Ontario

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE: MINISTRY APPROVAL FORM

LRC Tracking #s: REG-11246/47/48/49/50/51
EVista Tracking #s: SUB-REG-2016-01808/09/10/11/12/13

Ministry of Energy

Supporting Rate Mitigation

Regulations

Profile at a Glance

Priority: Consequential to Commitment
Public Interest: High
Key Stakeholder Interest: Moderate/High
New Costs/Burdens: Yes for Stakeholders; Yes for Government; Yes for electricity ratepayers
New Savings/Opportunities: No for Stakeholders; No for Government; Yes for electricity ratepayers

---

Proposed Items for Review

1. Creating a new General Regulation under the *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016*.
2. Amending *O. Reg. 442/01(Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection)* made under the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.
3. Amending *O. Reg. 429/04 (Adjustments Under Section 25.33 of the Act)* made under the *Electricity Act, 1998.*
4. Amending *O. Reg 495/10 (General)* made under the *Ontario Clean Energy Benefit Act, 2010.*
5. Amending *O. Reg. 275/04 (Information on Invoices to Certain Classes of Consumers of Electricity)* made under the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998.*
6. Amending *O. Reg 161/99 (Definitions and Exemptions)* made under the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

Approvals required prior to LRC

	Committee and date	Cabinet Date
Policy	Cabinet approval received	September 12, 2016
TB/MBC	No approvals needed	

Original signed by

Deputy Minister | Date

Original signed by

Minister | Date

s. 1 **Proposal and Context**

Supporting an Electricity Rate Mitigation Strategy

- Electricity costs are increasing as the necessary investments are made to decarbonize and modernize the province's electricity infrastructure.
- Since 2010, electricity prices have risen considerably, particularly for households and small businesses. Prices are forecast to continue to increase as additional generation comes online.
- On September 12, 2016, the Ministry of Energy received Cabinet approval to implement a broader Electricity Rate Mitigation Strategy for electricity consumers across the province, including introducing proposed new legislation.
- On September 15, 2016, the Minister of Energy introduced legislation, Bill 13, the *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016* (ORECA) that would put in place an 8% rebate for residential, small business customers and farms. Bill 13 received Royal Assent on November 2, 2016 and is scheduled to come into force on January 1, 2017.
- A new proposed regulation and a number of proposed regulatory amendments, put forward in this package, are needed to support the electricity rate mitigation strategy.

1. Creating a new General Regulation under the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016. (ORECA)

- The Ministry of Energy is seeking to create a new General Regulation under the ORECA.
- The proposed General Regulation under the ORECA would put in place a framework very similar to the framework developed to deliver the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit. The proposed General Regulation includes provisions addressing:
    - **Base invoice amounts for invoices** – direction on what amounts should be included in the calculation of the 8% rebate.
    - **Flow through of financial assistance** – direction that USMPs must pass through the rebate to eligible customers.
    - **Financial assistance re: fees and charges imposed by unit sub-meter providers (USMP)** – direction for USMPs on applying the rebate to their fees and charges.

- **Paying rebate directly to consumers** – provisions that permit direct payment to consumers for transitional purposes such as closing an account with outstanding rebate still owing.
- **Duty to provide information** – provisions that require Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) and other vendors to provide the Ministry with specific information needed for verification and forecasting purposes.
- **Records** – making USMPs subject to same record-keeping requirements as LDCs under the ORECA.
- **Requirements to provide information for reimbursement purposes** – direction to electricity vendors and USMPs on types of information that must be provided and to whom in order to be reimbursed.
- **Reimbursement to electricity vendors and USMPs** – direction on reimbursement process.
- **Time-limitation for retroactive claims** – establish a two-year time limitation for retroactive rebate claims, and a 51-month time limitation for retroactive reimbursement claims.
- **Requirement to establish a variance account** – subject to the approval of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), requiring LDCs to establish and maintain variance accounts for the purposes of delivering the rebate.
- **Prescribe remote communities that are serviced by Independent Power Authorities** – direction to Independent Power Authorities on eligibility to receive the rebate.

- The creation of a General Regulation under the ORECA would put in place the required mechanisms needed to deliver the 8% rebate, established under the ORECA.

2. Amending O. Reg. 442/01(Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection) made under the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998.

