



## Westario Power Inc.

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April 26, 2022

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

### Re: Westario Power Inc (Westario) 2023 Cost of Service Application Deferral Request (1 year)

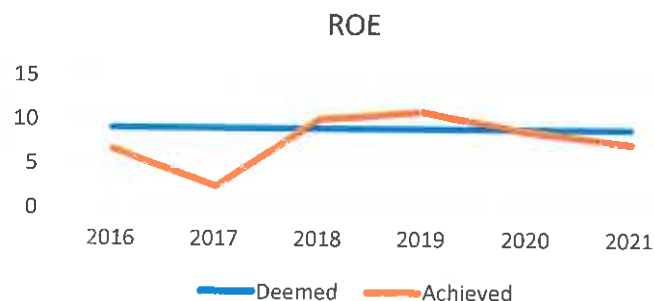
Dear Registrar:

Westario filed its last Cost of Service Application for rates effective January 1, 2018 (EB-2017-0084) and has not requested a deferral before this request. As indicated in the OEB-issued letter dated December 21, 2021, Westario was scheduled to file for rates effective January 1, 2023. However, Westario is formally seeking a deferral of its 2023 Cost of Service Application (CoS) to 2024. This deferral would allow the newly restructured team to provide expertise, input, and support for its 2024 CoS application and underpinning operation and capital budgets. Furthermore, given the current circumstances, preliminary information and results from the OEB rate models indicate it is not in the best interest of Westario and its customers to file a CoS. This decision is based on the review of many factors, including:

- Financial results
- Safety and reliability performances
- Benchmarking performance financial stability

#### Financial Stability

Since Westario's last CoS filing, Westario's achieved ROE has consistently fallen within the 300 basis points of its approved ROE. Westario expects this trend to continue in the coming year. The graph below shows Westario's achieved ROE since its last CoS in 2018.



Year	2018	2019	2020	2021
Deemed	9	9	9	9
Achieved	10.1	10.99	8.77	7.46

**System Reliability**

Westario has been consistent with surpassing the targets set for all the service quality indicators (SQIs), reliability standards (SAIDI & SAIFI), and public safety. In addition, system Reliability scores show Westario’s customers can expect minimal outages and short outage duration times that are much lower than the provincial average. This indicates Westario’s ability to effectively manage its distribution system and maintain and replace assets appropriately. Attached as Appendix A is Westario’s 2020 Scorecard and MD&A.

**Benchmarking Performance**

Westario has been in group 3 since 2016, as indicated in the scorecard. However, using projections for capital and OMA expenditures for 2022 and 2023 prepared for Westario’s CoS Application, the results of the OEB Benchmarking show Westario potentially moving to group 2 as early as 2022, as the average will surpass more than 10% below expected costs. The results are shown below.

Distributor	Year	Stretch Factor	Cohort Number	Efficiency Assessment	Cost per Customer	Cost per km of Line	Cost	Customers	km
Westario Power Inc.	2020	0.30	3.00	-9.1%	588	24,427	14,094,493	23,953	577
Westario Power Inc.	2019	0.30	3.00	-5.9%	601	25,517	14,289,635	23,774	560

Westario has not been subject to any OEB staff audits or reviews.

**Summary**

Through the information presented in this letter, Westario requests to defer its CoS for rebasing rates effective January 1, 2023, for 1 year, to rates effective January 1, 2024. Westario intends to retain the effective date of January 1 for rate changes. As such, Westario intends to file an IRM application using the Price Cap IR methodology for January 1, 2023 rates. Westario is confident this deferral decision will not negatively impact Westario’s customers.

Should any further information be required to assist with this decision, please do not hesitate to contact Westario.

Sincerely,

Carrie Schwippl  
Acting CFO  
Westario Power Inc.

Scorecard - Westario Power Inc.

