

**Ministry of Energy,
Northern Development
and Mines**

**Ministère de l'Énergie,
du Développement du Nord
et des Mines**



Office of the Minister

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April 3, 2020

Mr. Bob Dodds
Vice-Chair
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, 27th floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Mr. Dodds:

As Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM), I am writing to express the government's interest in the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) continued support of our efforts to lessen the financial burden for electricity customers as we approach the May 1, 2020 date on which the OEB assesses the need for changes to Regulated Price Plan (RPP) electricity rates.

Already, as a result of current social distancing policies that have been put into place in response to the COVID-19 situation, including school closures and work-from-home policies, ENDM expects higher electricity consumption for residential customers.

As announced on March 24, 2020, the government is requiring the "off-peak" time-of-use electricity price under the OEB's RPP to be applied to all hours of the day for a 45-day period. Temporarily moving to off-peak pricing will help Ontarians better manage their energy costs during this unprecedented time.

Under the existing framework underpinning the RPP, the OEB reviews RPP prices every May 1 and November 1, and assesses whether they need to be changed in order to ensure that supply costs are recovered as required by legislation. The 45-day price relief period will extend beyond May 1. In addition, and as the OEB is already aware, the uncertainty regarding the duration of the COVID-19 situation creates uncertainty regarding the level of electricity demand and supply costs in the upcoming months.

Our government is appreciative of the OEB's efforts to date in these unprecedented times, and of our shared desire to help minimize the financial burden and support people when they are doing the right thing and staying home.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the protection of Ontario electricity consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Rickford'.

The Honourable Greg Rickford
Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines

c : Richard Dicerni, Special Advisor, OEB
Mary Anne Aldred, Chief Operating Officer & General Counsel, OEB