- The Ministry of Energy is seeking to amend O. Reg. 442/01 to increase the amount of rate protection available for eligible rural or remote electricity customers.
- Under O. Reg. 442/01, the amount of rural or remote electricity rate protection (RRRP) available to Hydro One’s R2 customers (residential customers who are classified as low density) is capped at a fixed amount of $127 million – which amounts to a monthly subsidy of $31.50 for R2 customers.

- The Ministry of Energy is proposing to increase the $127 million, currently available for rate protection for eligible customers, by $116.4 million, to $243.4 million.
  - The original Cabinet Minute approved an increase of $110 million; however, based on Hydro One's updated number of eligible customers, the proposed $110 million is not sufficient to provide the estimated $29 per month or combined benefit of $45 per month, as originally estimated by the Ministry.
  - The Ministry is asking for an additional $6.4 million increased from the $110 million, approved by Cabinet.
  - Increasing the funding would ensure that eligible customers would see an approximate increase of $29 in the monthly subsidy from $31.50 to $60.50 per month.
  - The increased RRRP subsidy would bring the average bill for a Hydro One R2 customer closer in line with the average bill for other rural customers across the province.
- Current funding for the RRRP program is paid for by all electricity customers across the province. The additional $116.4 million would increase the monthly cost for an average residential customer by ~$0.60.

3. ***Amending O. Reg. 429/04 (Adjustments Under Section 25.33 of the Act) made under the Electricity Act, 1998***

- The Ministry of Energy is proposing to amend Ontario Regulation 429/04 (Adjustments Under Section 25.33 of the Act) made under the Electricity Act, 1998 ("O. Reg. 429/04") in order to expand eligibility under the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) to include all electricity consumers and market participants with an average monthly peak demand greater than one megawatt.
- Currently, ICI is available only to electricity consumers and market participants with an average monthly peak demand of greater than 5 megawatt (MW) and electricity consumers and market participants in certain energy intensive industrial sectors with an average monthly peak demand of greater than 3 MW and less than or equal to 5 MW.
- <u>The new proposed amendments would provide eligible electricity consumers/market participants with an average monthly peak demand of greater than 1 MW and less than or equal to 5 MW the opportunity to opt-in to be eligible for participation in the ICI program. In addition, sector</u>

restrictions would be removed and smaller institutional and commercial businesses would be eligible to participate.

- About 300 businesses are already utilizing ICI to achieve electricity savings, and with these changes, over 1,000 new businesses are estimated to be eligible.

4. *O. Reg 495/10 (General) made under the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit Act, 2010*

- From January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2015, the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit (OCEB) provided families, small businesses and farms with a credit of ten per cent of the total cost of electricity on eligible consumers' bills, including tax.
  - Since September 2012, this credit was generally limited to the first 3,000 kilowatt hours of electricity consumed each month.
- The credit was put in place as a temporary measure to help consumers manage their electricity costs as the province invested in its transition towards a clean, modern and more reliable electricity system.
- Provisions under Bill 13 amended the *Ontario Clean Energy Benefit Act, 2010* (OCEBA) so that potential retroactive payments could be time-limited.
- O. Reg. 495/10 (General) under the *Ontario Clean Energy Benefit Act, 2010* currently includes a cut-off date by which a multi-unit complex or a customer using medical equipment must submit a self-declaration form by July 1, 2016. There is currently no cut-off date by which a LDCs and unit sub-meter providers (USMPs) claim these rebates from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and therefore get compensated for payments to customers.
- There is currently no cut-off date for other eligible customers, such as single-unit residential customers. Proposed amendments to O. Reg 495/10 would establish February 1, 2017 as the cut-off date for these customers to self-declare for OCEB.
- LDCs and USMPs would be given up to August 1, 2017 to claim from the IESO the amount associated with eligible self-declaration forms submitted before the respective cut-off date.

