



Ontario Energy Board Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario



Developing a First Nations Rate for
On-Reserve First Nations Electricity Customers:
Advisory Committee Meeting September 9, 2016

September 9, 2016

Issues for Discussion/Confirmation

- Confirm the project objective, guiding principles and scope
- Confirm Advisory Committee role, membership and meeting schedule
- Confirm engagement plan and schedule of community meetings



Action Items from Previous Meetings

Action Item	Owner	Status/Planned Completion
Provide proposed budget for researcher and engagement	COO	•COO to provide proposed budget for OEB review
Develop an overall work plan for the initiative	OEB	• OEB has prepared a proposed process and work plan
Draft objectives based on Meeting #1 discussion	OEB	•Draft objective and scope for initiative prepared for discussion with Advisory Committee
Develop proposed engagement plan for discussion	COO	•COO has proposed dates and locations and issued invitations to First Nations



Objective

- The OEB has been asked to develop options for a First Nations on-reserve rate.
- Discussion at the first OEB and COO advisory meeting identified as a particular concern to First Nations leaders the delivery charges associated with transmission and distribution assets
- First Nations leaders stated that the focus for this initiative should be “righting past wrongs”
- There is a renewed spirit for the Province and First Nations to work together on issues of mutual interest as expressed in the First Nations-Ontario Political Accord and Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action (from the Minister’s June 29 letter to OEB)
- This initiative will be undertaken in the context of the views expressed with the objective of:

Developing an appropriate electricity delivery charge for on-reserve First Nations electricity consumers

- Intent is to secure an agreed statement of the objective for this initiative



Project Scope

Taking into consideration the objective for this project, the OEB will focus on:

- The development of options for the electricity delivery rate for on-reserve First Nations customers
- The OEB will also consider improvements to the existing customer service rules and any additional rules required to assist on-reserve First Nations electricity consumers
- The two projects will run in parallel and will inform one another



Guiding Principles

In developing its proposal for a First Nations on-reserve rate to report back to the Minister, the OEB will be guided by the following principles:

1. Maximizing Benefits for On-Reserve First Nations customers at the Lowest Cost to Other Ratepayers
2. Ease of Program Implementation for First Nations customers and Utilities
3. Fairness for All Customers
4. A Transparent Approach that enables On-Reserve First Nations customers to quantify the benefits provided to address past wrongs
5. Accountability to First Nations customers by demonstrating how their views and perspectives have informed the OEB's Report



Engagement Plan

- Community engagement sessions to be developed by the Chiefs of Ontario and confirmed by Advisory Committee
- The following communities have been identified for meetings in the Fall of 2016:
 - Sudbury
 - Kenora
 - London
 - Niagara Falls
 - Thunder Bay
 - Toronto
- Organization of the community meetings will be undertaken by the COO



Engagement Overview

1. First Nations Rate

- Background & Context
 - Minister's Letter
 - The Electricity Bill
 - Current Electricity Bill Assistance Programs (RRRP, OESP & LEAP)
- OEB Process
- Open & Interactive Community Discussions
- Early Thinking About Key Considerations including:
 - Presentment of a First Nations Rate on the electricity bill
 - Creating a simplified intake process
 - Establishing program funding



Engagement Overview

2. First Nations Customer Service Rules

- Background & Context
 - Existing Customer Service Rules
 - Hydro One Customer Care Service on Six Nations
- OEB Process
- Open & Interactive Community Discussions
 - Arrears Management
 - Payment Plans
 - Disconnection Issues
 - Cultural education for Utilities Customer Service Reps
 - Utility Customer Care One-on-One Sessions on Reserves



Advisory Committee

- The Advisory Committee will advise on: engagement plans and content, issues identification and options for consideration
- Comprised of the following members: **(TBC with Nathan)**
 - Chief Ava Hill, Six Nations
 - Chief Shining Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation
 - Chief Janice Henderson, Treaty 3
 - Nathan Wright, Chiefs of Ontario
 - Arleen Maracle, Six Nations
 - Rosemarie Leclair, OEB
 - Neil Brodie, OEB
 - Mary Anne Aldred, OEB
- Bi-weekly conference call scheduled for Tuesday mornings **(TBC with Chiefs of Ontario)**
- Face-to-face meetings for major project milestones and as required
- OEB Project Team:
 - Brian Hewson, Project Director
 - Lenore Robson, Project Lead

