

Dear [LDC CEO]:

I want to provide an update on the price mitigation initiatives announced a few months ago by the Province and follow-up on my letter to you from September 23, 2016. I am pleased to tell you that that Bill 13, *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016* which will provide an 8% rebate to five million residential, small business and farms across Ontario on their electricity bills received Royal Assent on November 2, 2016. We have also moved forward in drafting regulations to ensure that the 8% rebate, the expansion of the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) and the expansion of the Rural or Remote Protection Program (RRRP) are implemented by January 1, 2017.

I want to thank you for the feedback you have provided the Ministry on this important initiative and your commitment in meeting the January 1, 2017 implementation timeline. I understand you will have to work quickly in implementing the various aspects of this program and below are some important updates to ensure you can move quickly in implementing this program.

Per our regulations, there are certain messaging requirements for the electricity bill as well as accompanying messaging requirements:

8% Rebate – on bill requirements

- The rebate credit must be labeled “**8% Provincial Rebate**” on the bill
- The Bill must set out messages to consumers with the following statement “**The Ontario government is providing a rebate on your electricity costs equal to the provincial portion of HST.**”
- The credit line shall not appear on a bill issuer’s bill until such time as the credit is flowing to consumers and no later than on a bill issued on or after July 1, 2017.
- The regulation notes that “*Bill issuers (including USMPs) will be required to show the 8% rebate as a separate line item on the face of the invoice, below the itemized charges for electricity, delivery, regulatory charge, debt retirement charge and HST and below any line related to financial assistance under the Ontario Electricity Support Program, but above the net amount of the invoice after deducting the credit.*”

Envelope requirements:

- Bill issuers (including USMPs) who provide an invoice in paper form must set out the following statement on the face of the envelope: “**Ontario is helping reduce electricity costs for families, businesses and farms**” as well as include in a reasonably prominent location and reasonably prominent font, the words “**8% Provincial Rebate**”
- The proposed regulation will not prescribe a specific design; however, the Ministry will make available some design options to help bill issuers when designing their envelopes

- Bill issuers will be provided 6 month transitional period to begin using the envelopes. However, by no later than July 2017 – all paper bills must be issued in envelopes in a form as prescribed by the regulation.

Bill Inserts:

- The following text will be required to be issued on a bill insert that includes the Ontario government trillium logo along with the words “**8% provincial rebate**” appearing in a prominent location on the front of the insert

On January 1, 2017, your electricity costs went down 8%.

Ontario’s government is reducing electricity costs by rebating an amount equal to the provincial portion of the HST on your monthly hydro bill. That’s an 8% rebate for Ontario families, and on average will mean \$130 more in your pocket each year.

This is part of Ontario’s plan to help people with the costs of everyday living by reducing electricity costs. Across Ontario, about five million residential consumers, farms and small businesses will benefit from this rebate.

[Electricity vendor or unit sub-meter provider name] will implement these savings onto your bill by July 1, 2017. Applicable savings will be retroactive to January 1, 2017.

- A bill issuer will be required to issue a bill insert with the first two bills that includes the credit on a consumer’s bill.
- Bill issuers will be permitted to use equivalent wording in French on bills, on envelope, for bill insert; however, a specific French translation will not be provided.

If you have any questions please contact Michael Reid (Michael.Reid@ontario.ca)
Assistant Deputy Minister of the Strategic Network and Agency Policy Division.

Again, I want to thank you for all your effort and commitment in ensuring that we have these initiatives in place for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Glenn Thibeault
Minister of Energy