Performance Outcomes	Performance Categories	Measures	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Trend	Target		
									Industry	Distributor	
<b>Customer Focus</b> Services are provided in a manner that responds to identified customer preferences.	Service Quality	New Residential/Small Business Services Connected on Time	92.10%	92.25%	90.61%	91.83%	95.43%	↑	90.00%		
		Scheduled Appointments Met On Time	100.00%	94.86%	96.40%	95.02%	97.33%	↓	90.00%		
		Telephone Calls Answered On Time	82.90%	82.29%	86.92%	85.86%	86.73%	↑	65.00%		
	Customer Satisfaction	First Contact Resolution	98.86%	99.56%	98.95	97.18%	98.19				
		Billing Accuracy	99.96%	99.99%	99.93%	99.77%	99.61%	↓	98.00%		
		Customer Satisfaction Survey Results	88%	92.0%	92.00	95.0%	94.0				
<b>Operational Effectiveness</b> Continuous improvement in productivity and cost performance is achieved; and distributors deliver on system reliability and quality objectives.	Safety	Level of Public Awareness	86.00%	82.00%	82.00%	83.00%	83.00%				
		Level of Compliance with Ontario Regulation 22/04 <sup>1</sup>	NI	C	C	C	C	→		C	
		Serious Electrical Incident Index	Number of General Public Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	→		0
			Rate per 10, 100, 1000 km of line	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	→		0.027
	System Reliability	Average Number of Hours that Power to a Customer is Interrupted <sup>2</sup>	2.41	1.20	0.58	1.12	1.92	↓		2.37	
		Average Number of Times that Power to a Customer is Interrupted <sup>2</sup>	0.63	0.26	0.21	0.38	0.50	↓		0.62	
	Asset Management	Distribution System Plan Implementation Progress	In process	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed				
	Cost Control	Efficiency Assessment	3	3	3	3	3				
		Total Cost per Customer <sup>3</sup>	\$578	\$582	\$575	\$601	\$588				
		Total Cost per Km of Line <sup>3</sup>	\$25,258	\$25,148	\$24,850	\$25,517	\$24,427				
<b>Public Policy Responsiveness</b> Distributors deliver on obligations mandated by government (e.g., in legislation and in regulatory requirements imposed further to Ministerial directives to the Board).	Connection of Renewable Generation	Renewable Generation Connection Impact Assessments Completed On Time		100.00%			100.00%				
		New Micro-embedded Generation Facilities Connected On Time		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	→	90.00%		
<b>Financial Performance</b> Financial viability is maintained; and savings from operational effectiveness are sustainable.	Financial Ratios	Liquidity: Current Ratio (Current Assets/Current Liabilities)	1.12	0.90	1.40	1.27	1.26				
		Leverage: Total Debt (includes short-term and long-term debt) to Equity Ratio	0.61	0.66	0.73	0.65	0.70				
		Profitability: Regulatory Return on Equity	Deemed (included in rates)	8.98%	8.98%	9.00%	9.00%	9.00%			
			Achieved	6.66%	2.55%	10.10%	10.99%	8.77%			

1. Compliance with Ontario Regulation 22/04 assessed: Compliant (C); Needs Improvement (NI); or Non-Compliant (NC).

2. An upward arrow indicates decreasing reliability while downward indicates improving reliability.

3. A benchmarking analysis determines the total cost figures from the distributor 's reported information.

Legend:

5-year trend  
 up down flat  
 Current year  
 target met target not met

# 2020 Scorecard Management Discussion and Analysis (“2020 Scorecard MD&A”)

The link below provides a document titled “Scorecard - Performance Measure Descriptions” that has the technical definition, plain language description and how the measure may be compared for each of the Scorecard’s measures in the 2020 Scorecard MD&A:

<http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/ Documents/scorecard/Scorecard Performance Measure Descriptions.pdf>

## Scorecard MD&A - General Overview

In 2020, Westario Power Inc. (“WPI” or “Westario Power”) exceeded all performance targets. Westario Power exhibited a deterioration in System Reliability scores in 2020 however the 5-year rolling average is better than the distributor specific target. The general trend has resulted in exceptional system reliability performance overall.

WPI had an excellent year from a performance standpoint. The company met or exceeded the performance measures set by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). The company’s 2020 service quality remained above all industry targets. Customer Satisfaction remained above the industry standard and specifically the three measures combined averaged 97.3%.

