



Enhancing Customer Choice

Enabling the Implementation of the Ultra-Low Overnight Price Plan (EB-2022-0160)

September 13, 2022

Purpose

The **purpose** of this meeting is to:



Outline OEB staff's preliminary thinking on enabling the implementation of the Ultra-Low Overnight (ULO) Price Plan



Obtain feedback on the OEB's implementation proposal from stakeholders



Identify any implementation issues that may have not been covered by this proposal

Agenda



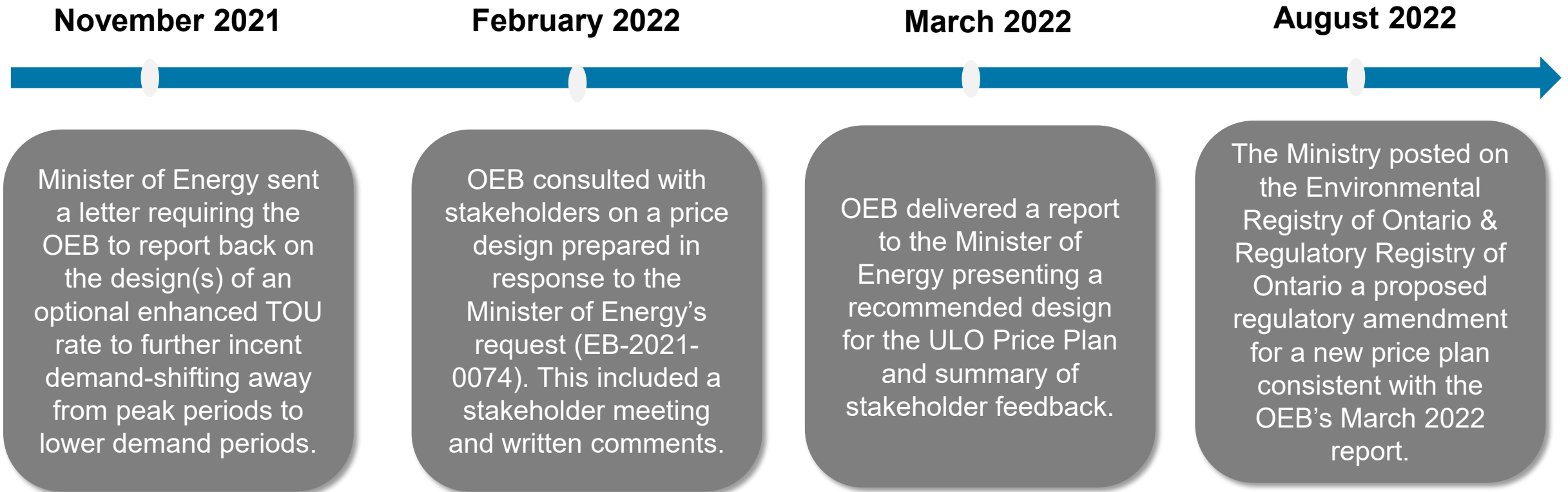
This meeting will cover the following topics:

- ✓ Background & context
- ✓ Plan for enabling the implementation of ULO
 - ✓ Amending the OEB codes
 - ✓ Calculating prices
 - ✓ Developing communication materials
 - ✓ Updating the MDM/R
- ✓ Implementation issues

Background & Context

Background

The following **work has been conducted** regarding the ULO Price Plan:



ULO Price Plan – Regulatory Amendment

The proposed price, as **outlined in the regulatory posting**, is described below. This is consistent with the OEB's March 2022 report:

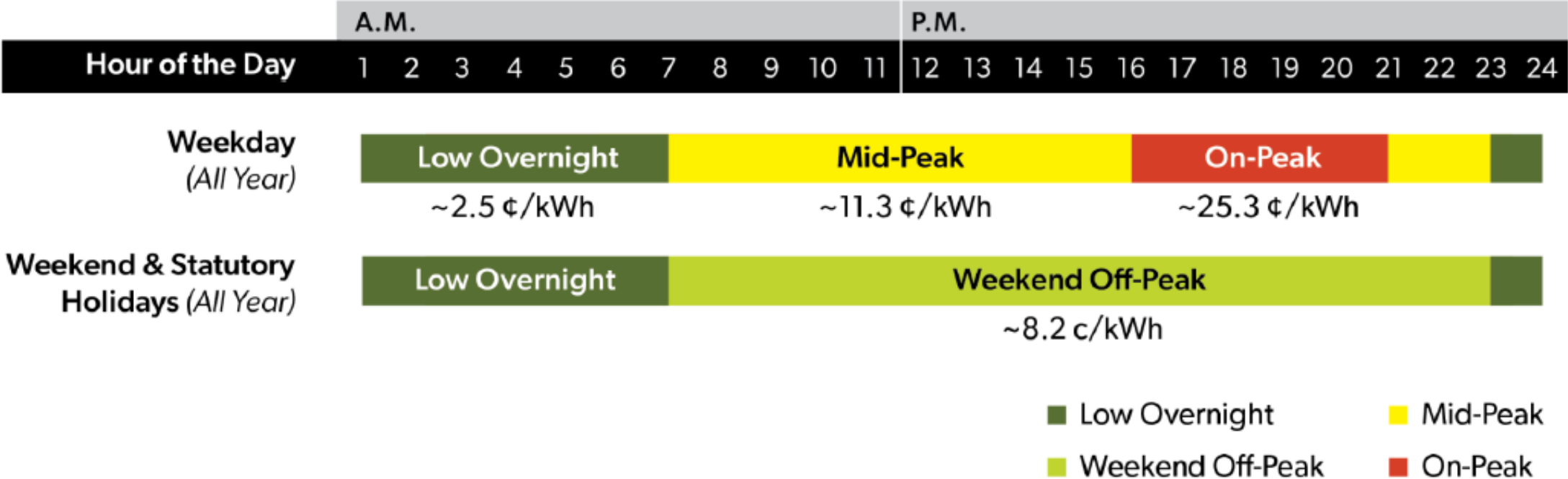
The design of the proposed new price plan would include four price periods:

