

Investigation of Electricity Rate Increase Notice

The New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board ("Board") has been directed by the Minister of Energy to investigate the necessity for the three per cent increase in electricity rates for customers of New Brunswick Power Distribution and Customer Service Corporation ("Disco") that took effect on April 1, 2009 and to report its findings to the Minister of Energy. The Board believes that it is in the public interest for the investigation to be completed as quickly as possible.

The Board has ordered Disco to file with the Board, by April 30, 2009, a complete package of the evidence relating to its forecasted revenues and costs for 2009/2010. This information will be posted on Disco's website by April 30, 2009 and also available by contacting Disco.

In addition, the Board has retained an independent financial consultant to review certain aspects of the Disco information and to provide the Board with a report on his findings. This report will be available by May 15, 2009 on the Board's website.

A public hearing will begin at 9:30am on May 27, 2009 at the Delta Brunswick Hotel, Ballroom "C", Saint John.

An investigation is different in nature from a review that would occur in relation to an application by Disco. The investigation by the Board will be limited to a review of Disco's forecasted revenues and costs for the 2009/2010 year. The Board will not investigate the allocation of costs as between customer classes nor the specific rate design used by Disco.

Members of the public may participate in one of two ways:

- (a) Provide a written submission to the Board by May 20, 2009; or
- (b) Participate in the public hearing.

Parties who wish to participate in the public hearing must register with the Board and Disco by April 30, 2009.

Parties who register may submit written questions to Disco by 4 pm May 8, 2009. Disco will respond to the questions by noon May 19, 2009. Parties, who do not consider the response by Disco to be adequate, must inform the Board and Disco, in writing, by 4 pm May 20, 2009 with their reasons as to why the response is not adequate. Parties will also be able to ask questions and provide submissions at the public hearing. Further information is available on the Board's website or by contacting the Board.

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