



EB-2014-0360

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 Networks Inc. to amend its Electricity Distribution
Licence ED-2003-0043 to extend the exemption to its
mandated time-of-use pricing date for certain hard to
reach customers.

By delegation, before: Peter Fraser

INTERIM DECISION AND ORDER
December 18, 2014

Hydro One Networks Inc. ("Hydro One") filed an application on December 1, 2014 with the Ontario Energy Board under section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the "Act") to amend its licence to extend the exemption in relation to its mandated date for implementation of time-of-use ("TOU") pricing rates for certain hard to reach Regulated Price Plan customers.

On December 21, 2012 in the proceeding EB-2012-0384, the Board granted Hydro One a two year extension to its exemption from the requirement to apply TOU pricing for approximately 122,000 of its identified hard to reach customers effective January 1, 2013. Hydro One states these customers are located in very rural and sparsely populated areas with no existing commercial cellular network or a low level of communication reliability.

Hydro One states that 12,000 of the identified hard to reach customers have been successfully migrated to TOU pricing within the exemption period. Hydro One has requested that the exemption be extended from January 1, 2015 until December 31, 2019 for the remaining hard to reach customers as well as certain customers currently on TOU pricing that demonstrate consistently unreliable communication and certain future customers who are expected to be connected to Hydro One's service area during

the requested exemption period.

Hydro One has also requested an interim extension until such time as the Board renders a final decision on its application in advance of the December 31, 2014 expiry date of the previous exemption.

Considering the time required to process the application in accordance with the Board's established practice and procedures, and considering the applicant's need for the exemption to remain in compliance with the identified hard to reach customers, it has been found to be in the public interest to issue an interim order under sections 21(4)(b) and 21(7) of the Act granting the requested interim extension to the exemption to Hydro One's mandated TOU pricing date for the remaining identified hard to reach customers, pending the final disposition of the matter. The applicant is reminded that this interim decision does not constitute a final decision on the application.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

Hydro One Networks Inc.'s distribution licence ED-2003-0043, specifically Schedule 3 List of Code Exemptions, is amended to extend the exemption from the requirement to apply time-of-use pricing by a mandatory date under the Standard Supply Service Code for Electricity Distributors in respect of approximately 110,000 Regulated Price Plan customers that, as of December 1, 2014, are outside the smart meter telecommunications infrastructure reach of Hydro One Networks Inc. The exemption will expire June 30, 2015 or until the final determination of the current application, whichever is earlier.

DATED at Toronto, December 18, 2014

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Peter Fraser
Vice President, Industry Operations & Performance