## STATUTORY AMENDMENTS

*The following is preliminary and is based on our current understanding of the proposed structure and objectives. For example, we have assumed that the structure will not entail the insertion of a new Holdco between OPG and the Province. As these aspects are refined, some of the suggested amendments described below may not be needed and other aspects that we are not aware of may need to be considered. Accordingly, these suggested amendments are provided for discussion purposes and are subject to change. We would welcome the opportunity to work with OPG and the Ministry on refining the scope and substance of required legislative and regulatory amendments.*

### A. Amendments to Implement Structure

Certain *Electricity Act, 1998* amendments would be needed to implement the anticipated structure (which we understand, as noted above, would not include a Holdco), as follows:

- **Section 53.1(1):** Amend to permit owning and operating generation facilities through subsidiaries (not only directly through OPG). In addition, amend to permit OPG to administer, manage, loan moneys to and have a beneficial interest in, if applicable, Financing Trust.

- **Section 53.2:** Amend to permit the Minister to acquire, hold, dispose of or otherwise deal with securities or debt obligations of, or any other interest in, OPG or any subsidiaries. This is to accommodate possible variations to the financing structure that may be desirable over time.

- **Section 53.■ (new):** New statutory section to permit the Minister to enter into arrangements relating to an exercise of powers under 53.2.

- **Section 53.■ (new)**: New statutory section providing that creditors of Financing Trust have no recourse to the assets of OPG or any of its subsidiaries (other than Financing Trust, if applicable). In addition, consideration should be given as to whether the Act should be amended so that the Financing Trust cannot be wound up or liquidated.

### B. Miscellaneous Corporate Items to Address

- **OPG Articles:** Amend the OPG's articles to remove the private company restrictions.

- **MOA with Province:** Consider whether any amendments to OPG's MOA with the Province are required to contemplate the Financing Trust.

### C. Amendments Under Electricity Act to Implement GA Smoothing

Based on our understanding that the global adjustment smoothing mechanism is intended to benefit residential and small business customers only and that the Minister will be responsible for determining how much global adjustment smoothing is to be applied in a given month, if any, amendments to the *Electricity Act, 1998* and Ontario Regulation 429/04 (Adjustments Under Section 25.33 of the Act) would be needed to implement the mechanism, as follows:

**(i) Electricity Act:**

- **Section ■ (New):** Establish a new power for the Minister to make directives to the IESO in relation to the global adjustment smoothing mechanism and, particularly, for purposes of establishing global adjustment smoothing amounts from time to time (expected to be monthly). To the extent possible, the directive power should be drafted so as to limit the ability for a future Minister to require the IESO to do anything that would materially and adversely affect the Financing Trust or its lenders. **[NTD: While our understanding is that the Minister would direct this, we note from other materials we have seen that OPG may instead be recommending a formula approach. It is not clear what the formula would look like, where it would be set out or how it would be applied and by whom]**

- **Paragraph 25.33(1):** This section says that IESO shall make adjustments in accordance with the regulations to ensure that, over time, payments by prescribed classes of market participants reflect amounts paid to OPG, OEFC and distributors, as well as amounts paid to entities with whom IESO has a procurement contract. Add new subsection (c) so as to require IESO to ensure that, over time, payments by prescribed classes of market participants also reflect amounts paid to Financing Trust. **[NTD: Not certain this is needed if only to benefit residential and small business consumers, who are not market participants. May be needed in reference to payments from distributors and retailers]**

- **Paragraph 25.33(2):** This section says that distributors and retailers shall make adjustments in accordance with the regulations to ensure that, over time, payments by prescribed classes of consumers reflect amounts paid to OPG, OEFC and distributors, as well as amounts paid to entities with whom IESO has a procurement contract. Add new subsection (c) so as to require distributors and retailers to ensure that, over time, payments by prescribed classes of consumers also reflect amounts paid to Financing Trust.

- <u>Note</u>: As described below, the regulation will need to include new requirements for the IESO to record the global adjustment smoothing amounts in one or more variance accounts and to use those amounts to offset amounts otherwise recorded in the variance accounts under Section 25.33(3) of the Act. For context, we note:

  - Section 25.33(3) says that adjustments under (1) or (2) relating to electricity consumed by consumers whose rates are determined by the OEB under s. 79.16 of the OEB Act (i.e. RPP Customers) shall instead be made in accordance with the regulations to one or more variance accounts established and maintained by the IESO.

- Section 25.33(4) says IESO, distributors and retailers shall make and receive such payments, set-offs and credits as may be required or permitted by the regulations with respect to consumers described in (3), i.e. RPP Customers.

- Section 25.33(5) says that IESO shall establish and maintain such variance accounts as may be needed to record all amounts payable or receivable by it under 25.33.

