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REG2016.0421.e
10-EC

ONTARIO REGULATION

made under the

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ACT, 1998

Amending O. Reg. 442/01

(RURAL OR REMOTE ELECTRICITY RATE PROTECTION)

1. (1) Subsection 1 (1) of Ontario Regulation 442/01 is amended by adding the following definition:

“base distribution rate” consists of the monthly fixed distribution charge and the distribution volumetric rate, excluding any fixed or variable rate riders or adders;

(2) The definition of “rural area” in subsection 1 (1) of the Regulation is amended by striking out “at the time subsection 26 (1) of the *Electricity Act, 1998* comes into force, are receiving electricity” and substituting “at the time subsection 26 (1) of the *Electricity Act, 1998* came into force, were receiving electricity”.

2. (1) Subsection 4 (1) of the Regulation is revoked and the following substituted:

Amount of rate protection

(1) The total amount of rate protection available for eligible consumers in 2017 and for each year thereafter shall not exceed the sum of,

- (a) \$243.4 million, plus any annual adjustments calculated under subsection (1.1) for the year and for any previous years; and
- (b) the amounts calculated under subsections (2) and (3.1) based on the amount of rate protection provided by the distributor to eligible consumers for the previous year.

(1.1) For 2018 and for each year thereafter, the Board shall calculate the total amount referred to in clause (1) (a) for the year by,

- (a) calculating the simple arithmetic average of the percentage changes to the base distribution rates for residential consumers, and for non-residential consumers with an average monthly maximum demand of less than 50 kW, that were approved by the Board for all distributors for the previous year; and
- (b) increasing or decreasing the total amount calculated for the previous year by that percentage.

(2) Subsection 4 (4) of the Regulation is amended by striking out “subsection (1) or (1.1)” in the portion before paragraph 1 and substituting “subsection (1)”.

3. Subsections 5 (12) and (13) of the Regulation are amended by striking out “subsection 4 (1.1)” wherever it appears and substituting in each case “subsection 4 (1)”.

4. (1) The Regulation is amended by adding the following section:

Invoice statement

6. (1) Consumers who are described by paragraph 2 of section 2 are prescribed as a class for the purposes of section 79.17 of the Act.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), an invoice that a distributor issues to a consumer referred to in subsection (1) shall include the statement “Your delivery charge is reduced through Rural or Remote Rate Protection by”, followed by the amount of monthly rate protection approved by the Board for the year, followed by “per month”.

(3) Where the invoice is presented in French, the requirement in subsection (2) may be met by using the equivalent wording in French.

(4) Subject to subsection (5), if a distributor is required to send a bill insert referred to in paragraph 6 of subsection 2 (1) of Ontario Regulation **/16 (Invoicing Requirements) along with the invoice of a consumer referred to in subsection (1) of this section, the distributor shall add the following statement to the insert:

You will also receive additional relief that will decrease total electricity bills by an average of \$540 a year or \$45 a month, including your 8% rebate. This decrease will be reflected in the delivery charge, as a result of the enhanced Rural or Remote Rate Protection (RRRP).

****Note: Citation to the regulation filed under file number Reg2016.0465 will be inserted on filing of this regulation.**

(5) Where the bill insert is presented in French, the requirement in subsection (4) shall be met by using the equivalent wording in French.

(2) Subsections 6 (4) and (5) of the Regulation, as enacted by subsection (1), are revoked.

Commencement

5. (1) Subject to subsection (2), this Regulation comes into force on January 1, 2017.

(2) Subsection 4 (2) comes into force on July 1, 2018.