MANITOBA	)	Order	No.	127/07
	)			
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT	)			
	)			
MANITOBA HYDRO ACT	)			
	)			
THE CROWN CORPORATIONS PUBLIC	)			
REVIEW AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT	)	Octobe	r 17	7, 2007

BEFORE: Graham Lane, C.A., Chairman Monica Girouard, C.G.A., Member

MANITOBA HYDRO SURPLUS ENERGY PROGRAM RATES FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 22 TO OCTOBER 28, 2007

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## Introduction

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves Manitoba Hydro's (MH) application of October 17, 2007 for Ex Parte approval of revised interim Surplus Energy Program (SEP) prices -- for the week of October 22 to October 28, 2007.

By Order No. 90/00, the Board approved an application by MH for SEP and agreed to a process to involve weekly setting and publishing of SEP rates, through "Schedule SEP-1," the most recent attached. By Order 173/06, SEP was extended to the earlier of either October 31, 2007 or a Board decision to amend SEP.

## Background

SEP is the mechanism by which MH prices electricity generated in excess of its immediate requirements, for potential sale to large Manitoba customers. Average spot market prices are determined weekly using Board-approved methodology.

SEP provides large Manitoba commercial customers additional access to electricity on an interruptible basis, with pricing established similar to that offered by MH to "opportunity" export sales customers or, in the case where MH expects to import power, at a price reflective of MH's cost plus a surcharge. When MH has surplus energy and is not importing, SEP benefits large customers able to make use of additional electricity.

Under SEP, customers accept or decline electricity delivery at the prices offered. Customers are responsible for meeting any

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service interruption that may occur through their own back-up generation.

MH's SEP net revenues result from sales pursuant to the program net of related imputed costs, these costs represented by afterthe-fact wholesale spot energy market pricing.

Essentially, SEP provides MH revenue from domestic industry that it would otherwise have realized by the selling of all of its excess generation to the Midwest Independent System Operators (MISO) market, basically American utilities. SEP is expected to "break-even" on an annual basis.

Appendix "A" depicts the variability of average spot market prices over the last four years, including the current year. Appendices "B", "C" and "D" report SEP prices provided the medium general service customer class as established for Peak, Shoulder and Off-Peak hours over the same time period.

Peak time represents high demand hours, which are Monday to Friday with hours that vary between summer and winter. Off-peak is the night-time period between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.; shoulder time is the remaining daily hours.

With the concurrent existence of a transmission-constrained MH Ontario market and the April 2005 implementation of new market rules for MISO, MH can sell 100% of its surplus energy to the MISO market.

MISO provides MISO-footprint utilities, including MH, the ability to sell surplus energy to other utilities within MISO at

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established pricing, avoiding the otherwise necessity of reaching terms on an individual basis with each specific counter-party.

Recent experience:

For the November 2005 to February 2006 period, SEP On-peak and Shoulder prices were high, as export demand was strong and MH water resources were high.

From mid-April to mid-July 2006, SEP Off-Peak prices were extremely low due to falling natural gas prices that enabled increased use of natural gas at lower costs by American utilities, which reduced MISO demand for imported power. At the time, MH's water resource levels were good, providing excess generation; though prices were low to MISO customers and sales remained limited by transmission capacity.

By mid-September 2006, prices across all three time periods returned to the "normal" range. However, MH's water level situation had deteriorated and MH was required to begin importing electricity to meet domestic and committed export demand at various times.

Beginning October 31, 2006, SEP pricing increased dramatically. Transmission constraints in the United States (U.S.), lower than normal temperatures across the MISO region - increasing electricity demand, and planned generating equipment outages typical of the fall season, combined to drive up market import/export prices. Unfortunately, reduced water levels in

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Manitoba lead to MH importing electricity and MH did not benefit from the situation.

When MH has to import power to meet SEP domestic demand, with import prices generally being higher than the cost of generation in Manitoba, MH adds a 10% surcharge to SEP prices in accordance with the Board's approved procedure for such circumstances.

Since January 2007, shoulder and off-peak rates have increased significantly, corresponding to growth in average spot market pricing. SEP off-peak rates approached or exceeded shoulder rates, largely because of MH's requirement to meet SEP domestic demand in the off-peak. Concurrently, MH imported power during off-peak hours on virtually every day until May 2007.

As a result, MH increased stored water from the shoulder period, which otherwise would have been used to produce electricity for export, this to allow for increased electricity generation in the off-peak period to avoid importing.

These actions, combined with the surcharge, had the effect of increasing off-peak rates for SEP customers to the equivalent shoulder rate.

In May, 2007, MH no longer required constant imports, and was able to return to normal storage and generation practices. With relief from import prices, a decline in SEP off-peak rates occurred.

Rates for the week ending October 21, 2007 are affected by MH's planned shut down of a transmission line to the United States for maintenance purposes, resulting in the inability to export to the U.S. during that week.

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Program History:

Since its inception in December 2000, SEP has sold an average of over 23,000 GW hours per year of electricity to MH's medium and large customers, at "wholesale" market prices. Over the fiveyear period November 1, 2001 to October 31, 2006, MH reported SEP Net Income of \$302,254 (approximately, \$60,000/year).

## Board Findings

MH's latest SEP application is in accordance with the agreedupon practice, and SEP continues to have value for a small component of MH's customer base. Continuing to dealing with SEP applications on an interim ex parte basis is consistent with past practice. Rates set through this process are interim, to be finalized at General Rate Application hearings.

Accordingly, the Board affirms revised Schedule SEP-1 and will approve the amended schedule.

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## IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- Manitoba Hydro's application for approval of revised Schedule SEP-1, as attached, to be in effect from October 22 to October 28, 2007, BE AND IS HEREBY APPROVED on an Interim Ex Parte basis.
- This Interim Ex Parte Order shall be in full force and effect until confirmed or varied by a further Order of the Board following a public hearing.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

<u>"GRAHAM F. J. LANE, CA"</u> Chairman

"G. O. BARRON"

Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 127/07 issued by The Public Utilities Board

Acting Secretary

The estimated average s the Spot Market Rate has The expected source(s) of	s been calcula	ated using approved Publi	\$41.55 c Utilities Board metho mport and export	per MWh. Manitoba H dology.	ydro warrants that	
		SCHEDULE SEP-1 SURPLUS ENERGY PROGRAM RATES		J.R. WESTMACOTT		
October 22, 2007	to	October 28, 2007		PR DA	OFESSIONAL	
Tariff No. 50-19 Genera	Service Med	dium (Utility Owned Tran	15.)		an company	
Distribution Charge Energy Charge		Peak Hours 0.620 7.112	Shoulder Hours 0.620 4.879	Off Peak Hours 0.620 1.786	cents/kWh cents/kWh	
Tariff No. 50-20 General	Service Lar	ge 750V not exceeding 3	30 kV			
Distribution Charge Energy Charge		Peak Hours 0.330 7.017	Shoulder Hours 0.330 4.814	Off Peak Hours 0.330 1.762	cents/kWh cents/kWh	
Tariff No. 50-21 Genera	Service Lar	ge 30 kV not exceeding	100 kV			
Distribution Charge Energy Charge		Peak Hours 0.140 6.849	Shoulder Hours 0.140 4.698	Off Peak Hours 0.140 1.720	cents/kWh cents/kWh	
Tariff No. 50-22 Genera	Service Lar	ge exceeding 100 kV				
Distribution Charge Energy Charge		Peak Hours 0.060 6.748	Shoulder Hours 0.060 4.629	Off Peak Hours 0.060 1.695	cents/kWh cents/kWh	
Peak Hours		May 1 to October 31 Monday - Friday * 12:01 - 20:00 Hours		November 1 to April 30 Monday - Friday * 7:01-11:00 and 16:01-20:00 Hours		
Shoulder Hours		Monday - Sunday ** 7:01 - 23:00 Hours		Monday - Sunday ** 7:01 - 23:00		
Off Peak Hours		Monday - Sunday 23:01 - 7:00 Hours		Monday - Sunday 23:01 - 7:00 Hours		
* excluding statutory holi ** excluding peak hours	days					

The Basic Monthly Charge is \$50.00 per month for SEP customers with total loads less than or equal to 1000 kVA. The Basic Monthly Charge is \$100.00 per month for SEP customers with total loads greater than 1000 kVA.

Manitoba Hydro October 17, 2007 10/17/2007 7:42

APPENDIX "A" Estimated Average Spot Market Rate