**(ii) O. Reg. 429/04 (Adjustments Under Section 25.33 of the Act):**

- **Section 1(1):** Consider adding definitions for "Financing Trust" and "global adjustment smoothing amount" or such other terms as may be preferred.

- **Section 1.2(1) (New):** Add section providing that, for the purposes of this Regulation, the global adjustment smoothing amount for a month is the amount determined by the IESO in accordance with a directive from the Minister under section ■ of the Electricity Act in respect of the month. **[NTD: See above note re use of Minister directives]**

- **Section 1.2(2) (New):** Consider adding a section providing that the IESO shall publish the global adjustment smoothing amount for a month by no later than the 10th business day of the following month [to align with general publication requirements for global adjustment under s. 1.1(2)].

- **Section 10(1):** Amend formula for calculating Class B GA rate by subtracting the global adjustment smoothing amount for a month from "M", which is the total amount of the global adjustment for the month. The global adjustment smoothing amount could be designated as "X", such that the formula would be (M-X-N)/(P-Q). Define "X" as the global adjustment smoothing amount for the month as determined by the IESO in accordance with the Minister's directive under section ■ of the Electricity Act for the month. **[NTD: See above note re use of Minister directives]**

- **Section 10.1 (New):** Add new section to deal with adjustments under subsection 25.33(3) of the Act, i.e. in respect of RPP consumers. This section should require the IESO to establish, within the variance account(s) it maintains pursuant to subsection 25.33(3) of the Act, one or more subaccounts in which it shall record the global adjustment smoothing amounts applicable to the classes of consumers described in subsection 25.33(3) of the Act. This section must also specify that the IESO shall apply the amounts recorded in the subaccounts against the balances in the variance accounts for purposes of section 79.16(3) of the OEB Act.

  - <u>**Note:**</u> This is a key aspect because, when the OEB determines RPP rates, it must take into account the balances in the variance accounts established by the

IESO under s. 25.33 of the Electricity Act and make adjustments with a view to eliminating the balances within 12 months. This proposed new section 10.1 causes the IESO to reduce (in the near term) the variance account balances by the global adjustment smoothing amounts, as provided by Financing Trust, thereby enabling the OEB to determine RPP rates that, despite being lower for RPP consumers in the near term, still eliminate the relevant variance account balances within 12 months.

- **Paragraph 11(2)2.ii:** Amend the formula for calculating the allocation of global adjustment for a month to a licensed distributor that is a market participant by subtracting the global adjustment smoothing amount for a month from “M”, which has the same meaning as under section 10(1). The global adjustment smoothing amount could be designated as "X", such that the formula would be [(M-X-N) x (R+S-T)]/(P-Q). Define “X” as suggested under section 10(1).

- **Paragraph 11(2)3:** Amend the formula for calculating the allocation of global adjustment for a month to each Class B market participant by subtracting the global adjustment smoothing amount for a month from “M”, which has the same meaning as under section 10(1). The global adjustment smoothing amount could be designated as "X", such that the formula would be [(M-X-N) x U]/(P-Q). Define “X” as suggested under section 10(1).

- **Paragraph 16(7)4:** Consider amending the description of “Global Adjustment” that is required to be included on certain invoices so as to inform consumers that their portion of the global adjustment for the month (i) may have been reduced by the application of a global adjustment smoothing amount from the Financing Trust, or (ii) may include amounts payable to the Financing Trust in respect of global adjustment smoothing amounts previously applied.

- **Section 20(1):** This section establishes an obligation for the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation and every licensed distributor that is a market participant to give the IESO such information as the IESO may require for the purposes of the Regulation in the form specified by the IESO and before the expiry of the period specified by the IESO. Consider amending to extend this obligation to the Financing Trust.

- **Section 20(6):** This section provides that on request by the OEB, the IESO, a licensed distributor, an embedded generator, a retailer or the OEFC shall give the OEB such information relating to this Regulation as the OEB may require, in the form and within the period specified by the OEB. Consider amending to extend this obligation to the Financing Trust.

## D. Amendments Under OEB Act to Implement Cost Recovery for Financing Trust

Amendments to the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, including amendments to O. Reg. 95/05 (Classes of Consumers and Determination of Rates) and the introduction of a new regulation, would be needed to implement a cost recovery process for the Financing Trust in relation to the global adjustment smoothing mechanism, potentially with limited OEB oversight, as follows:

**(i) Ontario Energy Board Act:**

- **Section 78(3.3):** This provision establishes an obligation for the OEB, when determining rates for the retailing of electricity, to take into account balances in variance accounts established under section 25.33 of the Electricity Act and to make adjustments "with a view to eliminating those balances within 12 months or such shorter time periods as the Minister may direct." Consider whether any amendments are needed, and confirm this works with the framework being proposed.

