

EDA Weekly - Volume 17, Issue 24 - June 14, 2017

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Upcoming Events

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June 15

[Energy Business Innovation
Conference](#)
October 25-26

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EDA NEWS

[EDA provides recommendations on proposed Fair Hydro Plan regulations](#)

The Electricity Distributors Association (EDA) has commented on the proposed regulatory amendments for the *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017*. Of note to members are the association's recommendations for better managing space on the electricity bill, clear messaging for customers and sufficient time for LDCs to conduct bill testing.

The recommendations put forward by the EDA include:

- Allow LDCs sufficient time to conduct appropriate bill testing after regulations come into force.
- Regarding bill presentment (O. Reg. 275/04, O. Reg. 364/16), the EDA reinforced ongoing LDC concerns over bill space and recommended that:
 - a 'sunset' date applicable to the provision of on-bill messaging and of bill inserts be explicitly provided;
 - non-dynamic bill messaging be affirmed;

- non-dynamic bill messaging be affirmed;
- LDCs have flexibility as to the placement of messages on the bill; and
- customer confusion be reduced through a clear description of the 'typical residential customer' and through flexibility with respect to expected impacts.
- Provide early notification on Global Adjustment changes (O. Reg. 429/04, O. Reg. 280/14) as well as training on new data requirements for settlement and revisions to settlement processes.

The EDA also re-affirmed its support for transferring the Rural or Remote Rate Protection and Ontario Electricity Support Programs to the tax base, as proposed in the amendments dealing with social programs (O. Reg. 442/01 and O. Reg. 315/14).

The complete submission is available on the [EDA website](#).

For more information, please contact the EDA's [Kathi Farmer](#), Senior Regulatory Affairs Advisor, at (905) 265-5333.

Ministry of Energy survey on TOU Net Metering Settlement

The Ministry of Energy is undertaking a cost/benefit analysis to examine the investments required for, and the benefits arising from, the potential implementation of Time of Use (TOU) settlement for residential and general service under 50 kilowatts (GS<50 kW) net metering customers in Ontario.

Currently in Ontario, most residential and GS<50 kW net metering customers are settled using tiered rates. In order to more fully understand the scope of upgrades required to implement TOU settlement, the Ministry is seeking input from local distribution companies (LDCs) and other stakeholders on a number of items, including:

- The specific upgrades that would be required to address IT limitations to implementing TOU settlement;
- The cost of upgrades;
- The time required to implement upgrades; and
- Barriers to the implementation of upgrades.

To inform this analysis, the survey requests information related to LDCs' Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and Customer Information System (CIS).

A copy of the Ministry's cover letter and survey are available to LDCs [here](#).

The survey is part of the Ministry of Energy's commitment to update Ontario's net metering program in order to enhance customer choice, reduce load on the electricity system and enable innovative technologies and customer-utility relationships. Plans for this study, and other actions the Ministry is taking to explore additional potential updates for Third-Party Ownership and Virtual Net Metering, were outlined in the Ministry's [posting](#) to the Environmental and Regulatory Registries on August 9, 2016.

The Ministry of Energy has requested that responses to this survey be submitted to REFO@ontario.ca no later than **July 19, 2017**.

Should you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact [Ben Weir](#) at the Ministry of Energy. For other questions, please contact the EDA's [Jesse Kulendran](#), Policy Analyst at (905) 265-5364.

LDC requirements under OEB's amended Retail Settlement Code

Distributors will need to amend bills for low volume consumers served by retailers and notify those consumers of the service transfer in writing, according to the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) amended Retail Settlement Code (RSC). The changes come into effect July 1, 2017.

Section 7.2.3 of the RSC requires that LDCs:

- Input the phrase “YOU ARE BUYING YOUR ELECTRICITY FROM”, followed by the retailer’s name in capital letters on the part of each bill that relates to the commodity price, and
- Provide either:
 - the retailer’s toll-free telephone number and website address as provided by the retailer; or
 - an asterisk or other symbol of equivalent effect to indicate that the distributor has included the retailer’s toll-free number and the retailer’s website address elsewhere on the bill.

Distributors may also include the retailer’s e-mail address, immediately following the retailer’s website address.

The amendment to Section 10.5.4A concerns low volume consumers who are changing supplier. It requires that LDCs notify the low volume consumer of the transfer in writing using the OEB approved form of notice. Furthermore, the notice must be sent within five business days of the date on which the change request was processed, and must be sent separately from any other communication.

