Cabinet agreed that:

1. Energy implement electricity rate mitigation actions that support a 25% electricity bill reduction (including the 8% reduction announced in 2016) for an average household in 2017.

2. ENERGY implement electricity rate mitigation for all electricity consumers eligible to be billed under the Ontario Energy Board's Regulated Price Plan by:
   A. Refinancing Global Adjustment assets in order to partially defer ratepayer Global Adjustment costs, beginning in July 2017.

      i. Explore expanding the powers of the OPG or using other mechanisms to manage the deferred ratepayer Global Adjustment costs and report back to Cabinet and TB/MBC with a recommended approach by March 2017.
      ii. If a non-fiscal mechanism cannot be established, ENERGY proceed to TB to seek necessary funding.

   B. Accelerating the transition to harmonized distribution rates by summer 2017 for consumer groups with relatively high distribution costs:
      i. residential R1 and R2 consumers under the Rural or Remote Rate Protection Program (RRRP);
      ii. select LDCs (Northern Ontario Wires, Parry Sound, Chapleau, Sioux Lookout, InnPower, Atikokan and Algoma);

3. ENERGY implement additional rate mitigation initiatives targeted at specific populations, including:

   A. Expanding the Ontario Electricity Support Program benefits by 50% and moving the program from a ratepayer funded program to a government funded program in 20xx;

   B. Establishing a new government funded LDC Affordability Fund in 2016/17 to provide relief to customers who do not qualify for existing low income programs and cannot upgrade their homes without financial assistance;

   C. Establishing a new province-wide government funded program in 20xx that would eliminate the delivery charge for First Nations customers on reserve;

4. ENERGY, through the Long Term Energy Plan, take steps to further reduce electricity rates across the system by:

   A. Ontario Energy Board (OEB) – Identify opportunities for OEB red-tape reduction and future LDC efficiencies and rates.

Commented [MC1]: For energy – please confirm timing

Commented [MC2]: For energy – is there better framing to allow for some flex in the case of consolidation?

Commented [MC3]: Will need to be refined based on final proposal from energy, may include a proposal for Class B

B. Directing Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) – Modernize Ontario's electricity market through electricity Market Renewal initiatives.

Commented [MC4]: For ENERGY - If this is happening through the LTEP, does it need to be minuted here?

5. ENERGY seek necessary Treasury Board /Management Board of Cabinet approvals of these initiatives prior to any announcements in winter 2017.

Commented [MC5]: For TBS – what level of TB approval will be needed before an announcement? TB and Cab report back on the mechanism to defer the GA cost is minuted in #2 above

6. ENERGY report to LRC and Cabinet in winter 2017 with legislative amendments to implement the above initiatives, as necessary.

7. ENERGY to report back to LRC and Cabinet for approval of any supporting regulations and complementary regulatory amendments in winter 2017.

8. ENERGY and MOF work with the Premier's Office and the Cabinet Office on the development and implementation of an integrated communications strategy.