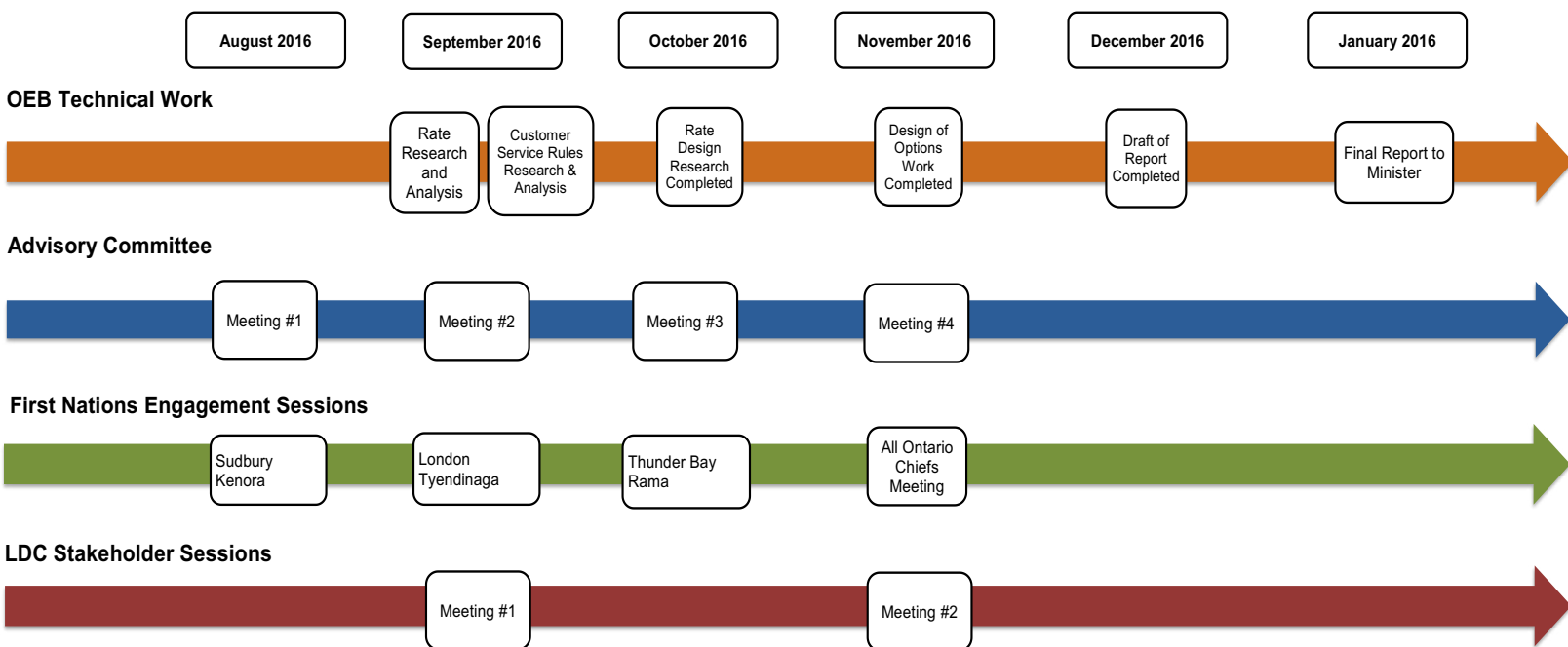


Project Schedule

Key Deliverable	Status	Timeline
Develop FN Engagement Plan	Underway	August 15
Advisory Committee Meeting #2	Planned??	September (TBC)
First Nations Engagement Sessions (6)	On Track	Sept 1 – Oct 31
Advisory Committee Meeting #3	On Track	October (TBC)
Rate Design Research Completed	On Track	November 1
1 st Draft of FNR Report Completed	On Track	November 10
Advisory Committee Meeting #4	On Track	November 10
All Chiefs of Ontario Meeting (review and feedback on OEB recommendation)	On Track	November (TBC)
Rate Design Work Completed	On Track	November 30
Draft Report	On Track	December
OEB Report with Recommendations to the Minister of Energy	On Track	January 1



Process Chart



Further refinement once the Engagement Plan has been confirmed



Next Meeting

- Confirm schedule of community sessions – COO lead
- Develop engagement materials – OEB and COO



The Minister's Request to the OEB

The Minister has requested that the OEB examine options for developing a First Nations Rate, including:

- Design, development and implementation of a First Nations Rate
- Engage with First Nations communities and organizations
- Consider interactions with existing programs such as the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP)
- Consider impacts on existing electricity consumers, as well as distribution and transmission utilities and other stakeholders
- Identify eligible on-reserve First Nations consumers, including those living on reserves not connected to the IESO grid and those served by power systems not regulated by the OEB
- Report back by January 1, 2017