5 & 6: Consequential Amendments:

- Additional consequential amendments are needed to support the implementation of Bill 13 and to ensure alignment between regulations including:

  - Amending O. Reg. 275/04 (Information on Invoices to Certain Classes of Consumers of Electricity) made under the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 and; and
  - Amending O. Reg. 161/99 (Definitions and Exemptions) made under the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998.

s. 2 Approach and Intended Outcomes

1. Creating a new General regulation under the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016.

- On January 1, 2017, the *ORECA* will establish a new rebate program for eligible electricity accounts.
- The ORECA provides direction on:
  - Eligible accounts;
  - Base invoice amounts;
  - The scope of the financial assistance;
  - Funding for the financial assistance (to be paid out of the money appropriated for the those purposes by the Legislature);
  - Requirement to pass on benefit in unit sub-metered buildings;
  - Invoices; and
  - Regulation making authority to ensure that the financial assistance under the ORECA is provided to those entitled to receive it and to authorize the making of financial arrangements for reimbursement.
- The creation of a new General Regulation under the ORECA is necessary to put in place the required mechanics to deliver the financial assistance.
- The proposed General Regulation under ORECA puts in place a framework very similar to the framework developed to deliver the OCEB.
- The legislation and proposed General Regulation provide instruction and clarity to LDCs and unit sub-meter providers on the 8% rebate and how it is to be calculated (e.g. rebate is calculated before taxes, clarifies that the rebate is applied to those receiving Ontario Energy Support Program (OESP) assistance after deducting the OESP amount)
- The proposed General Regulation also outlines how bill issuers are reimbursed after the rebate has been provided to an eligible account. The steps are described below:

1. LDCs and USMPs submit claims for the month through the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) within the first four business days of the following month;
2. A total monthly invoice is issued to the Ministry of Energy by IESO;
3. The Ontario Financing Authority (OFA), on behalf of the Ministry of Energy, makes payments to IESO of the invoice amount within 2 business days; and
4. The IESO reimburses LDCs and USMPs within the subsequent 2 business days.

- Under the proposed General Regulation, a parallel program for Independent Power Authorities (IPAs) would be created to ensure IPAs had the opportunity to participate and have their customers receive the rebate.
- The proposed framework for the General Regulation would allow for the four IPA communities who previously participated in the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit program to transition their eligibility to the 8% rebate without requiring them to undertake a full application.
    - For the six communities that did not enroll to receive the OCEB, they would still be eligible for the 8% rebate, but would need to go through the enrollment process.
- Similar to the OCEB framework, the Ministry of Energy would require through the General Regulation that important information necessary to monitor and forecast future costs of the rebate program be reported to the Ministry through a Ministry of Energy portal.

2. Amending Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Regulation (O. Reg. 442/01)

- The RRRP framework was put in place to ensure that all Ontario residents pay similar prices for electricity distribution.
- The RRRP is outlined in section 79 of the OEBA and O. Reg. 442/01, which prescribes eligibility for rate protection, the amount of rate protection and compensation for distributors.
- The cost of RRRP is recovered through a regulated charge on all customers approved by the OEB and collected by IESO for electricity used in the Province. The IESO then distributes the funds to eligible distributors.
- Today, RRRP is a $175M program collected via a 0.13 cents/kWh charge to all Ontario consumers, included under the “Regulatory” invoice line item.

  - There are roughly 340,000 customers that receive the RRRP subsidy. The majority of these are Hydro One Networks residential (class R2) customers. Customers of Algoma Power and Hydro One Remotes also receive RRRP.
  - ~$125.5M of RRRP funding is dedicated to Hydro One R2 class (low density) customers. Under the proposed amendments to O. Reg 442/01, the amount for Hydro One R2 customers would be increased to $143.4M as of January 1, 2017.
- Additionally, as part of the Price Mitigation initiatives, there was a desire to ensure that the funding for R2 customers would be adjusted annually to reflect any increases on their electricity bills. The proposed amendments to the regulation would add an escalating factor to the new base rate protection amount.
  - Starting in 2018, and every year after, the total amount of rate protection available to Hydro One's R2 customers would be increased by a percentage, as calculated by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).
  - This percentage would be based on the simple average, as calculated by the OEB, of the change in base distribution rates of all distributors from the previous year (this is a similar mechanism that is used with Algoma Power which is also a recipient of RRRP and has RRRP adjusted every year by the OEB).