As evidenced by service quality, customer satisfaction, and system reliability measures, WPI continued to provide excellent customer service to its customers with a very high level of reliability in 2020. The financial measures show that WPI continues to be a stable and financially strong Ontario distribution company.

In 2021, WPI is committed to exceeding the OEB-set performance measures and is committed to preserving the results of previous years. The performance improvements expected are due to WPI’s unwavering focus on making the necessary investments that will permit its employees to operate the distribution company with a high level of reliability and by responding to customer input with respect to the types of improvements and investments that they expect from the company.

## Service Quality

- **New Residential/Small Business Services Connected on Time**

WPI must connect new service for the customer within five business days, 90% of the time, unless the customer agrees to a later date. This timeline depends on the customer meeting specific requirements ahead of time (such as no electrical safety concerns in the building, customer’s payment information complete, etc.)

Over the 2016 to 2020 period, Westario Power connected, on average, over 92% of new Residential and Small Business customers on time. The 2020 result of 95.43% was the highest attained over the 5 year period. This is above the industry standard of 90% for all Local Distribution Companies (“LDCs”) in Ontario. Westario Power was able to achieve this excellent result due to efficient connection procedures and a focus on providing excellent customer connection service.

- **Scheduled Appointments Met On Time**

For appointments during a utility’s regular business hours, the utility must offer a window of time that is not more than four hours long, and must arrive within that window, 90% of the time.

For 2016, Westario Power’s experience with meeting the Scheduled Appointments Met on Time metric was a perfect 100%, exceeding the industry target of 90%. This perfect record declined slightly in 2017 and the metric result was approximately 95% but still very favourable. The 2020 results were the second best over the 5 year period at 97.3%. Westario continues to experience a high demand for services within a wide service territory. Westario Power’s process for completing appointments during the utility’s regular business hours and offering a window of time that is not more than four hours long is condition that Westario Power strives to meet. In 2021, WPI aims to continue meeting all appointments on time.

- **Telephone Calls Answered On Time**

During regular call centre hours, the utility’s call centre staff must answer phone calls within 30 seconds of receiving the call directly or having the call transferred to them, 65% of the time.

Westario Power believes that providing a better customer experience will help foster customer loyalty and advocacy. Customer loyalty is built through great customer experiences that exceed expectations, and Westario Power believes that enhancing WPI’s customer experience will help to ensure that customers perceive Westario Power’s service offerings as high value added items. For the Telephone Calls Answered within 30 Seconds metric, Westario Power maintained high percentages for qualified incoming calls during regular call centre hours at 86.73% for calls received directly or of having the call transferred. This greatly exceeds the OEB target for timely call response of 65%.

In 2020, WPI continued to improve its accessibility by continually amending its website to provide a more user-friendly format to enhance its customer’s experience.

Westario Power utilizes self-serve web tools such as an electronic billing portal, a customer consumption portal, MyHydroEye, as well as on-line forms and applications available through their website. In addition, Westario Power manages several social media platforms, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, to educate and inform their customer base on initiatives such as safety and energy conservation.

## Customer Satisfaction

- **First Contact Resolution**

Westario Power aims to address their customers' needs as quickly as possible. Ideally, their concerns and issues can be resolved the first time the customer contacts WPI. Westario Power must report on its success at meeting a customer's needs the first time WPI is contacted. First Contact Resolution can be measured in a variety of ways and further regulatory guidance is necessary in order to achieve meaningful comparable information across electricity distributors.

Westario Power tracks First Contact Resolution in its Customer Information System (CIS) tracking First Contact Resolution by using contact logs within the CIS.

Westario has measured First Contact Resolution based on the outcome of the initial contact via telephone. No further action was required on 98% of initial contact made by customers, staying consistent with the previous 3 years results. Westario Power continues to review its processes and find ways to further enhance the customer experience.

- **Billing Accuracy**

An important part of business is ensuring that customer's bills are accurate. Westario Power must report on its success at issuing accurate bills to its customers.

Westario Power initiated the tracking and measuring of Billing Accuracy in 2014 using contact logs and computer generated reports.