- ✓ Ultra-low overnight price period that applies from 11:00 PM–7:00 AM on weekdays, weekends, and holidays throughout the year;
- ✓ On-peak price period;
- ✓ Mid-peak price period; and
- ✓ Weekend off-peak price period.

All topics discussed today, including Code amendments, are **contingent upon** the results of the **government's consultation process** and finalization of the **regulatory amendments**.

ULO Price Plan – Proposed OEB Design

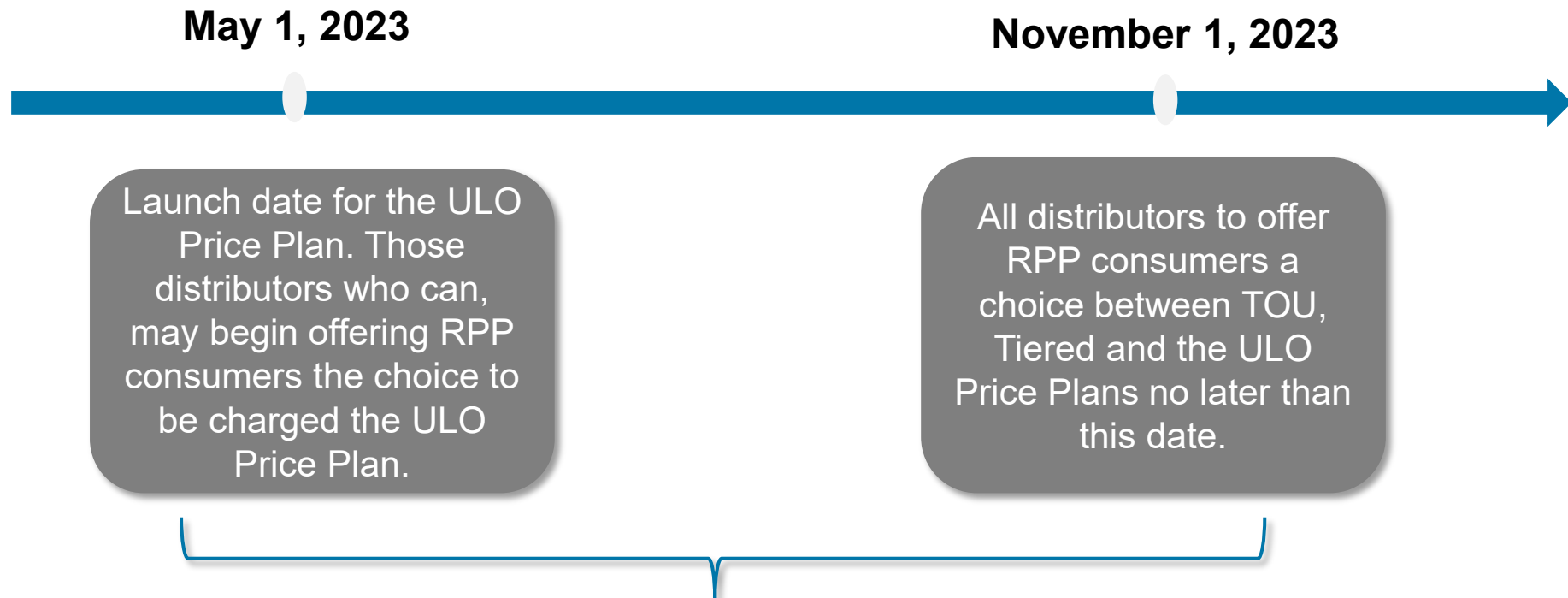
An optional price plan available to all RPP consumers in addition to the standard TOU and Tiered price plans. Prices are illustrative, based on the RPP prices set for November 1, 2021.*



*Actual prices would be determined through the OEB’s RPP price-setting process.