3. ***Amending O. Reg. 429/04 (Adjustments Under Section 25.33 of the Act) made under the Electricity Act, 1998***

- Under the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI), large "Class A" electricity consumers who can meet a specific average monthly peak demand threshold (i.e., either 3 MWs or 5 MWs depending on the industry classification) are charged a Global Adjustment (GA) rate proportional to their share of peak electricity demand that is measured during the five highest-peak hours in the year.
- This method provides an incentive to large electricity consumers to moderate their consumption during peak demand periods. Class B consumers are, by contrast, billed for GA based only on the volume of electricity consumed no matter when it is consumed. For most large consumers, being billed on a Class A basis is much more cost-effective than being billed on a Class B basis.
- ICI is intended to incent a greater number of Ontario businesses to lower their electricity costs by shifting energy demand away from peak demand periods. Reducing peak demand will increase the reliability of the power

grid, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and help defer the need to procure new resources.

- The proposed amendment would expand ICI to include more than one thousand newly eligible customers with monthly peak demand greater than 1 MW, down from the current threshold of 3 MWs. In addition, sector restrictions would be removed and smaller institutional and commercial businesses would be eligible to participate.

4. ***O. Reg 495/10 (General) made under the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit Act, 2010***

- The proposed amendments would eliminate further Ministry liability for OCEB reimbursement claims after the prescribed final date for electricity vendors to claim reimbursement.
- The proposed changes are not expected to affect the majority of OCEB eligible customers, as audits conducted by the Ministry of Finance to date suggest that there are minimal calculation errors in the application of the program.
- While qualification for the program was generally automatic, customers who were eligible for the OCEB and did not receive it have had up to 5 years to come forward to their electricity vendor to rectify the error.

5. ***Amending the Definitions and Exemptions Regulation (O. Reg. 161/99)***

- A consequential amendment to section 4.0.1(1.1) is required to help ensure that the proposed new 8% rebate is passed on to individual units in multi-unit complexes.
- Technical amendments will also be made to correct errors in Schedule 1 and align terminology that references the communities served by IPAs.

6. ***Amending the Information on Invoices to Low-Volume Consumers Regulation (O. Reg. 275/04)***

- The consequential amendment to section 9 allows for the ORECA, and any regulation made under the ORECA, to alter the presentation of invoices.

- This is necessary to allow for the invoice to present the 8% Ontario Rebate as a separate line item on the bill.

s. 3 **Direction and Urgency**

- As mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, on September 12, the government announced it was delivering electricity cost relief through legislation to rebate an amount equal to the provincial portion of the HST on electricity bills – a saving of about $130 annually for the typical Ontario household.

- The Electricity Price Mitigation Strategy also included the following cost relief measures:
  - Eligible rural ratepayers would receive additional relief, resulting in average savings of about $45 a month or $540 a year.
  - Eligible businesses would also benefit from the plan to expand the ICI.
- Electricity costs are increasing as the necessary investments are made to clean and modernize the province's electricity infrastructure. As costs have been rising, so too have consumer's bills and there has been significant public pressure for the government to address rising concerns of affordability, particularly for Hydro One's low-density rural consumers who have the highest average electricity bills across the province.
- Ontarians are expecting to see rate relief in January 2017, as promised by the government. The proposed regulatory amendments in this package are necessary to implement that commitment. In particular, the urgency and particular circumstances for each item is described below:
  - Bill 13 received Royal Assent on November 2, 2016 and is scheduled to come into force on January 1, 2017. In order to deliver the financial assistance provided for under the ORECA (8% provincial rebate), the proposed new General Regulation under ORECA is needed in a timely fashion, to provide guidance to bill issuers to prepare Customer Information Systems in advance of the January 1, 2017 implementation deadline.
  - Proposed amendments to O. Reg 442/01 need to be put in place in a timely manner in order to provide sufficient time for the OEB to set a revised RRRP rate prior to January 1, 2017 and for Hydro One to calculate a revised monthly RRRP benefit and make any necessary adjustments to its Customer Information Systems to implement the increased benefit.

- Regarding the proposed amendments to expand ICI, it is important that these amendments are in effect as soon as possible to allow LDCs time to prepare for the expected increased uptake in ICI ahead of the next ICI billing period (i.e., July 1, 2017).
- With respect to the proposed amendments to the General Regulation under the OCEBA, the Ministry of Energy would like to implement a timeline for the removal of this potential liability quickly since program eligibility has already ended. Delays in implementing regulatory changes would increase the period of time that the liability exists.

s. 4 Impact Assessment and Costs

1. ***Creating a new General regulation under the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016.***

- The 8% rebate is expected to cost about $1 billion per year (i.e., $4 billion from 2017-2020) and was approved as part of the September 12, Cabinet submission.