Westario Power was able to support a billing accuracy metric of 99.61% for 2020 as a result of the efforts of billing staff and through continuous improvements of the billing process.

- **Customer Satisfaction Survey Results**

Westario Power uses different ways to determine how satisfied their customers are with the service they receive. WPI must report the results of whatever customer satisfaction surveys it uses.

Westario retained the services of an independent third party to conduct a bi-annual Customer Engagement Survey via telephone in 2019. The primary objective is to provide a quantitative measurement of customer perceptions and attitudes. Specifically, the study sought to determine overall satisfaction with the quality of service provided by Westario Power, determine overall satisfaction with the reliability of the

service provided, assess customers' satisfaction with the quality of customer service, assess customers' perceptions of operating and capital expenditures; and provide customer feedback on areas of improvement.

Westario Power's 2019/2020 Customer Satisfaction Study showed an increase to 95% overall satisfaction compared to the previous bi-annual survey. Westario Power's overall quality of service at 95% is greater than the provincial average. The next survey is scheduled for the fall of 2021. Westario continues to train staff in providing the highest levels of professionalism and service to translate into a more positive customer experience.

## Safety

- **Public Safety**
  - **Component A – Public Awareness of Electrical Safety**

The apparatus used to run an electricity system can be extremely dangerous. Because equipment such as power lines and poles can be located in public areas, the utility must take steps to prevent electrical accidents or incidents involving the public. One way is to provide information about safety risks and precautions to take when near this equipment.

The Public Awareness of Electrical Safety Survey involves a new statistical survey that gauges the public's awareness of key electrical safety concepts related to electrical distribution equipment in Westario Power's service area. It measures the level of effort placed by distributors on preventing electrical accidents and provides a benchmark of the levels of awareness including identifying gaps where additional education and awareness efforts may be required. This is the first year for providing province-wide standardized reporting on this measure. Westario will carry out a survey every two years that measures the effort made to raise the public's awareness about these risks.

Results are based on a telephone survey (Random Digit Dialing) among 10497 Members of the General Public, 18 years of age or older, residing within the 2020 participating LDCs' geographic service territories. The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian census figures (2016) for age, gender and region.

The following six core measurement questions asked corresponds to the six most frequent incidents involving utility equipment in Ontario over the last decade:

- Likelihood to "call before you dig."
- Impact of touching a power line
- Proximity of an overhead power line

- Danger of tampering with electrical equipment
- Proximity to downed power line
- Actions taken in vehicle in contact with wires

This survey and previous years' surveys of the public in your service territory about electrical safety show many respondents do have good knowledge or have received some information pertaining to the 6 core measurement questions. The Combined Overall Public Safety Awareness Index Score is 83%.

- **Component B – Compliance with Ontario Regulation 22/04**

Ontario Regulation 22/04 – Electrical Distribution Safety sets out safety standards that utilities must follow in their operations – for example, making sure proper procedures are in place to prevent accidents or incidents, keeping the system in safe working condition, etc.

Westario Power must demonstrate how well it met the standards by providing declarations, audit results, inspection reports and other documentation. For 2020, WPI received a compliant with Ontario Regulation 22/04. For 2021, WPI will strive to maintain compliance with Regulation 22/04.

- **Component C – Serious Electrical Incident Index**

Westario Power must report on any serious electrical incidents involving its equipment and the general public. A 'serious electrical incident' is defined as:

- a. any electrical contact that caused death or critical injury to a person;
- b. any inadvertent contact with any part of a distribution system operating at 750 volts or above that caused, or had the potential to cause, death or critical injury to a person;
- c. any fire or explosion in any part of a distribution system operating at or above 750 volts that caused, or had the potential to cause, death or critical injury to a person, except a fire or explosion caused by lightning strike.

For the scorecard, WPI reports both the number of incidents and how often they happen for every 10, 100 or 1,000 kilometers of line WPI operates. This reflects the different sizes of WPI's service areas.