These amendments update the RSC for the *Energy Consumer Protection Act, 2010*.

The amended code is available on the [OEB website](#).

For more information, please contact the EDA’s [Kathi Farmer](#), Senior Regulatory Affairs Advisor at (905) 265-5333.

REMINDER: Responses to OEB survey on incentive rate-setting mechanism due June 19

LDCs should have received a letter from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) last week about its annual survey on Price Cap Incentive Rate (IR) and Annual IR applications. The letter specifically requests LDCs to identify the rate-setting approach and the elements they will include in their applications, such as:

- Z Factor claim
- Incremental Capital Module claim
- Lost Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (“LRAM”) Variance account disposition
- Rate Harmonization pursuant to a prior OEB decision
- Renewable Generation and/or Smart Grid Adder request
- Multiple service areas with different rates
- Migration of customers into or out of Class A (Global Adjustment and CBR)
- Other

According to the OEB’s Handbook for Utility Rate Applications, IR methodologies were developed to move towards an outcomes-based approach to rate-setting and give utilities the necessary tools to develop business plans that meet their needs. This specific survey is intended to support the processing of LDCs’ IR applications. The EDA encourages its members to complete the survey.

The survey and other details are available [here](#).

For more information, please contact the EDA’s [Kathi Farmer](#), Senior Regulatory Affairs Advisor at (905) 265-5333.

EDA EVENTS

[Join the EDA for the first EBIC Conference on October 25 and 26](#)

Innovation is so transformative and far reaching that it

goes beyond the grid and permeates every area of the utility business.



At the EDA's new Energy Business Innovation Conference (EBIC), we will explore breakthroughs and next-generation thinking in the following key business areas:

- Communications
- Customer Service
- Regulation
- Corporate Culture
- Finance

Join us at EBIC on **October 25 and 26 at the Hilton Meadowvale Hotel in Mississauga** where you can network with thought leaders and gain insights on the latest and greatest in the sector to help you stay ahead and gain a competitive advantage.

Stay tuned as we begin announcing speakers, session topics and other exciting activities!

We look forward to seeing everyone there in October!

For more information on the CON::NECT Event Series, please contact [Marica Macura](#), Director, Member Relations and Events at (905) 265-5346.

Launching the 2018 CON::NECT Event Series with EDIST

As we plan to launch EDIST 2018 in just a few months, we're looking to you for presentations on the latest in utility engineering, operations and IT.



The EDA's Electricity, Distribution, Information Systems and Technology (EDIST) Conference and

Exhibition will boost the electricity sector to new heights, January 17 to 19, 2018.

Dedicated to showcasing advances in engineering, operations and IT in the sector, EDIST brings together innovators and decision makers for thought-provoking sessions and interactive expositions.

We're looking to our members and partners to share their knowledge and innovative services with the event's growing and respected audience. A formal call for papers will be issued next week, but in the meantime, please review the criteria for submissions listed below and start brainstorming!

1. Write three concise learning objectives for your presentation, focusing on what the participant will gain from your presentation. Please keep each objective to 10 words or less. Based on the descriptions provided in this Call for Papers, please indicate the track and topic(s) that would be most appropriate for your presentation (e.g. Clean Energy/Distribution)
2. Write a clear, concise, 75-word description of your presentation for inclusion in the conference program. Please assist us in providing quality education by adhering to our philosophy that all presentations must be non-commercial.

Make sure to mark **January 17 to 19** in your calendars for EDIST 2018!

For more information on the CON::NECT Event Series, please contact [Marica Macura](#), Director, Member Relations and Events at (905) 265-5346.

Save the dates for 2018 EDA CON:NECT events

The EDA is pleased to announce the confirmed dates and locations for some of our 2018 CON:NECT events.

Make sure to mark your calendar with these important dates and stay tuned for more information on the events and 2018 sponsorship opportunities.



For more information on the CON:NECT Event Series, please contact [Marica Macura](#), Director, Member Relations and Events at (905) 265-5346.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Conestoga students receive Energy Technology Excellence Awards

Top-performing energy technology students from Conestoga College were presented with Academic Excellence Awards from Energy+ Inc. at an awards ceremony hosted by Conestoga College. Jamie Beemer and Peter Hansen each received \$1,000 from Energy+ to contribute to their final year of study in the Electrical Engineering Technology and Energy Systems Technology programs. For more information, read the [news release](#).

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