Ontario Energy Board

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RP-2003-0113

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO AMEND

THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM CODE

BOARD FILE NO.: RP-2003-0113

To: All Interested Persons

The Ontario Energy Board ("OEB" or the "Board") is giving notice under section 70.2 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, (the "Act") of its proposal to amend the Distribution System Code (the "Code").

These Code amendments arise out of a Directive (the "Directive") issued pursuant to Section 27.1 of the Act, and received by the Board from the Minister of Energy on June 18, 2003. The Directive requires the Board to review and enhance licence conditions to address the need for standardization, consistency and clarity with regards to procedures and requirements for facilitating connection of new generation facilities to local distribution companies ("LDCs").

The Code, the Directive, a Background Document, the Report and Recommendations based on Stakeholders' Consultations, this Notice, a more detailed version of this Notice, and the proposed amendments to the Code, together with a Letter of Transmittal, are available on the OEB web site at www.oeb.gov.on.ca.

The Code sets the minimum conditions that an electricity distributor must meet in carrying out its obligations to distribute electricity under its licence and the *Electricity Act*, 1998. All licensed electricity distributors in the province must comply with the provisions of the Code as a condition of licence.

The purpose of the amendments to the Code is to clarify, streamline and simplify the processes for connecting new generation to LDCs. The Code amendments outline a standardized process for connection of new generation to LDCs, including setting time lines, filing and technical requirements and obligations on distributors in reviewing applications, and also establish a standard form of contract for very small generation projects.

The Board anticipates that parties will benefit by the specification and standardization of the processes, technical requirements, and contracts and agreements involved in connecting new generation to LDCs.

The Board also anticipates the amendments to the Code will reduce the complexity of the connection process. This is expected to encourage connection of new generation to LDCs.

It is expected that LDCs will incur some expense in providing to generators an initial consultation at no charge to the generator, and in the preparation of a generic information package and additional staff time to take actions within the specified time frames.

The Board will not be granting cost awards in this matter.

Written comments with respect to the proposed amendments to the Code are invited. Any person who wishes to make a written comment with respect to the amendments to the Code **must** file nine (9) paper copies of the submission, and an electronic copy in Adobe Acrobat (PDF), or WordPerfect or Word, if possible, with the Assistant Secretary by **4:30 p.m.** on **December 5, 2003**. The Board requests that the comments specifically reference the relevant sections of the Code. Your comments **must** quote file number **RP-2003-0113** and include your name, address, e-mail address and fax number. The written comments will be available for public inspection at the office of the Board during normal business hours and on the OEB web site at www.oeb.gov.on.ca.

If you have any questions regarding this file, please contact toll free 1-888-632-6273.

Dated at Toronto, November 21, 2003

Mark C. Garner Board Secretary