Timeline for Implementation

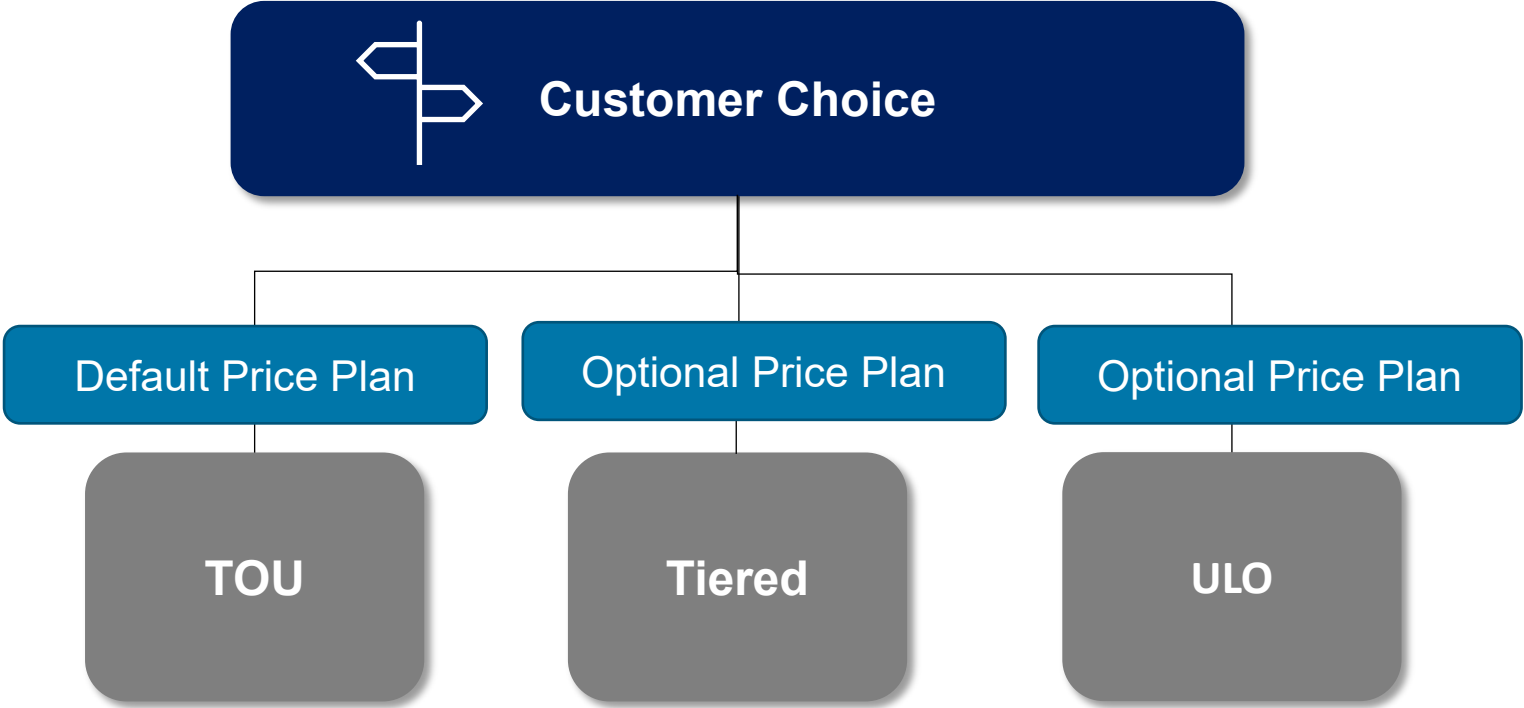
The regulatory postings provide the **following schedule** for implementing the ULO Price Plan:



To **support distributors** who can provide the proposed new price plan to their customers between May 1 and October 31, 2023, the OEB would be required to **set rates for the ULO Price Plan** that apply for that period.

Customer Choice

The introduction of the **ULO Price Plan** will provide RPP consumers with smart metering capabilities with the ability to choose from **three electricity price plans**:



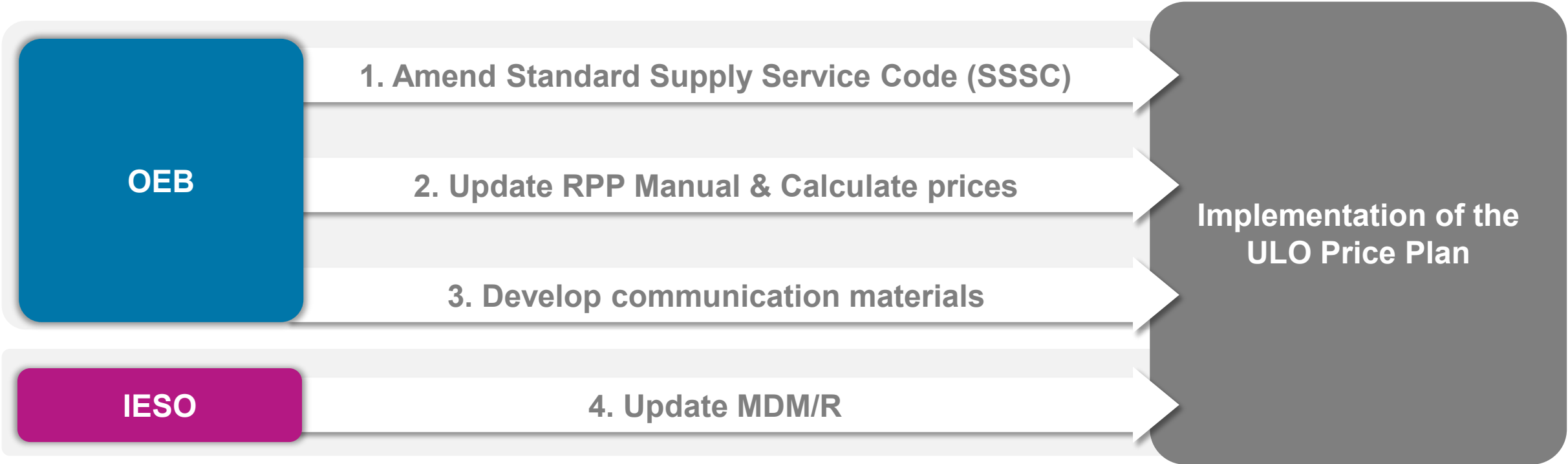
Questions or Comments



Plan for Enabling Implementation

Plan Overview

Enabling the implementation of the ULO Price Plan involves the **following activities**:



1. Amend SSSC

Amend SSSC

In June 2020, the OEB **initiated the Customer Choice consultation (EB-2020-0152)** to inform amendments to the SSSC to enable customers to opt out of TOU and be charged tiered prices.



To build on the **existing Customer Choice architecture**, the OEB will **leverage the amendments** made to the SSSC in 2020 to enable customers to be charged according to the **ULO Price Plan**. The amendments to the SSSC will also define the new ULO Price Plan.

Principles

The proposed **principles** for enabling the implementation of the ULO Price Plan are shown below.

These are **consistent with the principles** established for Customer Choice in 2020.

TOU Default



- ✓ TOU remains the default price plan for those with smart meters
- ✓ A customer that does nothing stays on TOU
- ✓ A customer that wants to switch to an optional plan must give notice

Prospective



- ✓ The switch to the optional plan is prospective only (no retroactive billing) and coincides with customer's billing period

Standardized



- ✓ Standardized timelines apply to the steps in the election process

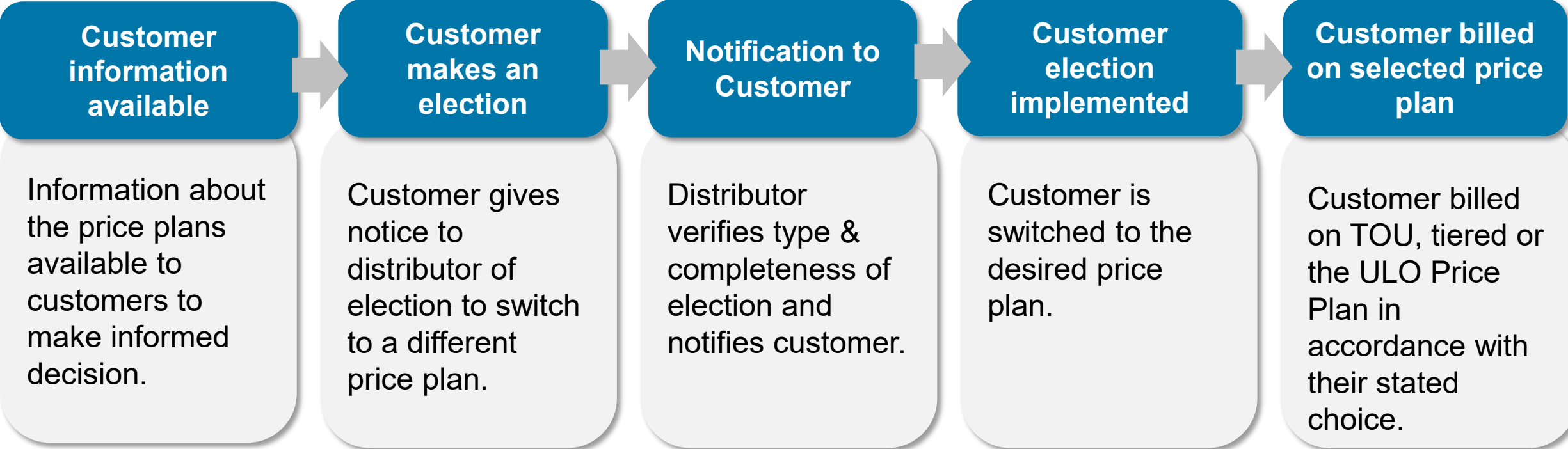
Consistent



- ✓ The ability to elect is consistent for all optional price plans.

Customer Choice – Process Overview

The process established for enabling Customer Choice in 2020 involves the **following steps**. It is proposed that this process **continue with the introduction** of the ULO Price Plan.