- LDCs and other providers will likely incur some costs associated with updating Customer Information Systems and other internal mechanisms needed to deliver the new rebate; however, as LDCs recently delivered the OCEB, it is expected that the set-up costs should not be substantial.

2. ***Amending Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Regulation (O. Reg. 442/01)***

- Amendments to O. Reg 442/01 (RRRP) may result in an increase to administrative costs for the IESO, who are required under the regulation to maintain a variance account to track RRRP payments. As there may be a lag in collection of the increased RRRP rate, IESO may face increased borrowing charges to cover any shortfalls during the transition period.

- All electricity customers will see an increase in the regulatory charge used to fund the RRRP program. The impact of that increase will be dependent on the amount of electricity consumed, as the charge is volumetric-based.

- The current RRRP charge is 0.13 cents/kWh, as set by the OEB. Pending the approval of the proposed $116.4 million increase to the RRRP funding envelope, the OEB will need to re-set the approved RRRP tariff for all rate payers.

- Energy staff estimate that the monthly increase for an average residential customer consuming 750 kWh per month would see an approximate increase of $0.60 per month – this represents a ~60% increase over the existing monthly charge, which runs around $1 per month. Larger consumers' impacts would be dependent on their average monthly consumption.

3. *Amending O. Reg. 429/04 (Adjustments Under Section 25.33 of the Act) made under the Electricity Act, 1998*

- Currently, electricity consumers over 5 MW and consumers from 3-5 MW in certain energy intensive sectors are eligible for the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) (i.e., approximately 300 Class A consumers). Expanding ICI so that all consumers over 1 MW are eligible for the program would:
  - Reduce electricity peak demand and electricity system costs by incenting more consumers to lower their electricity demand during peak periods;
  - Reduce electricity bills by up to one-third for new ICI participants who are able to reduce their electricity demand during peak demand periods; and
  - Increase the electricity bills for non-ICI participants to ensure full cost recovery in the electricity system. **Note:** The extent of the impact on other non-ICI participants will depend on the uptake in the newly expanded ICI.

4. O. Reg 495/10 (General) made under the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit Act, 2010

- Estimates of the potential size of the liability related to retroactive payments are highly uncertain due to data limitations, and the lack of a quantifiable way to determine how many qualifying customers did not receive the OCEB, or how many will ultimately come forward and make a claim.

- The Ministry of Energy does not have a lot of data available to estimate the potential impact of this future liability, however, based on a very rough estimate, the amount could be about $10 million.

- The Ministry established an accrual from existing OCEB funding. This accrual will be retained until the final date that electricity vendors could claim reimbursement for OCEB amounts provided to consumers, which, under this proposal, would be August 1, 2017. After this date, the accrual may be removed completely.

5 & 6: Consequential Amendments:

- There are no substantive costs or impacts associated with the proposed consequential amendments.

s. 5 Implementation

1. Creating a new General regulation under the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016.

- LDCs, USMPs, energy retailers and other prescribed electricity vendors will need to update customer information systems to ensure that eligible customers begin receiving the 8% rebate.
- Customers with eligible accounts are eligible for the rebate as of January 1, 2017; however, in recognition that some electricity vendors may not be able to meet the technical changes required to deliver the rebate by January 1, 2017, providers are given until July 1, 2017 to comply with the new requirements under the ORECA. Consumers would continue to be eligible as of January 1, 2017 and would receive any back-owed rebate in a lump sum once the vendor was able to deliver the rebate.

2. Amending Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Regulation (O. Reg. 442/01)

- Amendments to O. Reg 442/01 (RRRP) primarily impact the OEB, IESO and Hydro One.
- Should the proposed increased amount of rate protection be approved, the OEB will be required to set the RRRP rate to reflect the increased amount of available RRRP rate protection. The OEB typically sets the RRRP rate in December.
- Hydro One is principally tasked with implementing the changes to the RRRP regulation and has been consulted on the proposed amendments. Hydro One will need to calculate the new monthly RRRP rate subsidy for eligible customers and make any necessary adjustments to its billing systems.

