	2,584
Oakville Hydro (partial)	Jul-11	Mar-12	4,586
Orangeville Hydro	Jun-11	Sep-11	11,031
Orillia Power (partial)	Jun-11	Nov-11	800
Port Colborne Hydro*	Dec-11	Jan-12	9,060
Tillsonburg Hydro	Jun-11	Jan-12	6,643
Thunder Bay Hydro	Jun-11	Aug-11	49,014
Veridian (partial)	Jun-11	Dec-11	7,821
Wasaga Distribution	Jun-11	Nov-11	12,020
Waterloo North Hydro	Jun-11	Jan-12	2,957
Westario Power*	Sep-11	Dec-11	21,747

¹ PowerStream and Midland's requests for partial extension for their GS>50kW customers were both denied. As such, Midland implemented TOU for all its RPP-eligible customers in June, whereas PowerStream's implementation is still underway.

* It should be noted that Algoma Power Inc., Canadian Niagara Power: Fort Erie, Eastern Ontario Power, and Port Colborne are all owned by FortisOntario. These distributors are working in association with Grimsby and Westario Power and jointly filed an application for extension.

Distributor	Original Mandatory TOU Date	New Mandatory TOU Date	Number of RPP Eligible Customers Affected
Welland Hydro	Sep-11	Jan-12	21,776
Wellington North Power	Jun-11	Jan-12	3,572