Westario did not have any serious electrical incidents in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Westario endeavors to provide safety information and outlining the dangers that all customers' need to be aware of prior to working around power lines and equipment. This includes calling our office, obtaining locates prior to digging, and obtaining references to respective codes. All information is provided free



of charge to members of the public and all other interested parties. Westario continues to strive to communicate on safety throughout our distribution system through various methods including safety orientations, on-line, and telephone.

## System Reliability

- **Average Number of Hours that Power to a Customer is Interrupted**

An important feature of a reliable distribution system is recovering from power outages as quickly as possible. Westario Power must track the average length of time, in hours, that its customers have experienced a power outage over the past year.

For 2020, WPI's average number of hours that power to a customer was interrupted was 1.92 hours moving WPI lower than its distributor target of 2.37 hours, the significant recent improvements in this measure resulted in the 5 year rolling average, 1.45 to fall below the distributor specific target. Interruptions are largely attributed to loss of power/ loss of supply caused by being an embedded distributor to Hydro One, who lost power due to severe weather.

- **Average Number of Times that Power to a Customer is Interrupted**

Another important feature of a reliable distribution system is reducing the frequency of power outages. Westario Power must track the number of times its customers have experienced a power outage over the past year.

For 2020, WPI's average number of times that power to a customer was interrupted was 0.5 times. This is lower than its distributor target of 0.62 times. Most occurrences are attributed to loss of power/ loss of supply caused by being an embedded distributor to Hydro One, who lost power due to severe weather.

Overall, Westario's 5 year rolling average indicates improving reliability.

## Asset Management

- **Distribution System Plan Implementation Progress**

Westario Power's Distribution System Plan (DSP) is complete and was included as part of WPI's 2018 Cost of Service rate application filed in 2017. The DSP filed covered a 5-year plan for the years 2018-2022.

## Cost Control

- **Efficiency Assessment**

Westario Power must manage its costs successfully in order to help assure its customers they are receiving value for the cost of the service they receive.

WPI's total costs are evaluated to produce a single efficiency ranking. These rankings are separated into five groups which are determined by the difference between each utility's actual and predicted costs. Utilities whose actual costs are lower than predicted are considered more efficient and will be assigned to Group 1 or Group 2. Utilities whose actual and predicted costs are similar will be assigned to Group 3. Utilities whose actual costs are higher than predicted will be assigned to Group 4 or Group 5.

For 2016 to 2020, WPI has been assigned to Group 3, an average performer and whose actual costs are close to those predicted. Westario continues to strive to achieve greater efficiency through productivity improvements and cost control, without compromising safety and reliability of the distribution system.

- **Total Cost per Customer**

Total cost is a sum of all the costs incurred by Westario Power to provide service to its customers. This amount is then divided by the WPI's total number of customers to determine the Total Cost per Customer. The results are indicative of stable and effectively planned maintenance and replacement programs.

Westario achieved a Total Cost per Customer of \$588, an decrease of \$13 (2%) from the previous year. Westario continues to monitor and manage its cost structure to balance the cost effectiveness while ensuring the reliability and safety of the distribution system. This has resulted in a very stable annual total cost per customer and as reflected in other measures a dependable distribution system.

- **Total Cost per km of Line**

Total cost is a sum of all the costs incurred by Westario Power to provide service to its customers. This amount is then divided by the number of kilometers of line WPI operates to determine the Total Cost per km of Line.

Westario achieved a Total Cost per km of Line of \$24,427, resulting in an decrease of 4.2% compared to 2019. As noted above, Westario continues to monitor and manage its distribution system in a cost effective manner while also ensuring maintenance and capital investments are undertaken in a manner to maximize both safety and reliability for its customers.

## Connection of Renewable Generation

- **Renewable Generation Connection Impact Assessments Completed on Time**

Westario Power must complete a connection impact assessment for a renewable generator within a certain timeline, and must report to the Board on how well it met those timelines.

In 2020, 100% of Feed-In Tariff (FIT) connection impact assessments were completed on time.

- **New Micro-embedded Generation Facilities Connected On Time**

Westario Power must connect smaller generators, producing less than 10kW of power, within five business days 90% of the time, unless the customer agrees to a later date. These generators are known as “micro-embedded generation facilities.” The timeline depends on the customer meeting specific requirements ahead of time.