- **Section 78.7 (New):** We understand that the Province may want the OEB to have an oversight role. One possible approach would be to establish a new statutory section establishing that the IESO shall make payments to the Financing Trust with respect to the internal administrative costs incurred by the Financing Trust in connection with the purchase and management of the Regulatory Asset and the Financing Trust. Such payments by the IESO would need to be made in accordance with the order of the OEB then in effect, which orders shall be made by the OEB in accordance with rules prescribed under a new regulation.

    - The new regulation would need to be clear that the OEB does not have jurisdiction to consider the principal amount or any interest, financing costs, third party fees or expenses. Rather, OEB's role would be limited to considering the internal administrative costs of the Financing Trust and ensuring the Financing Trust receives an appropriate fee for its services, all of which would be recovered by the Financing Trust from the IESO, which would collect those amounts in the global adjustment. Note that, if this approach is accepted, the IESO and distributors and retailers would need the authority to collect such amounts as part of the GA and IESO would need the authority to pay such amounts to the Financing Trust. As such, additional amendments would be needed under O. Reg. 429/04.

- <u>**Note:**</u> Section 79.16 of the OEB Act does not require changes, but the significance of this provision should be understood.

    - Section 79.16 gives the OEB responsibility for determining electricity commodity prices for eligible consumers. Eligibility is determined under Reg. 95/05 (Classes of Consumers and Determination of Rates), which is also known as the Regulated Price Plan (RPP) Regulation.
    - Section 4(2) of the RPP Regulation defines RPP-eligible consumers as low volume consumers (i.e. those who annually use less than 150,000 kWh or such other amount as prescribed), consumers with demand of 50 kW or less, residential consumers that have accounts with distributors, consumers who annually use 150,000 to 250,000 kW of electricity, and consumers who have accounts with distributors if in the farming business.

- Paragraph 6(1)3 of the RPP Regulation provides that “In determining the rates (for RPP-eligible consumers), the Board shall forecast the cost of electricity to be consumed by the consumers to whom the rates apply, taking into consideration adjustments required under section 25.33 of the *Electricity Act, 1998* and shall ensure that the rates reflect those costs.”
- The Ontario Energy Board has developed a Regulated Price Plan Manual (revised February 16, 2016) to describe the processes and methodologies it uses for determining electricity commodity prices that are charged to RPP consumers pursuant to Section 79.16 of the OEB Act and paragraph 6(1)3 of the RPP Regulation.

**(ii) O. Reg. 95/05 (Classes of Consumers and Determination of Rates)**

- **Paragraph 6(1)3:** Amend so as to require the Board, when forecasting the cost of electricity to be consumed by the consumers to whom the rates apply, to take into consideration not only the adjustments required under section 25.33 of the Electricity Act but also the application or prior application of global adjustment smoothing amounts determined by the IESO in accordance with Minister directives under section ■ of the Electricity Act, and to ensure that the RPP rates reflect those amounts. **[NTD: See above note re use of Minister directives]**

**(iii) New Regulation (Payments to the Financing Trust)**

- If the OEB is to be given the role of reviewing and approving the recovery of OPG’s internal administrative costs for the Financing Trust under the potential section 78.7 (see above), then this regulation should describe the process and criteria pursuant through which the OEB would determine the amounts that the IESO would be required to collect through the global adjustment, in accordance with section 25.33 of the Electricity Act, and pay to the Financing Trust in respect of the provision of global adjustment smoothing amounts. This part of the regulation should establish:

    - any reporting requirements from the Financing Trust and/or the IESO to the OEB in connection with the global adjustment smoothing mechanism;
    - the frequency of the OEB making determinations under this part of the regulation;
    - the process through which the OEB shall make these determinations, which should be a streamlined administrative process rather than a public hearing process or, if a hearing is needed, then the scope of the proceeding should be clearly and narrowly constrained so as to deter intervenor involvement, lengthy proceedings and reduce/eliminate risk to recovery by Financing Trust;
    - the basis for the OEB’s determinations as to the payments that shall be made to the Financing Trust, which should specify that:
        - the Financing Trust shall recover its prudently incurred internal administrative costs on a forecast basis each year;
        - the Financing Trust shall receive an appropriate fee each year (with some guidance as to what would be appropriate); and

- the approved payment amounts shall be collected by the IESO through the global adjustment and paid to the Financing Trust in accordance with the order of the OEB then in effect. Note that O. Reg. 429/04 would likely need amendments to permit IESO (and distributors and retailers) to collect these amounts through the global adjustment.