

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION by **RIVERPORT ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSION** for approval of amendments to its Schedule of Rates for Electric Supply and Services and its Schedule of Rules and Regulations Governing the Supply of Electric Services

BEFORE: John A. Morash, C.A., Member

COUNSEL: **RIVERPORT ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSION**

Valerie L. Romkey
Clerk-Treasurer

Lionel G. Bonnell, C.A.
Chair of Riverport Electric Light Commission

Albert E. Dominie
Consultant

HEARING DATE: **December 15, 2004**

FINAL SUBMISSIONS: **December 22, 2004**

DECISION DATE: **January 21, 2005**

DECISION: **Application for Amendments to Schedule of Rates and Schedule of Rules and Regulations Approved**

BACKGROUND

[1] This decision is further to a public hearing held in Riverport, Nova Scotia, on December 15, 2004, in the matter of an application by Riverport Electric Light Commission (the "Utility") for amendments to its Schedule of Rates for Electric Supply and Service, and its Schedule of Rules and Regulations Governing the Supply of Electric Services. The hearing was advertised in accordance with the provisions of the **Public Utilities Act, R.S.N.S., c. 380** (the "**Act**"). The existing rates have been in effect since November 1, 2003.

[2] The Utility is a distribution utility providing electricity to the Village of Riverport and surrounding areas. The Utility was created by an **Act** of the Provincial Legislature in 1920. It is a not-for-profit organization overseen by a five-person Commission. The Commission is made up of representatives from the communities within the Utility's service area which includes Lower LaHave, Rose Bay, Kingsburg and Riverport.

[3] The Utility employs two individuals on a part-time basis and three on a full-time basis. Valerie Romkey, Clerk-Treasurer of the Commission and Lionel Bonnell, C.A., Chair of the Commission, appeared before the Board at the public hearing. There were no formal intervenors to the proceeding, and two of the Utility's customers spoke at the hearing.

[4] The Utility serves approximately 730 customers of which there are approximately 635 domestic, and 95 commercial and industrial customers. The Utility purchases all of its power and energy requirements from Nova Scotia Power Inc. ("NSPI").

Sales to domestic customers represent approximately 70% to 80% of total sales. Fishery Products International (FPI) is the only customer with a relatively significant electric load, but their rates will not be affected by the proposed rate change to the domestic customers. In 2003/04, the Utility had total sales of 7457.1 MWh. The Utility's annual energy requirements have grown at an annual rate of approximately 2.2% over the past nine years. The average yearly system peak increase in the last nine years was higher at 3.6%.

[5] The system peak in 2003/04 was 2253.6 kVA, which is 190.8 kVA or 9.2% higher than in the previous fiscal year. During the same period, sales increased by 3.1%. Riverport Electric Light Commission considered it necessary to deal with increased demand charges associated with large residential use which were not followed by sufficient increases in energy revenues to compensate for the increased demand charges.

[6] The Utility is proposing to establish a minimum charge of 8.231 cents per kWh for domestic services for every kilowatt hour of energy consumption in excess of 2500 kWh in any billing period (one month).

[7] The Utility is also proposing to amend its Schedule of Rules and Regulations by adding a new regulation, Section 12 - Inspection and Fees of Electrical Installations. The Utility believes that the new regulation is consistent with other similar regulations which are already in place within other electric utilities in the province.

EVIDENCE - APPLICANT

[8] Albert E. Dominie, of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, was engaged by the Utility as a consultant to carry out a review to address the problem of increased costs arising from

extremely high residential usage and also to review the Utility's inspection service and revenues therefrom. Mr. Dominie's study "Report on High Residential Usage and Electric Wiring Inspection" was filed as Exhibit R-2. He gave evidence at the hearing and answered Board questions in his testimony. Ms. Romkey and Mr. Bonnell also gave evidence in support of the application.

[9] In his report Mr. Dominie analyzed energy usage patterns of residential customers. He noticed that a small number of large all-electric residential customers are driving up the peak demand during the winter. The Utility believes that these customers do not contribute enough through energy purchases to cover the additional demand charges associated with these customers, some of whom leave the area during the winter months but maintain their electric heat.

[10] Mr. Dominie considered different alternatives to deal with the increased demand charges. Based on the size of the Utility's residential customer base, he indicated that a minimum price of 8.231 cents per kWh would be the most appropriate approach. He recommends an energy consumption of 2500 kWh per month as being the optimum cut-off level. This level relates to a minimum charge of 8.231 cents per kWh for Domestic Services.

[11] The proposed change in the domestic rate would only affect a residential customer who consumes more than 2500 kWh in a month. Mr. Dominie estimates that one hundred customers would be affected. The majority of those customers could experience increases in the range of \$2 to \$20 (0.1% to 2%) per year. A few of these customers will likely continue to have high usage requirements into the summer period due

to air conditioning needs and these customers could see increases at the higher end of the range (\$40 to \$80 per year which reflect increases of 1% to 2.76%).