In 2020, 100% of the Micro Feed-In Tariff (Microfit) connections required were connected on time.

## Financial Ratios

- **Liquidity: Current Ratio (Current Assets/Current Liabilities)**

A common way of measuring the financial health of a company is through financial ratios. The Current Ratio measures whether or not a company has enough resources (assets) to pay its debts (liabilities) over the next 12 months.

Westario's 2020 Current Ratio is a 1.26. This ratio is in line with than the 5-year average of 1.19, and not significantly lower than 2019's ratio of 1.27. The ratio in 2021 should not change significantly as a result of the acquisition of additional long-term debt which aligns with Westario's strategy of aligning long term assets with long term liabilities. No long-term debt was acquired in 2020.

- **Leverage: Total Debt (includes short-term and long-term debt) to Equity Ratio**

Total Debt to Equity Ratio measures the degree to which a company is leveraging itself through its use of borrowed money.

Westario's 2020 Total Debt to Equity Ratio increased to 0.70 when compared to 2019's ratio of 0.65 and is essentially in line with the .67 five-year average. This slight increase reflects Westario's ability to operate and maintain a safe and reliable distribution system by funding new capital projects with revolving debt supported by positive operating results.

- **Profitability: Regulatory Return on Equity – Deemed (included in rates)**

Return on Equity is the rate of return that Westario Power is allowed to earn through its distribution rates, as approved by the Ontario Energy Board. The rate of return that the Ontario Energy Board had determined for 2020 was 9.0%. Westario was able to essentially match this target through prudent cost containment and approval of the Cost of Service in 2018 and IRM for 2020.

- **Profitability: Regulatory Return on Equity – Achieved**

The Achieved Return on Equity shows Westario Power's actual Return on Equity earned in the year. Westario earned a Return on Equity of 8.77% in 2020, which has deteriorated from 10.99% in 2019. The achieved Return on Equity is within the +/- 3% of the deemed regulatory Return on Equity. Westario has achieved an average return on equity of 7.8% over the last five years; reflecting stable earnings and a practice of retaining equity to support the operations and the re-investment in the distribution assets, while maintaining a customer focused operation that is safe and reliable.

## Note to Readers of 2020 Scorecard MD&A

The information provided by distributors on their future performance (or what can be construed as forward-looking information) may be subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual events, conditions or results to differ materially from historical results or those contemplated by the distributor regarding their future performance. Some of the factors that could cause such differences include legislative or regulatory developments, financial market conditions, general economic conditions and the weather. For these reasons, the information on future performance is intended to be management's best judgement on the reporting date of the performance scorecard, and could be markedly different in the future.

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The apparatus used to run an electricity system can be extremely dangerous. Because equipment such as power lines and poles can be located in public areas, the utility must take steps to prevent electrical accidents or incidents involving the public. One way is to provide information about safety risks and precautions to take when near this equipment.

The Public Awareness of Electrical Safety Survey involves a new statistical survey that gauges the public's awareness of key electrical safety concepts related to electrical distribution equipment in Westario Power's service area. It measures the level of effort placed by distributors on preventing electrical accidents and provides a benchmark of the levels of awareness including identifying gaps where additional education and awareness efforts may be required. This is the first year for providing province-wide standardized reporting on this measure. Westario will carry out a survey every two years that measures the effort made to raise the public's awareness about these risks.

Results are based on a telephone survey (Random Digit Dialing) among 10497 Members of the General Public, 18 years of age or older, residing within the 2020 participating LDCs' geographic service territories. The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian census figures (2016) for age, gender and region.

The following six core measurement questions asked corresponds to the six most frequent incidents involving utility equipment in Ontario over the last decade:

- Likelihood to "call before you dig."
- Impact of touching a power line
- Proximity of an overhead power line

- Danger of tampering with electrical equipment
- Proximity to downed power line
- Actions taken in vehicle in contact with wires

This survey and previous years' surveys of the public in your service territory about electrical safety show many respondents do have good knowledge or have received some information pertaining to the 6 core measurement questions. The Combined Overall Public Safety Awareness Index Score is 83%.