3. ***Amending O. Reg. 429/04 (Adjustments Under Section 25.33 of the Act) made under the Electricity Act, 1998***

- The IESO, LDCs and electricity consumers will be primarily responsible for implementing and adhering to the proposed amended regulation in relation to the expanded the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI).

4. ***O. Reg 495/10 (General) made under the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit Act, 2010***

- Proposed amendments would establish final dates by which consumers could make claims and electricity vendors could claim reimbursement from the province.

s. 6 Delivery and Results Tracking

- In addition to the proposed regulatory package, the Ministry will establish an information portal that will facilitate the oversight of the 8% rebate and allow for appropriate tracking of information and forecasting of costs associated with the 8% rebate.

- The OEB has oversight over the enforcement of the ORECA and has authority to ensure that the provisions of the Act are enforced.

- With respect to the funding under RRRP, the OEB must review and approve the amount of RRRP available to eligible customers, including setting the amount to be distributed at the beginning of each year, based on the provisions in the regulation. Additionally, IESO would have certain reporting requirements to the OEB with respect to its RRRP variance account.

s.7 Stakeholder Consultations

- The Ministry engaged with stakeholders in a number of ways in developing the proposed regulations and regulatory amendments needed to support the rate mitigation initiative.

Regulatory Registry:

- On September 28, 2016, the Ministry of Energy posted a proposal for comment on the Regulatory Registry to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to comment on the electricity mitigation initiative.
- The posting included proposed changes to RRRP, ICI, OCEBA and new regulations needed to support the 8% rebate.
- To date, the Ministry has received a number of comments through the regulatory posting.
- The posting closes on November 12, 2016.

Working Group:

- The Ministry hosted an LDC Working Group session on October 6, 2016. Nearly 40 LDCs representatives attended in person or by phone.
- The Working Group provided important feedback for the Ministry to consider in the development of the Regulatory package including billing system limitations that were incorporated into proposed bill presentment requirements.
- In addition to comments provided at the working group session, 7 participants shared written comments as well.
- The Ministry made adjustments to the billing requirement, prescribed under a Minister’s Regulation, to respond to technical limitations, such as character count and envelope stock.
- The Electricity Distributor Association (EDA) raised concerns related to the costs of supporting the proposed increased RRRP, as the RRRP is paid for by a volumetric charge paid by all customers across all LDCs.

Standing Committee of Justice - Public Hearings for Bill 13:

- On October 3, 2016, the following organizations made presentation to the legislative committee:
    - **Ontario Chamber of Commerce:** Expressed support for ICI expansion.

- **Canadian Federation of Independent Business:** Supported the initiatives but requested additional relief, including removal of Debt Retirement Charge and a specific electricity rate for business.
- **Seamless Auto Care:** Noted higher bills as a result of being a Hydro One consumer as opposed to the neighbouring Hydro Ottawa territory.
- **Ontario Federation of Agriculture:** Supported all measures and noted many of their members are Hydro One R2 customers.
- **United Way Bruce Grey:** Supported the measures as a means to reduce the amount they provide to assist customers with their bills. Also supported the Burden Reduction Bill provisions to limit disconnection.

s.8 Other Jurisdictions and Harmonization

- There would be no harmonization with other jurisdictions as an effect of this proposal, as the proposed rate mitigation strategy is unique to Ontario and would have no material impact on other jurisdictions.

s. 9 Communications

See Appendix D, Communications Snapshot

- There will be a need to clearly communicate what benefits the proposed rate mitigation strategy will provide to consumers as well that the new provincial rebate would take effect as of January 1, 2017.

s. 10 Contacts and Appendices

Contacts

	Name	Phone Number
Ministry Policy/Program	Michael Reid	5-6544
Ministry Legal	Carolyn Calwell	2-8392
Ministry Communications	Eric McGoey	7-6541
Assistant or Deputy Minister's Office	Jeet Chatterjee	XXXX
Cabinet Office Policy	Amber MacNeil	5-4516

Appendices

Appendix A: Regulation Comparison Chart
Appendix B: Proposed Regulations
Appendix C: Variance Memo
Appendix D: Communications Snapshot