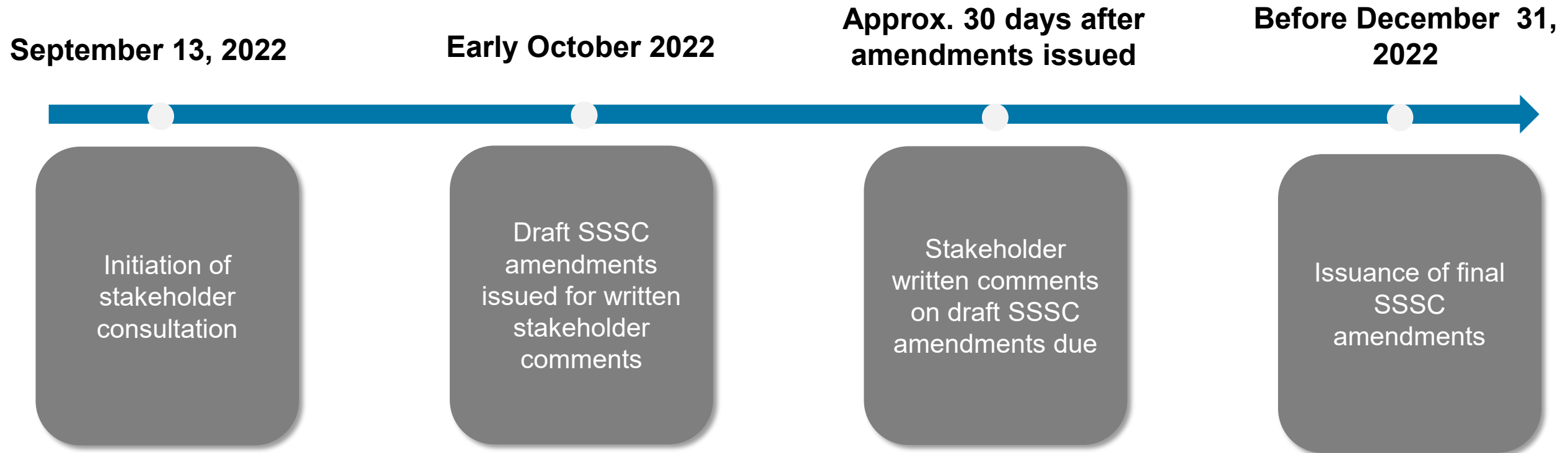
Customer Choice – Selected Rules

As a reminder, below are some of the rules established for Customer Choice in 2020. Again, it is proposed that these rules, and the others established in 2020, **continue with only modifications made to reflect the introduction of the ULO Price Plan:**

- ✓ Notification to a customer must be provided within at least 10 business days of the receipt of an election.
- ✓ The change in pricing structure must be effective:
 - ✓ at the beginning of the consumer's first billing period after the election form it is received, if it is received at least 10 business days before the beginning of that billing period; or
 - ✓ at the beginning of the second billing period after the election form is received, if the distributor is unable to give effect to it at the beginning of the first billing period.
- ✓ Any customer who elects to switch from TOU to tiered pricing can switch back at any time.

Amendments to SSSC - 2022

The proposed **process for amending the SSSC** to enable the implementation of ULO Price Plan is as follows:



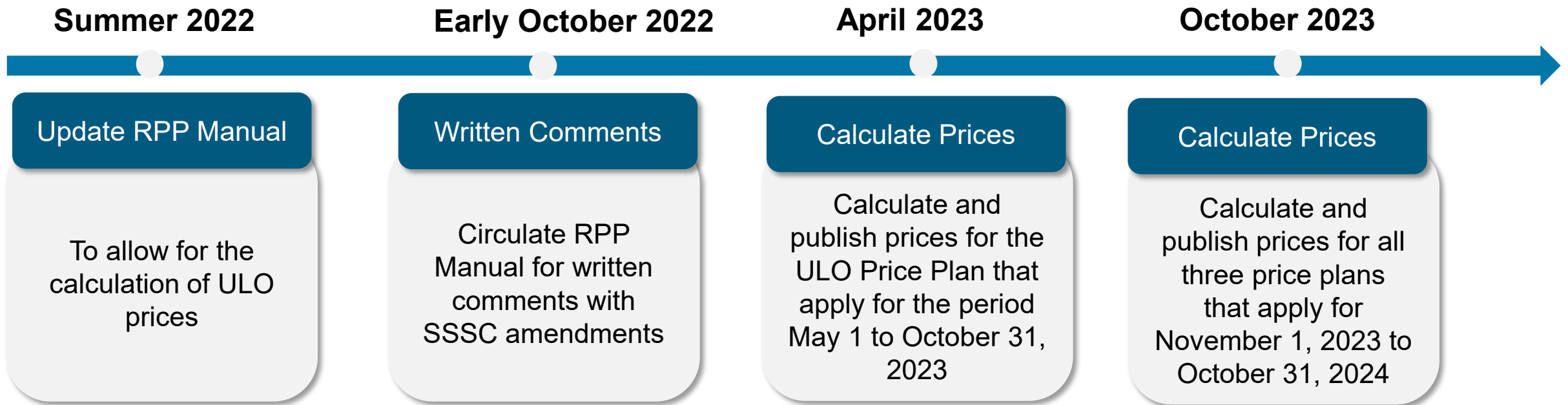
Questions or Comments



2. Update RPP Manual & Calculate Prices

2. Calculate Prices

The proposed **process & timeline** for calculating the prices for the ULO Price Plan:



Questions or Comments



3. Develop Communication Materials

3. Communication Materials

The OEB will provide the **following communications materials** related to the ULO Price Plan prior to May 1, 2023:



**Updated bill
calculator**



**Updated Customer
Choice webpage,
including videos
and social media**



**Updated election
form template**

Questions or Comments



4. Update MDM/R

1. Current Understanding of the Ultra-Low Overnight Price Plan

- The ULO Price Plan will have the following structure:
 - Ultra-low overnight rates: everyday 11 p.m.-7 a.m.
 - Mid-peak rates: weekdays 7 a.m.-4 p.m. and 9 p.m.-11 p.m.
 - On-peak rates: weekdays 4 p.m.-9 p.m.
 - Weekend off-peak rates: weekends and statutory holidays 7 a.m.-11 p.m.

2. SME Assumptions

- A. That the SME would provide a solution to support LDCs leveraging the existing infrastructure/design and interfaces of the MDM/R.
- B. That the Ultra-Low Overnight (Optional Enhanced) price plan requires 1 (one) new “bin” of low overnight data hence the MDM/R should be able to provide this “bin” as part of the current solution, enabling LDCs to apply the rates as they do for TOU.
- C. That the OEB will be able to track the results of this new price plan via reports from the SME, giving a provincial view of the adoption rate and the demand reductions.
- D. That the SME will be able to support considering a May 1, 2023 implementation.

3. Proposed Solution

Enable a new price plan and associate it to Service Delivery Points (SDPs)

Provide reports to the OEB to monitor customer uptake and the shifting of the consumption

Enable framing the data using different start and end times (Switchpoints)

Provide Billing Quantities that LDCs can use to apply the new rates defined for the Optional Enhanced Ultra-Low Overnight Price Plan

3. Proposed Solution

- Price Plans:

In the MDM/R this information is managed via the Commodity Rate Class (CRC) and LDCs synchronize the price plan using specific codes, e.g. 101 for TOU, 102 for Tiered.

To enable the tracking of consumers as they switch between price plans, the proposal is to add a new CRC code 106 for the Ultra-Low Overnight price plan.

Table 2.3.20 Commodity Rate Class Codes

Parameter Value	Commodity Rate Class	Notes
101	Time-of-Use (TOU)	Price option with three time-of-use price periods: off-peak, mid-peak, and on-peak; developed as part of the Regulated Price Plan (RPP) for those with smart meters
102	Tiered	Price option in which consumers can use a certain amount of electricity each month at a lower price; when they pass that level, the rate goes up for all additional electricity.
103	Retailer	Applicable to consumers who have signed a contract with a licensed active energy retailer and pay a fixed rate that replaces the time-of-use and tiered pricing RPP options. These consumers have chosen to no longer be under the Regulated Price Plan (RPP).
104	Spot Market Pricing	Price option in which consumers pay, for a given hour, the Hourly Ontario Energy Price established by the IESO for that hour. These consumers are not considered under the Regulated Price Plan (RPP).
105	Net Metered	Billing option that allows customers to generate renewable energy onsite for their own use, and receive bill credits for any surplus electricity sent to the grid.
<u>106</u>	<u>Low Overnight Time-of-Use (LOTOU)</u>	<u>Price option with time-of-use price periods that includes an ultra-low overnight rate also referred as Optional Enhanced</u>
999	Other	Price options that do not fall within the parameter values described above but the Universal SDPs are synchronized with the MDM/R e.g. microFIT, FIT.

3. Proposed Solution

- New “Bin” of consumption:

Summarizing the energy usage information according to certain defined time periods is managed via the Framing Structure, using specific IDs, e.g. “01” TOU/CPP (EST), “02” TOU/CPP (CST).

To enable the framing of interval data according to the new price plan and deliver the set of Billing Quantities that LDCs can use to apply the rates, the proposal is to add two new codes “05” and “06” , for the Low Overnight EST and CST respectively.