- **Component B – Compliance with Ontario Regulation 22/04**

Ontario Regulation 22/04 – Electrical Distribution Safety sets out safety standards that utilities must follow in their operations – for example, making sure proper procedures are in place to prevent accidents or incidents, keeping the system in safe working condition, etc.

Westario Power must demonstrate how well it met the standards by providing declarations, audit results, inspection reports and other documentation. For 2020, WPI received a compliant with Ontario Regulation 22/04. For 2021, WPI will strive to maintain compliance with Regulation 22/04.

- **Component C – Serious Electrical Incident Index**

Westario Power must report on any serious electrical incidents involving its equipment and the general public. A 'serious electrical incident' is defined as:

- a. any electrical contact that caused death or critical injury to a person;
- b. any inadvertent contact with any part of a distribution system operating at 750 volts or above that caused, or had the potential to cause, death or critical injury to a person;
- c. any fire or explosion in any part of a distribution system operating at or above 750 volts that caused, or had the potential to cause, death or critical injury to a person, except a fire or explosion caused by lightning strike.

For the scorecard, WPI reports both the number of incidents and how often they happen for every 10, 100 or 1,000 kilometers of line WPI operates. This reflects the different sizes of WPI's service areas.

Westario did not have any serious electrical incidents in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Westario endeavors to provide safety information and outlining the dangers that all customers' need to be aware of prior to working around power lines and equipment. This includes calling our office, obtaining locates prior to digging, and obtaining references to respective codes. All information is provided free

of charge to members of the public and all other interested parties. Westario continues to strive to communicate on safety throughout our distribution system through various methods including safety orientations, on-line, and telephone.

## System Reliability

- **Average Number of Hours that Power to a Customer is Interrupted**

An important feature of a reliable distribution system is recovering from power outages as quickly as possible. Westario Power must track the average length of time, in hours, that its customers have experienced a power outage over the past year.

For 2020, WPI's average number of hours that power to a customer was interrupted was 1.92 hours moving WPI lower than its distributor target of 2.37 hours, the significant recent improvements in this measure resulted in the 5 year rolling average, 1.45 to fall below the distributor specific target. Interruptions are largely attributed to loss of power/ loss of supply caused by being an embedded distributor to Hydro One, who lost power due to severe weather.

- **Average Number of Times that Power to a Customer is Interrupted**

Another important feature of a reliable distribution system is reducing the frequency of power outages. Westario Power must track the number of times its customers have experienced a power outage over the past year.

For 2020, WPI's average number of times that power to a customer was interrupted was 0.5 times. This is lower than its distributor target of 0.62 times. Most occurrences are attributed to loss of power/ loss of supply caused by being an embedded distributor to Hydro One, who lost power due to severe weather.

Overall, Westario's 5 year rolling average indicates improving reliability.

## Asset Management

- **Distribution System Plan Implementation Progress**

Westario Power's Distribution System Plan (DSP) is complete and was included as part of WPI's 2018 Cost of Service rate application filed in 2017. The DSP filed covered a 5-year plan for the years 2018-2022.

## Cost Control

- **Efficiency Assessment**

Westario Power must manage its costs successfully in order to help assure its customers they are receiving value for the cost of the service they receive.

WPI's total costs are evaluated to produce a single efficiency ranking. These rankings are separated into five groups which are determined by the difference between each utility's actual and predicted costs. Utilities whose actual costs are lower than predicted are considered more efficient and will be assigned to Group 1 or Group 2. Utilities whose actual and predicted costs are similar will be assigned to Group 3. Utilities whose actual costs are higher than predicted will be assigned to Group 4 or Group 5.

For 2016 to 2020, WPI has been assigned to Group 3, an average performer and whose actual costs are close to those predicted. Westario continues to strive to achieve greater efficiency through productivity improvements and cost control, without compromising safety and reliability of the distribution system.

- **Total Cost per Customer**

Total cost is a sum of all the costs incurred by Westario Power to provide service to its customers. This amount is then divided by the WPI's total number of customers to determine the Total Cost per Customer. The results are indicative of stable and effectively planned maintenance and replacement programs.