[12] Mr. Dominie estimates that the proposed increase in the domestic rate would generate approximately \$1,200 per year in additional revenue. He indicated that the proposed changes in the domestic rate should send a signal to all-electric residential customers to consider decreasing consumption at peak hours.

[13] The Utility currently provides inspection services for electrical installations and charges fees for these services at rates similar to those rates which were charged by the Fire Marshal's office on February 14, 1978. Subsequent to that date, the Utility assumed the inspection procedures from the Fire Marshal's office and rendered billings accordingly. The Utility has continued to perform and bill for these services for more than 20 years at rates similar to the original rates in effect on February 14, 1978. The rates currently being charged were never approved by the Board and are not set out in the Schedule of Rules and Regulations.

[14] The Utility believes that the current inspection fees do not represent the actual costs of performing the inspection. Mr. Dominie stated that the inspection fees being charged by NSPI and Lunenburg Electric Utility already reflect a cost-based approach, and that the costs of providing this service should not vary much from utility to utility.

[15] In view of this, the Utility is proposing to introduce a regulation which will reflect the standardized approach being adopted in this area by other electric utilities in the Province of Nova Scotia. Proposed Regulation 12, which is set out in Schedule B, is based on a similar regulation appearing in the current Rules and Regulations of the Lunenburg

Electric Utility, and which has previously been approved by the Board. The fees proposed by the Utility for these services are identical to the fees currently being charged by NSPI, although they do not reflect the increases being sought by NSPI in a proceeding currently before the Board.

[16] The Utility advised that its accounting records do not readily indicate the amount of inspection revenue earned, nor has it prepared an estimate of inspection revenue to be generated under the proposed fee level. However, the Utility estimates that for the 2005 fiscal year, the additional revenue expected from the changes in rates and inspection fees will be just enough to cover the additional costs incurred to develop, approve and implement the changes requested.

[17] The Board noted that the Surplus Account, as shown in the financial statements, has decreased by approximately \$80,000 in the last five years and asked if any plans had been developed to deal with this issue. Mr. Dominie replied that the rate increase previously approved by the Board on October 30, 2003, should improve the situation in the year ended March 31, 2005.

OTHER SUBMISSIONS

[18] Matt Durnford, president of Riverport District Board of Trade, advised that he has been very satisfied with services being provided by the Utility and expressed the view that the proposed charges are reasonable.

[19] Don Zwicker, the municipal councillor for the area, spoke as a resident of the community, and not as a representative of the Municipal Council. He indicated that while

the Utility has served the area well, he was concerned that the Utility may be planning to deal with issues on a piecemeal basis rather than by developing and recommending an overall plan. Mr. Zwicker also suggested that the long-term customers of the Utility should not be expected to subsidize the new houses being built by affluent people.

FINDINGS

[20] The Board notes there were no formal intervenors to this proceeding and no objections have been filed with respect to the proposed rate increases.

[21] The Board has examined Mr. Dominie's study and considered carefully the evidence presented. In the Board's view, the material filed in support of the application, as well as in the Undertakings, provide a reasonable analysis of the Utility's concerns regarding large residential usage and the electrical inspection of new construction.

[22] The Board approves the Schedule of Rates attached hereto as Schedule "A", and the addition of a new regulation, Section 12, dealing with Inspections and Fees of Electrical Installations. The Board approves the Schedule of Rules and Regulations which are attached hereto as Schedule "B". These changes are effective for services rendered on and after February 1, 2005.

An Order will issue accordingly.

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 21st day of January, 2005.

John A. Morash, Member

SCHEDULE "A"

RIVERPORT ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSION

Schedule of Rates for Electric Supply and Service

(Effective for all services rendered on and after February 1, 2005)

Rates

The rates requested below are the rates for electric supply and services when payment is made within thirty (30) days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

Interest at a rate of 1.5% per month (19.56% per annum) shall be applicable to any outstanding balance beyond 30 days after the date rendered (i.e., beyond the due date).

Bills rendered shall show clearly the date rendered, the due date, the amount of interest applicable to overdue balances, and the total amount due by the due date.

DOMESTIC SERVICES

Service Charge: \$7.84 per month where service is through a two or three wire service.

Energy Rates: 8.81 cents per kilowatt hour for the first 200 kilowatt hours per month.

7.84 cents per kilowatt hour for all additional consumption in any billing period, but in no case shall the average price per kilowatt hour on the whole bill, including the service charge, be less than 8.231 cents in any billing period.

Minimum Bill: \$7.84 per month where service is through either two or three wire service.