Table 2.3.13 Cross Reference Framing Structure ID; Framing Structure; Energy Purchase Service and Measurement Profile Values

Framing Structure ID	Framing Structure Billing Quantity Data Components and Time Basis	Energy Purchase Service – Service Type Name	Data Delivery Service – Measurement Profile Element Values
"01"	"TOU/CPP (EST)" TOU/CPP kWh (EST)	"Energy Purchase Service, TOU/CPP (EST)"	"MP TOU Billing Quantities RRCR"
"02"	"TOU/CPP (CST)" TOU/CPP kWh (CST)	"Energy Purchase Service, TOU/CPP (CST)"	"MP TOU Billing Quantities RRCR"
"03"	"Hourly" Hourly kWh (EST)	"Energy Purchase Service, Hourly"	"MP Hourly Billing Quantities RRCR"
"04"	"Periodic" Periodic kWh (EST)	"Energy Purchase Service, Periodic"	"MP Periodic Billing Quantities RRCR"
"05"	<u>"LOTOU (EST)"</u> <u>Low Overnight (EST)</u>	<u>"Energy Purchase Service, LOTOU (EST)"</u>	<u>"MP LOTOU Billing Quantities RRCR"</u>
"06"	<u>"LOTOU (CST)"</u> <u>Low Overnight (CST)</u>	<u>"Energy Purchase Service, LOTOU (CST)"</u>	<u>"MP LOTOU Billing Quantities RRCR"</u>

3. Proposed Solution

- Billing Quantities

Given the new buckets of data available the Billing Response would contain two additional billing determinants:

- KWH Low Overnight Usage BC
- KWH CR Adj Low Overnight Usage BC

Table 3.9.8 MDM/R Billing Measurements Providing Equality Adjustment

Framing Structure ID	MDM/R Framing Structure	Measurement Profile	Related Billing Measurements	Description
				equality adjustment
			KWH CR Adj Mid Peak Usage BC	Total daily TOU Mid Peak consumption with equality adjustment
			KWH CR Adj On Peak Usage BC	Total daily TOU On Peak consumption with equality adjustment
			KWH CR Adj Usage BC	Total daily KWH consumption with equality adjustment
03	Hourly	MP Hourly Interval Billing Quantities RRCR	KWH Interval 60 Minutes	KWH consumption for 60 minute Interval
			KWH RR Cum BC Start Register	Start register reading for the billing period
			KWH RR Cum BC	End register reading for the billing period
			KWH Usage BC	Total daily KWH consumption
			KWH CR Register Read Diff BC	Register Read Difference: End register reading minus the Start register reading
			KWH CR Adj Interval 60 Minutes	KWH consumption for 60 minute Interval with equality adjustment
			KWH CR Sum Adj Interval 60 Minutes	Sum of adjusted Hourly Usage values
			KWH CR Adj Usage BC	Total daily KWH consumption with equality adjustment
04	Periodic	MP Periodic Billing Quantities RRCR	KWH Usage BC	Total daily KWH consumption
			KWH RR Cum BC Start Register	Start register reading for the billing period
			KWH RR Cum BC	End register reading for the billing period
			KWH CR Register Read Diff BC	Register Read Difference: End register reading minus the Start register reading
			KWH CR Adj Usage BC	Total daily KWH consumption with equality adjustment
05	<u>LOTOU (EST)</u> <u>Low Overnight kWh (EST)</u>	<u>MP LOTOU Billing Quantities RRCR</u>	<u>KWH Off Peak Usage BC</u>	<u>Total daily TOU Off Peak consumption</u>
			<u>KWH Mid Peak Usage BC</u>	<u>Total daily TOU Mid Peak consumption</u>
			<u>KWH On Peak Usage BC</u>	<u>Total daily TOU On Peak consumption</u>
			<u>KWH Low Overnight Usage BC</u>	<u>Total daily TOU Low Overnight consumption</u>
			<u>KWH RR Cum BC Start Register</u>	<u>Start register reading for the billing period</u>
			<u>KWH RR Cum BC</u>	<u>End register reading for the billing period</u>
			<u>KWH Usage BC</u>	<u>Total daily KWH consumption</u>
			<u>KWH CR Register Read Diff BC</u>	<u>Register Read Difference: End register reading minus the Start register reading</u>
			<u>KWH CR Adj Off Peak Usage BC</u>	<u>Total daily TOU Off Peak consumption with equality adjustment</u>
06	<u>LOTOU (CST)</u> <u>Low Overnight kWh (CST)</u>		<u>KWH CR Adj Mid Peak Usage BC</u>	<u>Total daily TOU Mid Peak consumption with equality adjustment</u>
			<u>KWH CR Adj On Peak Usage BC</u>	<u>Total daily TOU On Peak consumption with equality adjustment</u>
			<u>KWH CR Adj Low Overnight Usage BC</u>	<u>Total daily TOU Low Overnight consumption with equality adjustment</u>
			<u>KWH CR Adj Usage BC</u>	<u>Total daily KWH consumption with equality adjustment</u>

3. Proposed Solution

- Web Services

With the new buckets of data available, the Web Services Response would contain an additional "readingTypeID" with the Low Overnight record.