Westario achieved a Total Cost per Customer of \$588, an decrease of \$13 (2%) from the previous year. Westario continues to monitor and manage its cost structure to balance the cost effectiveness while ensuring the reliability and safety of the distribution system. This has resulted in a very stable annual total cost per customer and as reflected in other measures a dependable distribution system.

- **Total Cost per km of Line**

Total cost is a sum of all the costs incurred by Westario Power to provide service to its customers. This amount is then divided by the number of kilometers of line WPI operates to determine the Total Cost per km of Line.

Westario achieved a Total Cost per km of Line of \$24,427, resulting in an decrease of 4.2% compared to 2019. As noted above, Westario continues to monitor and manage its distribution system in a cost effective manner while also ensuring maintenance and capital investments are undertaken in a manner to maximize both safety and reliability for its customers.

## Connection of Renewable Generation

- **Renewable Generation Connection Impact Assessments Completed on Time**

Westario Power must complete a connection impact assessment for a renewable generator within a certain timeline, and must report to the Board on how well it met those timelines.

In 2020, 100% of Feed-In Tariff (FIT) connection impact assessments were completed on time.

- **New Micro-embedded Generation Facilities Connected On Time**

Westario Power must connect smaller generators, producing less than 10kW of power, within five business days 90% of the time, unless the customer agrees to a later date. These generators are known as “micro-embedded generation facilities.” The timeline depends on the customer meeting specific requirements ahead of time.

In 2020, 100% of the Micro Feed-In Tariff (Microfit) connections required were connected on time.

## Financial Ratios

- **Liquidity: Current Ratio (Current Assets/Current Liabilities)**

A common way of measuring the financial health of a company is through financial ratios. The Current Ratio measures whether or not a company has enough resources (assets) to pay its debts (liabilities) over the next 12 months.

Westario's 2020 Current Ratio is a 1.26. This ratio is in line with than the 5-year average of 1.19, and not significantly lower than 2019's ratio of 1.27. The ratio in 2021 should not change significantly as a result of the acquisition of additional long-term debt which aligns with Westario's strategy of aligning long term assets with long term liabilities. No long-term debt was acquired in 2020.

- **Leverage: Total Debt (includes short-term and long-term debt) to Equity Ratio**

Total Debt to Equity Ratio measures the degree to which a company is leveraging itself through its use of borrowed money.

Westario's 2020 Total Debt to Equity Ratio increased to 0.70 when compared to 2019's ratio of 0.65 and is essentially in line with the .67 five-year average. This slight increase reflects Westario's ability to operate and maintain a safe and reliable distribution system by funding new capital projects with revolving debt supported by positive operating results.

- **Profitability: Regulatory Return on Equity – Deemed (included in rates)**

Return on Equity is the rate of return that Westario Power is allowed to earn through its distribution rates, as approved by the Ontario Energy Board. The rate of return that the Ontario Energy Board had determined for 2020 was 9.0%. Westario was able to essentially match this target through prudent cost containment and approval of the Cost of Service in 2018 and IRM for 2020.

- **Profitability: Regulatory Return on Equity – Achieved**

The Achieved Return on Equity shows Westario Power's actual Return on Equity earned in the year. Westario earned a Return on Equity of 8.77% in 2020, which has deteriorated from 10.99% in 2019. The achieved Return on Equity is within the +/- 3% of the deemed regulatory Return on Equity. Westario has achieved an average return on equity of 7.8% over the last five years; reflecting stable earnings and a practice of retaining equity to support the operations and the re-investment in the distribution assets, while maintaining a customer focused operation that is safe and reliable.

## Note to Readers of 2020 Scorecard MD&A

The information provided by distributors on their future performance (or what can be construed as forward-looking information) may be subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual events, conditions or results to differ materially from historical results or those contemplated by the distributor regarding their future performance. Some of the factors that could cause such differences include legislative or regulatory developments, financial market conditions, general economic conditions and the weather. For these reasons, the information on future performance is intended to be management's best judgement on the reporting date of the performance scorecard, and could be markedly different in the future.