Availability: The rate for domestic service shall be applicable to all electric energy used by any customer in the private residence occupied by such customer and used for domestic or household lighting, cooking, heating, or refrigeration purposes, and for all other ordinary domestic or household use. It may include milking machines, cream separators, food choppers, and similar farm or fishing appliances served through the same meter and having an aggregate demand not exceeding 5 kilowatts.

SMALL GENERAL SERVICE

Service Charge:	\$9.09 per month.
Energy Rates:	11.92 cents per kilowatt hour for the first 200 kilowatt hours per month. 9.09 cents per kilowatt hour for all additional consumption.
Minimum Bill:	The service charge.
Availability:	This rate shall be applicable to non-domestic single-phase services where energy does not exceed 10,000 kilowatt hours per year and demand does not exceed 6 kW.

GENERAL SERVICE

Demand Charge:	\$8.24 per month per kilowatt of billing demand. Billing demand shall be the maximum demand of the present or previous 11 months.
Energy Rates:	11.64 cents per kilowatt-hour for the first 100 kilowatt hours per month per kilowatt of billing demand. 6.69 cents per kilowatt hour for all additional consumption.
Minimum Bill:	The demand charge.
Availability:	This rate shall be applicable to all services not eligible for other rates in this Schedule.

LARGE GENERAL SERVICE

Demand Charge:	\$7.37 per month per kilovolt-ampere of billing demand. Billing demand shall be the larger of the maximum demand of the present month or the month in which the present RELC billing demand was set.
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- Energy Charge:** 10.32 cents per kilowatt hour for the first 100 kilowatt hours per month per kilovolt-ampere of billing demand.
- 6.53 cents per kilowatt hour for all additional consumption.
- Minimum Bill:** The demand charge.
- Availability:** This rate shall be applicable to all non-domestic services where billing demand equals or exceeds 100 kVA.

STREET LIGHTING

\$31,994.00 per year.

- Availability:** This street lighting charge shall be payable by the Municipality of Lunenburg and shall cover provision, 4,000 hour per year operation and maintenance of a 250 fixture street lighting system.

YARD LIGHTING

\$101.74 per fixture per year.

- Availability:** This rate shall apply to the provision, operation and maintenance of individual lighting units serving customers' premises, and the Commission may, at its option, require the customer to agree to a minimum term of service of one year. Service shall consist of dusk-to-dawn operation; approximately 4,000 hours per year.

SCHEDULE "B"

RIVERPORT ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSION

Schedule of Rules and Regulations Governing the Supply of Electric Services

(Effective on and after February 1, 2005)

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1. **GENERAL**

1.1 **Interpretation**

In this Schedule unless the context otherwise requires:

Commission means the Riverport Electric Light Commission.

Connected Load means the maximum demand a customer could place upon the Commission's electrical system by the simultaneous use of all the electrical apparatus existing on his premises and connected or connectable to the Commission's system.

Customer means any person or other entity who purchases electric service from the Commission under the rates and regulations fixed and approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. Purchasers of materials or jobbing and contracting services from the Commission are not customers by virtue of such purchases.

Demand means the rate of flow of energy into a consuming electrical installation measured in kilowatts (kW); or where specifically indicated, the rate of flow of apparent energy measured in kilovolt amperes (kVA).

Electric Service means service provided by the Commission to a customer subject to the rates and regulations fixed and approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. This will normally consist of the supply of electric power and energy, but may, where the context requires, include the provisions and maintenance of equipment.

Energy means electrical energy measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh).

Internal Distribution System means the electrical equipment within or upon the premises of a customer intended to receive, distribute and utilize electricity supplied by the Commission.

Kilowatt means the basic unit for the measurement of power. One kilowatt equals 1,000 watts.

kVA means the basic unit for the measurement of apparent power. One kVA equals 1,000 volt amperes.

Maximum Demand means the greatest amount of power, measured in kW or kVA and averaged over a period of approximately fifteen minutes, supplied to a customer during any one billing period.

Meter means a device owned by the Commission and placed on the customer's premises to measure and record the customer's demand or energy use of both.

Meter Seal means a seal affixed to a meter in such fashion as to require breakage of the seal in order to obtain access to the working parts of the meter.

Power means the rate of flow of energy in a circuit. In these regulations, unless the context requires otherwise, power means the rate of flow of energy from the Commission's distribution system to a customer's installation.

Power Factor means the ratio of real power (kW) to apparent power (kVA).

Primary means the high voltage side of a transformer as opposed to the low voltage or secondary side. The primary side is the supply side.

Secondary: See **Primary**.

Service means the wires and ancillary equipment owned by the Commission through which electric service is supplied to a customer.

Service Entrance means that part of a customer's electrical installation to which the commission's service is attached.