Table 2.10.2 Measurement Profiles

measurement Profile	Data Type	readingTypeIds returned	readingTypeId Description
		KWH Estimated Usage	Total daily estimated KWH consumption
MP02	Register Reading Data	KWH RR Cum	Register reading data for the period
	Interval Data	COUNT KWH Est Intervals	Total number of estimated intervals in the day
	Usage Data	KWH Usage KWH Estimated Usage TOU CPP 01 TOU CPP 02 TOU CPP 03 <u>TOU CPP 04</u>	Total daily KWH consumption Total daily estimated KWH consumption Total daily TOU Off Peak consumption Total daily TOU Mid Peak consumption Total daily TOU On Peak consumption <u>Total daily TOU Low Overnight consumption</u>
MP03	Register Reading Data	KWH RR Cum	Register reading data for the period
	Interval Data	KWH Interval 60 Minutes	Interval data for the period
MP04	Register Reading Data	KWH RR Cum	Register reading data for the period
	Interval Data	COUNT KWH Est Intervals KWH Interval 60 Minutes	Total number of estimated intervals in the day Interval data for the period
	Usage Data	KWH Usage KWH Estimated Usage TOU CPP 01 TOU CPP 02 TOU CPP 03 <u>TOU CPP 04</u>	Total daily KWH consumption Total daily estimated KWH consumption Total daily TOU Off Peak consumption Total daily TOU Mid Peak consumption Total daily TOU On Peak consumption <u>Total daily TOU Low Overnight consumption</u>

3. Proposed Solution

This proposed approach* leveraging the current design of the MDM/R and potential future price plans or changes to start and end dates impacts the LDCs as follows:

- Ability to synchronize the new codes for framing structure and CRC
- Ability to process 2 new billing determinants and 1 additional readingtypeID in the Billing Response and Web Services Response respectively.
- Identify error codes associated to the new framing value or billing quantities in the different reports (BR03, IR07, framing failure report and/or action item TBD)
- Testing to ensure meter-to bill, and web presentment options work as expected.

MDM/R Documentation and Communications

REDLINE versions of the MDM/R Technical Interface Specifications can be found in the SME Service Desk Knowledge Base under "Ultra-Low Overnight".

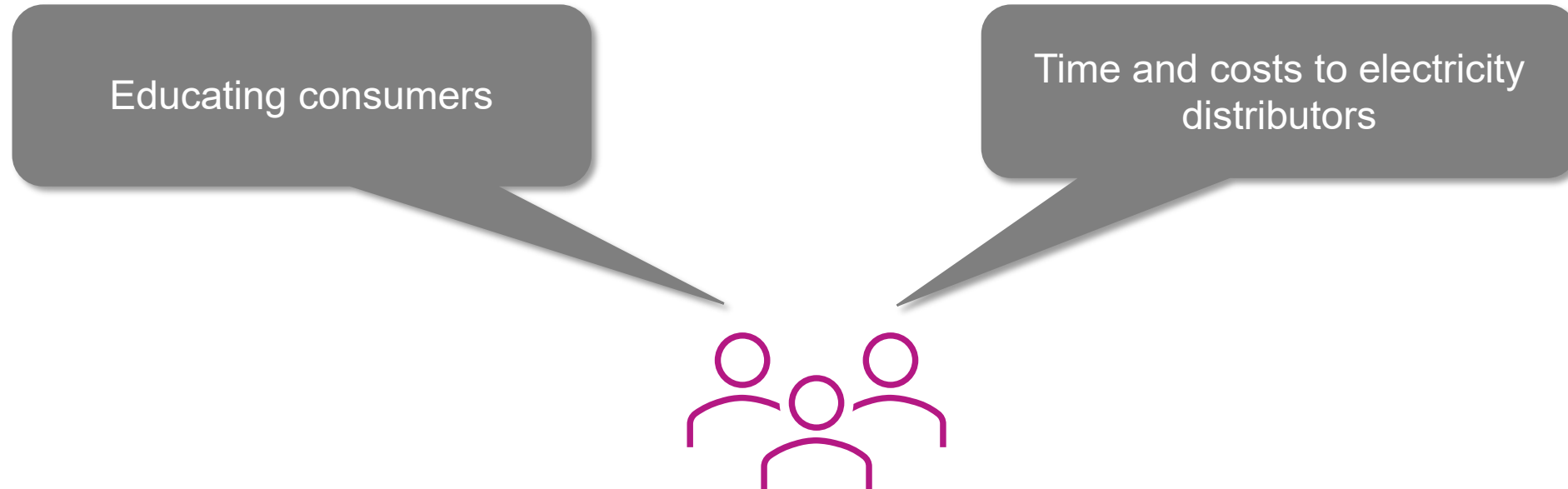
These versions will remain as REDLINE status until such time when all comments are received, final government approval is issued (OEB Mandate) and the code changes are ready for promotion to the MDM/R Production environment.

A communication from the SME was sent out to LDCs on August 24th advising of the redline versions being posted.

Implementation Issues

Implementation issues

Some **key implementation issues** that were communicated through the ULO price design consultation (EB-2021-0074) included:



What additional issues, if any, do you foresee in preparing for the implementation of the ULO Price Plan?

Next Steps

The **next steps** in this consultation are:

Next step	Timing
The OEB issues the draft SSSC amendments and draft update to the RPP Manual for stakeholder comments	Early October 2022
Stakeholders submit written comments on the draft SSSC amendments and draft update to the RPP Manual	Approximately 30 days after the drafts issued by the OEB

Contact Us



Any questions about this
consultation please contact

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