

MANITOBA) Order No. 17/15
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) February 9, 2015

BEFORE: Régis Gosselin, B ès Arts, MBA, CGA, Chair
Richard Bel, B.A.,M.A.,M.Sc., Member
Neil Duboff, B.A. (Hons), L.L.B., T.E.P., Member
Hugh Grant, Ph.D., Member
Marilyn Kapitany, B.Sc. (Hon), M.Sc., Member

**ORDER ADDRESSING MANITOBA HYDRO'S APPLICATION TO REVIEW AND
VARY THE BOARD'S JANUARY 27, 2015 DECISIONS IN RESPECT OF MANITOBA
HYDRO'S 2014/15 AND 2015/16 GENERAL RATE APPLICATION**

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1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) denies Manitoba Hydro's January 30, 2015 Application to Review and Vary the Board's decisions of January 27, 2015.

2.0 Manitoba Hydro's General Rate Application

On January 16, 2015 and January 23, 2015, Manitoba Hydro filed its materials for a General Rate Application (GRA), requesting approval from the Board for, among other items:

- an interim 3.95% rate increase for all customer classes, effective April 1, 2015; and
- a further 3.95% rate increase for all customer classes, effective April 1, 2016.

By letter dated January 27, 2015, the Board notified Manitoba Hydro and prospective Interveners that for purposes of the current GRA the Board would review Manitoba Hydro's existing rates based on the interim 2.75% rate increase, effective May 1, 2014 and approved by the Board in Order 49/14. The Board also indicated it would review, in this GRA, Manitoba Hydro's request for a further 3.95% rate increase for all customer classes, for Manitoba Hydro's 2015/16 fiscal year.

In the January 27, 2015 letter, the Board indicated it would not be reviewing or approving rate increases to be effective April 1, 2016, as that issue was addressed through a prior process (resulting in Board Order 49/14), which directed Manitoba Hydro to file a two-year GRA only.

In the same January 27, 2015 letter, the Board indicated it was not in the public interest to consider an interim 3.95% rate increase for April 1, 2015. Rather, the Board expects to issue a final Order as to any approved rate increases following the evidentiary oral public hearing that Manitoba Hydro has proposed be scheduled in May and June of 2015.

On January 30, 2015 Manitoba Hydro applied to the Board, by way of a letter, to 'Review and Vary' the decisions the Board made in its January 27, 2015 letter.

3.0 Manitoba Hydro's Review and Vary Request

Having considered Manitoba Hydro's January 30, 2015 letter as an Application to Review and Vary the Board's January 27, 2015 decisions, the Board adjudicated the Application pursuant to the Board's Rule 36.

The Board considered, in respect of Manitoba Hydro's Application, the preliminary questions as to whether the matter should be reviewed and whether there was reason to believe the decisions should be rescinded, changed, altered or varied.

The Board is of the opinion that Manitoba Hydro has not raised a substantial doubt as to the correctness of the Board's decisions.

The Board is also of the opinion that Manitoba Hydro has not raised any new facts or a change in circumstances that could lead the Board to materially vary or rescind the Board's decisions.

If, during the GRA proceeding, the Board is made aware of new facts or a material change in circumstances that impact the decisions contained in its January 27, 2015 letter, the Board, on its own initiative, can review, rescind, change, alter or vary the decisions contained in its January 27, 2015 letter.

Additionally, in the GRA materials filed to date, Manitoba Hydro has included its forecasts for the April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 fiscal year as well as other future years. As that information will be reviewed by the Parties to this GRA Hearing, it will be open to the Board to provide further direction, in its final GRA Order, as to any additional information to be filed and considered before determining whether any process should be instituted for possible April 1, 2016 interim rates.

4.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

Manitoba Hydro's Application to Review and Vary the Board's decisions, as to an interim rate increase effective April 1, 2015 and a further rate increase effective April 1, 2016, **BE AND IS HEREBY DENIED.**

Board decisions may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of *The Public Utilities Board Act*, or reviewed in accordance with Section 36 of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Board's Rules may be viewed on the Board's website at www.pub.gov.mb.ca.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"Régis Gosselin, B ès Arts., CGA, MBA"
Chair

"Kurt Simonsen"
Associate Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 17/15
issued by The Public Utilities Board

Associate Secretary