



NEW BRUNSWICK
ENERGY & UTILITIES BOARD

COMMISSION DE L'ÉNERGIE ET DES SERVICES PUBLICS
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

ORDONNANCE

EN L'AFFAIRE CONCERNANT une demande de la Société d'énergie du Nouveau-Brunswick en vertu du paragraphe 103(1) de la Loi sur l'électricité, L.N. B. 2013, ch. 7, visant l'approbation des barèmes des tarifs pour l'exercice financier 2024/25 et l'exercice financier 2025/26, le projet d'immobilisation, et autres approbations.

(Instance n° 552)

Le 10 décembre 2024

Ordonnance

ATTENDU QUE la Commission a émis une ordonnance datée le 2 décembre 2024, fixant les tarifs pour toutes les catégories de clients pour les exercices financiers 2024-2025 et 2025-2026;

ET ATTENDU QUE la Commission a également ordonné à Énergie NB de déposer un plan pour effectuer les ajustements de facturation nécessaires afin de refléter la différence entre les tarifs approuvés le 2 décembre 2024 et les tarifs provisoires approuvés le 26 mars 2024;

ET ATTENDU QU'Énergie NB a déposé une proposition d'ajustements de facturation auprès de la Commission le 5 décembre 2024;

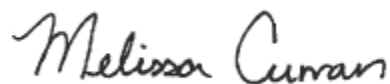
ET ATTENDU QUE la Commission a examiné et considéré la proposition;

À CES CAUSES, IL EST ORDONNÉ COMME SUIT :

La proposition d'ajustement de facturation soumise par Énergie NB et jointe en annexe A est approuvée. Il est demandé à Énergie NB de procéder rapidement à la mise en œuvre des ajustements de facturation dans les délais fixés dans sa proposition.

Fait à Saint John, au Nouveau-Brunswick, ce 10^e jour de décembre 2024.

PAR LA COMMISSION



Melissa Curran
Greffière en chef adjointe

Annexe A

NB Power's Proposed Implementation of the Board's Matter 552 Decision of November 8, 2024

Background

The Board's Decision of November 8, 2024, reduced NB Power's revenue requirement and denied NB Power's proposal to merge urban, rural, and seasonal monthly service charges. NB Power subsequently recalculated its rates and charges in accordance with the Board's decision and those rates were approved by the Board on December 2, 2024.

In addition, the Board ordered NB Power to submit for review and approval a plan to make billing adjustments to reflect the difference between the rates approved in the Order on December 2, 2024, and the interim rates approved on March 26, 2024.

Proposal

NB Power is proposing to adjust customer bills to reflect the difference between the final rates and the interim rates, irrespective of whether the difference is positive or negative and irrespective of the amounts. Interest will be calculated on overpaid amounts and credited to customers. The one-time adjustment will appear on the customer's subsequent bill.

Energy and Demand Charges

Energy and demand charges for all classes were reduced slightly for 2024/25. This reduction results in a relatively small credit for most customers. The simple calculation for the energy charge credit is:

$$(final\ rate - interim\ rate) \times \#\ of\ kWhs\ consumed\ during\ the\ interim\ rate\ period = credit$$

For example, a residential customer who consumed 10,800 kWhs during the interim rate period would receive a credit of -\$1.08 for their energy charge.

$$(13.46¢ - 13.47¢) \times 10,800\ kWhs = -\$1.08$$

The simple calculation for the demand charge credit is:

$$(final\ rate - interim\ rate) \times \#\ of\ kW\ of\ billing\ demand\ during\ the\ interim\ rate\ period = credit$$

For example, a General Service I customer who had 90kW of billing demand during the interim rate period would receive a credit of -\$0.90 for their demand charge.

$$(\$12.68 - \$12.69) \times 90\ kW = -\$0.90$$

Monthly Service Charges (Residential Only)

The approved service charge for rural and seasonal customers is \$1.30/month higher than the interim charge. Rural and seasonal customers will be back billed based on the number of months they were charged the service charge at the interim rate. For the majority of the approximately 156,000 rural customers the "back billing" adjustment for the monthly service charges will be greater than the credit adjustment for their energy charge.

For urban customers the approved service charge is \$1.32/month lower than the interim charge. Urban customers will be credited based on the number of months they were charged the service charge at the interim rate.

General Service II (GSII)

The interim rates for GSII customers approved by the Board included a conditional demand charge. The final rates schedule and policies approved by the Board does not include a conditional demand charge but does include a bill protection measure. The conditional demand charge was inadvertently left in the RSP manual that was filed in the general rate application and for approval of interim rates. This was an oversight when merging the GS II customers with GS I customers who do not have a conditional demand charge. Even with the bill protection measure this resulted in some GSII customers being underbilled since interim rates went into effect on April 1, 2024. NB Power is proposing not to back bill these customers because the underbilling was a result of NB Power’s own oversight.

All other adjustments

For all other components of a customer’s bill where the final rate is different than the interim rate, NB Power will use the same methodology as above to calculate the adjustment.

$$(final\ rate - interim\ rate) \times unit\ of\ measure = adjustment$$

Average Adjustment

The following table shows the average adjustment for each rate class including all components of the bill:

Rate Class	Average Adjustment per Customer or unit*
Residential (Urban)	\$(11.06)
Residential (Rural/Seasonal)	\$8.59
General Service I	\$(3.05)
General Service II	\$(4.24)
Industrial Transmission	\$(6,223.08)
Industrial Distribution	\$(44.60)
Streetlights	\$(1.72)
Unmetered	\$(4.33)
Wholesale	\$(41,313.66)

*Streetlights and unmetered are per unit averages. All others are per customer.

Bill Presentation

NB Power proposes to show the combined adjustments (refund/collection) and the associated tax adjustments in a separate line item on each customer’s bill as illustrated below.

Interim rate adjustment from April 1, 2024 to December 31, 9999	
Ajustement du tarif provisoire du 1er avril 2024 au 31 décembre 9999	- 27.74
Interim rate adjustment HST/Ajustement de la TVH du tarif provisoire	- 4.11

Information on NB Power’s website, customer care agents, and account managers will help customers understand their bill adjustments. Customers who were final billed since April 1, 2024, will be notified by email that an adjustment was posted to their account.

Timing

All billing adjustments can be completed within 48 hours of the Board approval of the proposed plan except for large industrial customers. Large industrial customer bills will be processed individually so they will take a few extra days to complete. Any customer who has an NB Power online account will see their adjustment immediately once it is processed. Customers who receive a paper bill will see the adjustment on their next bill.

Approval Requested

NB Power believes that its proposal as described herein is in keeping with the intent of the Board’s decision. Accordingly, NB Power awaits the Board’s approval of this proposal before making any adjustments.