Temporary Service means electric service which by its nature will require installation and removal of the Commission's service equipment and where the duration of service can be forecast to be limited to a period of not more than two years.

1.2 No Contrary Representation Binding on the Commission

No agent, employee or representative of the Commission shall have the authority to make any promise, agreement or representation, whether verbal or otherwise, which is inconsistent with these Regulations and no such promise, agreement or representation if made or given shall be binding on the Commission.

2. PROVISION OF SERVICE

2.1 Availability of Service

The supply of electric service by the Commission shall be conditional upon:

- (1) Possession by the customer of an internal distribution system complying with all relevant statutory requirements, applicable regulations and standards; and
- (2) Provision by the customer of a suitable service entrance, a right of way acceptable to the Commission for access of the Commission's lines to the service entrance; and
- (3) Provision by the customer of space, suitable to the Commission, for such Commission plant and equipment as may be necessary to supply the required service; and
- (4) Compliance with these Regulations.

2.2 Right to Refuse Provision of Electric Service

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Regulations, the Commission may refuse to provide electric service, or may disconnect the supply of any electric service at such times, and for such lengths of time, as the Commission may deem to be appropriate if:

- (1) In the Commission's opinion a state of emergency exists; or
- (2) In the Commission's opinion such action may be necessary to avoid injury or damage to persons or property, whether such property be the property of the Commission, its customers, or others.

2.3 Application for Service

The Commission may, before rendering service, require a regular application form to be completed and signed by the prospective customer.

2.4 Termination of Service

Termination may be effected by written notice, given by the customer and received by the Commission. Termination may be effected by the Commission for cause as prescribed in these Regulations.

2.5 Liability of the Customer

The application for electric service cannot be assigned or transferred without the written consent of the Commission. If the customer leaves or abandons the premises or discontinues in any way the use of electric service, the customer shall give the Commission notice of such action. If the customer fails to give such notice, he shall continue to be liable to the Commission for the value of all electric service supplied to the said premises both before and after his departure or abandonment thereof. In the event of dispute, proof of notice must be proved by the customer.

2.6 Deposits

When required, each customer shall deposit with the Commission a sum equal to estimated charges for approximately three months' service. This deposit is to be held by the Commission as collateral security for the payment of its bills, and when the customer ceases to use the service and pays all bills, the deposit is to be returned to him.

2.7 Connection Charge

A charge of \$15.00 shall be made for the connection of any service in the case of:

- (a) Initial connection; or
- (b) Transfer of service from one customer to another, notwithstanding the fact that no physical disconnection may have occurred; or
- (c) Reconnection after disconnection for non-payment of bills; or
- (d) Reconnection after disconnection at the customer's request.

3. BILLING

3.1 Billing

Bills shall be rendered to each customer at regular intervals of not more than two months, but the Commission may at its discretion, render bills on a monthly basis to customers in certain classes or locations. Bi-monthly bills shall be calculated by doubling the monthly base charge and doubling the size of monthly energy blocks.

3.2 Payment of Bills and Prompt Payment Discount

Bills are due and payable when rendered. The rates fixed by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board shall be applicable when bills are paid within thirty (30) days after the date rendered (i.e., by the due date). Interest at a rate of 1.5% per month (19.56% per annum), shall be applicable to any outstanding balance beyond 30 days after the date rendered (i.e., beyond the due date). Bills rendered shall show clearly the date rendered, the due date, the amount of interest applicable to overdue balances, and the total amount due by the due date.

3.3 Disconnection for Non-Payment of Bills

In the event of non-payment of any bill within thirty days of the date rendered, (i.e., by the due date) the Commission may issue an arrears notice. If the bill remains unpaid forty-five days from the date rendered, the Commission may issue a final notice. Unless the bill is paid within fifteen days after the issuance of a final notice, and if the amount of the bill is not in dispute, the Commission may discontinue the service.

3.4 Dispute Resolution

If a customer's bill or any matter relating to the provision of electric service is in dispute, the Commission shall investigate and attempt to resolve the matter in an informal manner, which failing, the customer shall be given an opportunity to appeal at the next regular meeting of the Commissioners. Service to the customer shall not be discontinued pending such appeal, nor for fifteen days after the Commissioners have rendered their decision.

4. UTILITY ACCESS AND EQUIPMENT ON CUSTOMERS' PREMISES

4.1 Right of Access

Representatives of the Commission shall have right of access, at all reasonable times, to meters and other Commission plant located upon customers' premises, for the purpose of reading, testing inspection, repair or removal.

If arrangements suitable to the Commission cannot be made for access to the customer's meter at the normal reading time, the Commission may require relocation of the meter to a point freely accessible and the costs entailed shall be borne by the customer. In all new single family dwellings, the customer shall provide a service entrance with socket for an outside meter.

If the meter is located in such a position that it is subject to damage, the Commission shall have the right to provide suitable protection or to move the meter to a new location, and the costs thereof shall be borne by the customer.

4.2 Inspection of Connected Load

Representatives of the Commission shall have the right to enter the premises of all customers during all reasonable hours for the purpose of inspecting connected load.

4.3 Extra Meters

Whenever, at the customer's request, more than one meter is installed on a service with a single metering point, the Commission shall add to each bill a rental charge of \$1.00 per month for each extra meter.

Where, because of the customer's requirements, it is necessary to use more than one metering point, then the power and energy recorded on each meter shall be billed separately and at the rate applicable to the loads served at each meter.

4.4 Seal of Meters and/or Theft of Energy

No customer shall, under any circumstances, tamper with meter seals. Where there is evidence of tampering or theft of power or where a customer breaks or causes to be broken the seal of any meter, service may be discontinued without notice and the person or persons responsible shall be liable to prosecution.

4.5 Protection of Metering Circuits

Where instrument transformers are used for metering purposes, transformers and the circuits connecting them to the meter shall, to the extent reasonably required by the Commission, be segregated from other circuits and located in space accessible only to the Commission. The customer shall not under any circumstances alter such metering circuits in any way. No customer shall be attached to or form part of such circuits except with the explicit written permission of the Commission.

5. **METERING**

5.1 Primary Metering

Metering will normally be at the secondary side of the transformer from which service is supplied. Should the customer's requirements make it necessary for the Commission to provide primary metering, then the customer shall be required to make a capital contribution equal to the additional cost for the primary metering. In such cases, the metered kilowatt-hour in each billing period shall be reduced 1.75% to compensate for transformer losses.

5.2 Estimated Readings

Should the Commission be unable to obtain a meter reading for billing purposes during normal working hours, then it shall estimate the probable amount of energy consumed on the basis of the best data available. Under no circumstances may estimated readings be used for more than four months.

In the event that a meter reading is erroneous because of meter damage, broken seal, inaccuracy, erroneous reading, or for any other reason, the Commission shall estimate the probable amount of energy consumed, and where appropriate the probable demand, on the basis of the best data available and shall adjust its billing accordingly. Should the adjustment increase the amount to be billed, the customer shall be responsible for payment. Should the adjustment reduce the amount of the billing, the Commission shall give credit. In no case, however, shall adjustments be retroactive for a period greater than one year.

5.3 Meter Testing

Upon the request of a customer his meter will be tested in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Inspection Act as set out in Section 9 - Disputed Meters, Subsection (1) to (7) of the Departmental Instructions of the Department of Trade and Commerce - Standards Division - Regarding Inspection and Testing of Electricity Meters. If the meter is found to pass all prescribed tests, the costs of removing, testing and reinstallation shall be borne by the customer. Otherwise, the costs shall be borne by the Commission.

5.4 Maximum Demand

For any load served under a rate including a demand charge, the Commission shall install a meter containing a maximum demand indicator. The maximum demand registered on the meter shall be recorded by the Commission and shall be the maximum demand for the billing period. After such reading, the demand indicator shall be set to zero and the reset shall be sealed.

5.5 Installation of Maximum Demand Meter

At its option, the Commission may install a suitable demand indicator on any service. However, the recorded maximum demands shall only be used for billing purposes if the applicable rate for such service contains a demand charge.

5.6 Power Factor

When charges are based on maximum kilowatt demand, they may, at the Commission's option, be adjusted for power factor in the following manner:

The demand shall be measured in kilovolt amperes by means of a kilovolt ampere meter. The demand registered by this meter shall be multiplied by 90 percent and the result shall be treated as the kilowatt demand for billing purposes.

5.7 Unmetered Service

Electric service shall be metered; except that the Commission may, in instances where power and energy consumption are small and readily determined, provide unmetered electric service. In such cases, the demand and monthly energy use shall be agreed between the Commission and the customer, and the bill shall be calculated on the basis of rates in effect for the class of service provided.

6. SERVICE EXTENSIONS

6.1 Service Voltages

Service shall normally be supplied by the Commission at standard distribution voltages, but may, upon the request of any customer and the agreement of the Commission, be supplied at other voltages. The standard voltages are:

- Single phase, three wire - 120-240 volts
- Three phase, three wire - 240 volts
- Three phase, three wire - 600 volts
- Three phase, four wire - 120-208 volts

6.2 Service Extensions

Service extensions shall be erected, owned and maintained by the Commission over a cleared right of way provided by the customer.

For extensions of up to fifty (50) metres from the Commission's nearest line pole to the closest suitable point in the customer's principal building, or outdoor distribution centre, there shall be no charge.

For extension greater than fifty (50) metres, but less than three hundred (300) metres:

Upon completion of installation of poles and hardware, the cost of construction in excess of fifty (50) metres, shall be calculated by the Commission and the customer shall be required to pay the Commission the full amount of the cost of construction for that part of the extension in excess of fifty (50) metres, within thirty (30) days from the date of billing.

For extension greater than three hundred (300) metres:

a) Before construction of the line extension begins:

The customer shall pay an amount equal to the estimated cost of all materials and labour for the line construction beyond three hundred (300) metres from the main transmission line to the customers' point of connection.

b) Upon completion of installation of all poles and hardware:

The total cost of construction beyond the fifty (50) metres free service allowance shall be calculated by the Commission. The customer shall pay the Commission the balance from this cost less the initial payment within thirty (30) days from the date of billing. Should this number be negative, the Commission shall rebate the customer the balance within ten (10) business days. After thirty (30) days, interest and collection alternatives will proceed as provided for under Section 3 - Billing.

Such excess portion of the service extension shall be maintained by the Commission, but the customer shall pay to the Commission the cost of repairs, or replacements made necessary by any act or omission, neglect or otherwise, by the customer, his servants, agents or contractors.

In the event of a service being within the standard length but requiring wire supports additional to those that would normally be supplied, the customer shall pay the cost of all labour and materials used in connection with the erection of such additional wire supports.

If the customer and the Commission fail to agree on the cost of the additional service, it shall be determined by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

6.3 Service Changes

If changes in the Commission's plant and equipment installed to provide electric service to a customer, except for the purpose of supplying increased loads, are requested by a customer, the Commission shall, if it is able to do so without prejudice to safety and operational efficiency, make such changes, and the costs thereof shall be borne by the customer.

6.4 Temporary Service

Shall mean and include service supplied for all temporary or non-permanent purposes for the length of time required. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, it shall include construction jobs where no permanent connections will result, garden parties, picnics, sporting events, circuses, exhibitions, etc. In addition to the above, it shall include any service required for less than one month.

Customers requiring this type of service shall pay to the Commission for the service at the applicable rate, plus the cost of installing and removing the service connections, and any other related connection and reconnection costs.

If the period of use includes a part of a month, the Base Charge and Energy Charge for the fraction of a month shall be prorated to the next highest half-month. For this purpose, thirty days shall constitute a month.

The Commission shall have the right to limit the term of temporary electric service. This shall include the right to review the temporary aspect of the electric service and to determine if the electric service should be disconnected, retained as temporary or changed to a permanent electric service.

6.5 Underground Service

The Commission may, at its discretion, supply, install, maintain and own underground distribution systems. Whenever a customer requests installation of an underground distribution system, the Commission shall require payment of a capital contribution equivalent to the difference in cost between the underground system and the overhead facilities which would otherwise have been provided.

6.6 Transformer Installations

Any customer with a maximum demand of more than 25 kilowatts shall, when in the Commission's opinion it is necessary for efficient service, provide suitable space on the customer's premises for a transformer installation. The nature of the said space may be a vault, an interior enclosure, external space for a transclosure, pad-mounted transformers or pole-mounted transformers, as may be required by the Commission. In each such case, the customer shall provide a right of way for both primary and secondary circuits.

6.7 Cost Sharing

Where construction of a line extension requires the customer to provide a cost share to other Commission customer(s):

Once the capital contribution has been paid the developer will be entitled to a refund equivalent to fifty (50) metres of the line extension less 10% administration fee for each customer who is connected to the contributed line extension within ten (10) years from when the line extension was made available. The maximum refund a developer can receive is 90% of the original contribution.

It shall be the responsibility of the Commission to distribute the amount of the cost share to individual Commission customers within ten (10) business days from the date of the cost share payment to the Commission.

Cost shares calculated to be less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall not be rendered.

7. CUSTOMERS' INSTALLATIONS

7.1 Customer's Installation to be Satisfactory

The installation of all conductors, conduit, control and other devices and equipment for conveying, distributing, controlling or utilizing electric power and energy which are used by a customer and are not the property of the Commission shall comply in all respects with the requirements of the Electrical Installation and Inspection Act, and regulations made thereunder. The Commission shall not be required to make a connection to the said electrical installation until the Applicant for service has satisfied the Commission that these requirements have been met. The supply of electricity to any customer may be discontinued at any time, if, in the opinion of the Commission, the electrical installation hereinbefore mentioned fails in any way to comply with the above requirements. Service shall not be re-established until such condition has been corrected to the satisfaction of the Commission.

7.2 Prohibited Appliances

Service may be refused or discontinued by the Commission to any customer who installs or uses any device or appurtenance which may occasion sudden large demands of short or long duration, thereby overloading the Commission's plant and equipment or interfering with voltage regulation thereof, or which, in the opinion of the Commission, is unsafe or hazardous or has not been properly designed and constructed and satisfactorily maintained.

7.3 Discontinuing Service for Violation

Whenever, in the opinion of the Commission, violation of any of these Rules and Regulations is existing or has occurred, the Commission may discontinue service to the premises where such violation is existing or has occurred. Service shall not be re-established until the Commission is satisfied that the cause for discontinuance has been removed.

8. DOMESTIC SERVICE

8.1 Availability

The rate for domestic service shall be applicable to all electric energy used by any customer in the private residence occupied by such customer and used for domestic or household lighting, cooking, heating, or refrigeration purposes, and for all other ordinary domestic or household use. It may include milking machines, cream separators, food choppers, and similar farm or fishing appliances served through the same meter and having an aggregate demand not exceeding 5 kilowatts.

8.2 Premises Jointly Used for Residence and Commercial Purposes

When a customer uses part of his premises as a residence and part for a small store or office or other commercial use, the domestic rate shall be applied to the entire premises, provided the connected load in the commercial portion is not greater than 3000 watts. Otherwise, the general service rate shall be applied to the entire premises, or, at the customer's option, the domestic service and the commercial shall be separated and the Commission shall install one meter on each. Then the domestic service shall be billed at the domestic service rate and the commercial service at the general service rate.

8.3 Conversion of Single Family Residence

If a Domestic Service customer permits additional living quarters for other parties in the same premises or a separate establishment to be connected through this meter, the Commission shall have the option of multiplying the base charge, where applicable, and the kilowatt-hours in each block by the number of dwelling units involved at the rate applicable to the main electric service, or disconnecting the electric service supplying the customer until the electric service to the other parties has been connected through an additional meter in the regular way.

8.4 Seasonal Electric Service

Seasonal electric service shall apply to any self-contained domestic electric service where the premises supplied are occupied on an intermittent basis, such as summer homes, cottages, hunting or fishing camps, and the Commission is satisfied that the premises are not the customer's permanent or primary residence.

The contract period for all domestic seasonal accounts shall be from May 2, to October 31 in any calendar year. Electric service to seasonal customers shall

remain connected during the winter period from November 1 to the following April 1, but the regular base charge shall not be charged nor will bills be rendered during this period. In lieu, a single service charge of \$10.00 will be added to the October 31 bill. Energy used after October 31 shall be billed on the first regular billing after May 1 of the following year, or the final bill, whichever comes first. If the electric service is physically disconnected at the request of the customer, the normal charges of disconnection and reconnection shall apply.

9. STREET LIGHTING

9.1 Availability

This rate shall apply to provision, operation and maintenance of the street-lighting system serving the district of Riverport. Service shall consist of dusk-to-dawn operation; approximately 4,000 hours per year.

10. AREA LIGHTING

10.1 Availability

This rate shall apply to the provision, operation and maintenance of individual lighting units serving customers' premises, and the Commission may at its option require the customer to agree to a minimum term of service of one year. Service shall consist of dusk-to-dawn operation; approximately 4,000 hours per year.

11. POLE ATTACHMENT RATES & CHARGES

11.1 Pole Attachment Rates & Charges

All pole attachments for communications utilities, telecommunication common carriers, or broadcasters, where a joint use agreement is not in effect. **\$14.15** per pole per year.

12 INSPECTION AND FEES OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

12.1 Inspection and Fees of Electrical Installations

The RIVERPORT ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSION shall be the Inspection Authority.

Every electrical installation shall be constructed in conformity with the *Electrical Installation and Inspections Act* (and regulations made thereafter) and Inspection Authority standards. A wiring permit, as per *Rule 2-004 of the Canadian Electrical Code Part 1, 1994* (and as revised from time to time), shall be obtained before work is commenced on new or existing installations. The inspection authority shall not be required to authorize a connection to any installation until it is satisfied that such installation is in accordance with all applicable regulations and standards.

The Inspection Authority shall have the further right to reinspect any electrical installation. If any violations of applicable codes and standards are found on such reinspection, which in the opinion of the Inspection Authority constitute hazard to life or property, the Inspection Authority may disconnect the electric service until the hazards are rectified.

12.2 General Requirements

Electrical contractors, or others responsible for carrying out the electrical work, shall obtain a wiring permit from the Inspection Authority prior to commencing work with respect to the installation, alteration, repair, or extension of any electrical equipment.

Fees for a wiring permit and inspection shall be paid at the time the wiring permit is obtained, in accordance with the fee schedule set out in these regulations.

The Inspection Authority may, prior to approving a permit application, request the submission of plans and specifications for any proposed electrical installation. Plans shall be submitted when the cost of the installation exceeds \$10,000.

12.3 Refund of Fees

The holder of a permit may apply to the Inspection Authority for a refund of fees with respect to a cancelled or unused permit, minus a \$20 administration fee included in the wiring permit fee. No refund shall be issued for a permit under which an inspection has been requested and carried out.

12.4 Expiry and Renewal of Permits

A permit for electrical work is valid for 12 months from the date of issue in respect of residential installation, alterations, repair or extension, and is valid for 24 months in respect of all non-residential work unless otherwise noted on the permit. Upon expiry, a renewal fee to a maximum of 50% of the cost of the original permit will be charged.

12.5 Acknowledgement of Acceptance Respecting Inspection

The Electrical Inspector will sign the job site copy of the electrical permit at each inspection stage, indicating his/her approval or disapproval of the installation. An acknowledgement of acceptance shall appear in the form of the Electrical Inspector's signature on the "Final Approval" section of the wiring permit. There is no additional fee for same.

12.6 Permits and Inspections

Permits and inspections will normally be of three types:

1. Regular Permit and Inspection;
2. Annual Permit and Inspection; and
3. Special Permit and Inspection.

12.7 Regular Permit and Inspection

A Regular Permit will be issued for any electrical installation, alteration, repair, or extension to a building or structure. The only exemption from a Regular Permit would be for work performed under an Annual or Special Permit as described below.

The fee for a Regular Permit and Inspection will be based on the full installed value including all labour, material and sundries of the electrical installation, alteration, repair or extension.

When calculating the installed value, the following costs are not included:

1. The cost of individual motors, generators, and power-consuming electrical equipment; however, the cost to supply and install the associated control and protective equipment, and the control and power cables connecting this equipment to the electrical system, would be included.
2. The cost of switches and controls forming an original and integral part of power consuming electrical equipment.
3. The cost in excess of \$5,000.00 of each transformer and each factory-assembled unit of switchgear.

When a dispute arises regarding the cost of an electrical installation, the permit applicant may be required, at the Inspection Authority's discretion, to supply a letter from the owner indicating the value for the contract and/or a bill of materials for the project.

The fees for a Regular Permit and Inspection, including the number of inspection visits, will be in accordance with the fee schedule set out in these regulations.

12.8 Annual Permit and Inspection

In industrial, commercial or other establishments where staff members include qualified electrical personnel, a single annual permit may be issued to cover all minor repairs in a single calendar year.

An annual permit does not entitle the holder to effect major electrical alterations in, or additions to, the establishment as determined by the Inspection Authority.

The holder of an annual permit shall maintain a current and accurate record of all minor repairs and shall make it available to the Electrical Inspector on request.

The fee for an Annual Permit and Inspection will be in accordance with the fee schedule set out in these regulations.

12.9 Special Permit and Inspection

If, in the opinion of the Inspection Authority, the fees of a Regular Permit and Inspection are inappropriate for the inspection of unique electrical installation, the Special Permit and Inspection fees will prevail.

Additionally, if inspection visits greater than the number specified under the Regular Permit and Inspection are necessitated by the owner or contractor, they will be billed under the Special Permit and Inspection fees.

The fees for Special Permit and Inspection are based on an hourly rate appropriate for the time the inspection is performed. The fees will be in accordance with the fee schedule set out in these regulations.

12.10 Regular Permit and Inspection

The fee for a Regular Permit, and the maximum number of inspection visits with respect to an installation, will be calculated as follows:

Cost of Installation	Maximum No. of Inspection Visits	Fee
\$ 0 to \$ 2,000	2	\$ 45
\$ 2,001 to \$ 4,000	2	\$ 90
\$ 4,001 to \$ 6,000	2	\$ 150
\$ 6,001 to \$ 8,000	2	\$ 190
\$ 8,001 to \$ 10,000	2	\$ 230
\$ 10,001 to \$ 15,000	3	\$ 300
\$ 15,001 to \$ 25,000	3	\$ 380
\$ 25,001 to \$ 50,000	3	\$ 550
\$ 50,001 to \$ 100,000	3	\$ 850
\$ 100,001 to \$ 300,000	4	\$ 1,300
\$ 300,001 to \$ 500,000	5	\$ 1,700
\$ 500,001 to \$ 750,000	6	\$ 2,200
\$ 750,001 to \$ 1,000,000	8	\$ 2,600
over \$ 1,000,000	10	\$ 3,000 + .15% of installation cost in excess of \$1,000,000

12.11 Annual Permit and Inspection

The fee for an Annual Permit and Inspection for any one establishment shall be \$90.00.

12.12 Special Permit and Inspection

Note: All fees are per inspection visit.

Normal Working Hours Fee Schedule:

- i) for the first hour or fraction thereof \$44.00
- ii) for each additional half-hour or fraction thereof \$18.00