



EB-2017-0071

PUC Distribution Inc.

**Application for electricity distribution rates beginning
May 1, 2018**

**DECISION ON INTERIM RATES
May 1, 2018**

PUC Distribution Inc. (PUC Distribution) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on April 2, 2018¹ under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B), seeking approval for changes to the rates that PUC Distribution charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2018.

PUC Distribution requested that the existing rates as approved for 2017 be declared interim as of May 1, 2018 in the event that the OEB is unable to provide a Decision and Order for this application for implementation of rates effective May 1, 2018.

As per the OEB's letter dated January 13, 2017, electricity distributors intending to file an application for rates effective May 1, 2018, such as PUC Distribution, were required to file their applications with the OEB on or before August 28, 2017 (approximately eight months to process the application and issue a decision). PUC Distribution's application was filed approximately one month prior to the requested effective date. The delayed filing of the application does not give the OEB sufficient time to process the application in time for rates to be effective May 1, 2018 and therefore, the OEB will not declare the current rates interim at this time.

¹ The OEB's system logged the filing after the close of business on March 29, 2018 and therefore the OEB's acknowledgement letter stated that the application was received on April 2, 2018, the next business day.

The OEB must control its regulatory processes. Given the large number of electricity rate applications filed each year, the OEB sets filing deadlines so it can plan its resources to process applications and issue decisions. PUC Distribution was aware of the filing deadline, as evidenced by its August 29, 2017 letter to the OEB advising that its application would be late. PUC Distribution should have had no reasonable expectation that the OEB would approve its rates effective May 1, 2018 given the late filing of its application.

This decision does not preclude the consideration of declaring rates interim for a future date, once the OEB has determined the procedural steps for hearing the application.

ADDRESS

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Attention: Board Secretary

E-mail: boardsec@oeb.ca
Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)
Fax: 416-440-7656

DATED at Toronto, **May 1, 2018**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary