



PLUG INTO LOCAL POWER

DEREGULATION: ONTARIO'S NEW COMPETITIVE ELECTRICITY MARKET

Background:

The Energy Competition Act, legislation to reform the structure of Ontario's electricity system, opens Ontario's electricity market to competition next year. The Provincial Government's position is that this will attract and keep jobs and investment in Ontario.

What does this mean to the local consumer?

Choice. As in the long distance telephone and natural gas businesses, customers will have the option of arranging for electricity directly, at a set price, through the market. Most customers will continue to receive their electricity bill from the Local Distribution Company. Those not wishing to change energy suppliers by signing a contract with a licensed energy retailer will continue to receive electricity from the Local Distribution Company.

Electricity Prices:

Competition brings choice, and choice encourages greater product and service innovation, and ultimately lower prices. Industry experts expect prices to rise before they will fall, reasoning the major components of local hydro bills are the generation and transmission of electricity. Under the legislation, a large part of the generation price for electricity has been frozen for the first four years of market competition. For truly lower rates, that generation price must be competitive. The Local Distribution Company, along with paying dividends, will no longer collect development charges to fund new infrastructure and also must take on new costs associated with distribution, such as more complex billing systems.

Keeping Consumers Protected:

While giving you the power of choice in the electricity market, the government has been careful to lay down rules to protect the consumers: *electricity retailers are subject to all of the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act; all electricity retailers must be licensed by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) and obey a strict code of conduct; if a retailer fails to fulfill its contractual obligation, you will still be supplied with power by your local utility at its standard rate.*

STANDARD SUPPLY SERVICE

From the Local Distribution Company (Orillia Water, Light and Power Successor Company)

Customers who do not wish to sign a contract with a licensed energy broker will continue to receive electricity from the Local Distribution Company.

Right now electricity prices are set annually on a not-for-profit basis. In the new marketplace, the energy price for Standard Supply Service customers will be estimated by the IMO for the coming year and that estimated cost will be passed on to those consumers. An adjustment will be made semi-annually to reflect the actual cost of electricity. This may result in consumers being required to make an additional payment to cover the difference if the estimate proves to have been too low. If the cost was over estimated, some form of rebate may be payable to the consumer.

BE INFORMED...take your time...GET THE BEST OFFER!

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

Ontario Energy Board	www.oeb.gov.on.ca
Ministry of Energy Science & Technology	www.est.gov.on.ca
Independent Electricity Market Operator	www.iemo.com
Municipal Electric Association	www.mea.on.ca

BUSINESS, TECHNOLOGY & CHANGE

The turn of the millennium has come and gone, the Y2K turned into yOK. We have fibre optics and we have Internet. Where to now? The new economy referred to by many is one based in the sharing of information and knowledge. To access this information economy, we hear terms like T-1, ATM, TCP/IP, DNS. To most these terms are all very enigmatic. Yet success and the rules by which businesses will be done are predicted by these technologies. **Orillia has them and more.**

Orillia is one in a handful of communities across Canada with a community fibre optic network, this high speed network (or broadband network) is capable of delivering to the world, the full potential of our city and it's residents. Such networks are the initial steps for community building in the 21st century. Communities are transforming themselves and relying less on tradition and more on innovation and autonomy. As such they are taking charge and creating the framework for their residents to succeed in this information economy.

When change occurs at break neck speed, it usually spells trouble for all but the most established of businesses. The change in technology taking place today is shaping the information revolution and redefining business.



ENERGY SAVING TIP!! AIR CONDITIONING SOLUTIONS

Use the bathroom fan to exhaust warm, humid air after bathing or showering. Be sure the bathroom door is closed so that cool, conditioned air is not exhausted unnecessarily.

POWER OUTAGE SMARTS

- **NEVER USE A BARBECUE INDOORS.** Carbon monoxide emissions can cause asphyxiation.
- **TURN OFF OR UNPLUG** the stereo, TV, computer and other electronic devices that are sensitive to surges when power is restored.
- **KEEP THE FREEZER AND REFRIGERATOR DOORS CLOSED** to keep the cold air inside.
- **IF YOU HAVE AN ELECTRIC GARAGE DOOR OPENER,** you should be familiar with the manual operator of the unit, so that in an emergency you can get out of the garage safely and quickly.
- **IF THE POWER IS OFF** in the homes or apartments around you, call our Control Centre at 326-7315. It is manned 24 hours/per day, 7 days a week.

The Basics

- flashlight & batteries
- candles and candle holders
- matches or lighter
- cell phone
- first aid kit
- battery operated radio & clock
- bottled water
- non-perishable foods
- manual can and bottle openers

Other Necessities

- prescription drugs
- extra cash & spare car keys
- sleeping bags
- personal toiletries and toilet paper
- plastic garbage bags



IN AN ELECTRICAL STORM

- DON'T** stand out in the open
- DON'T** stand under a tree
- DON'T** finish that round of golf
- DON'T** hold on to your golf club
- DON'T** swim. Get out of the water
- DON'T** stay near tall metal objects

BE SAFETY SMART ...

- DO** seek shelter indoors
- DO** stay in your vehicle
- DO** get in your golf cart
- DO** seek low ground and lay down if caught in the open

IN AN ELECTRICAL STORM BE PREPARED

If the power is out for an extended period, emergency supplies are a must, and a special place in your home should be set aside for them. Find a place that is easily accessible in the dark, and make sure every member of the family is aware of it.

REMEMBER, THE SUMMER STORM SEASON IS UPON US – DON'T GET CAUGHT IN THE DARK!!

Your Commission

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