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Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017

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Preamble

The Government of Ontario is committed to fostering the development of a clean, modern and reliable electricity system with a diverse supply mix. The Government is also committed to removing barriers to and promoting opportunities for renewable and clean energy projects. These commitments can only be achieved if costs are shared fairly among consumers, today and in the future.

Electricity rates have risen for two key reasons. First, decades of under-investment in the electricity system resulted in the need to invest more than \$50 billion in generation, transmission and distribution assets to ensure the system is clean and reliable. Second, the decision to eliminate Ontario's use of coal and produce clean, renewable power has created additional costs.

The actions taken to achieve a clean, modern and reliable electricity system have resulted in significant costs to residential consumers. The burden of financing these system improvements and funding key programs has unfairly fallen almost entirely on the shoulders of those consumers.

The Government of Ontario is committed to ensuring that the costs of financing these investments and the associated charges to consumers are allocated fairly among present and future generations.

Recognizing that the electricity infrastructure that has been built and the policy decisions that have been made will create benefits for years to come, costs should be allocated fairly over time, so that residential consumers in the future pay their fair share for the benefits that they receive from the investments already made.

PART I
GENERAL

Interpretation

Definitions

1 (1) In this Act,

"Board" means the Ontario Energy Board; ("Commission")

"clean energy adjustment" means the amount determined under section 15 and payable by specified consumers; ("ajustement pour l'énergie propre")

"clean energy benefits" means the value of the benefits determined to be derived by or accruing to specified consumers as a result of the clean energy initiative, including as a result of clean energy costs; ("avantages de l'énergie propre")

"clean energy costs" means the value of the costs allocated to specified consumers as a result of the clean energy initiative, including as a result of past, present and expected costs incurred in respect of,

(a) the amounts to be paid or reflected by the IESO in adjustments made under section 25.33 of the *Electricity Act, 1998* or any provision that is the successor to that provision, which relate to contracts or amounts for,

(i) renewable energy generation or capacity,

(ii) conservation and demand management,

(iii) energy storage,

(iv) energy efficiency,

(v) natural gas generation and capacity, excluding contracts relating to amounts payable by the IESO under section 78.2 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* and excluding such other contracts as may be prescribed,

(b) payments made or expected to be made under section 78.5 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, and

(c) such other costs or estimated costs as may be prescribed; (“coûts de l’énergie propre”)

“clean energy initiative” means the policies of the Government of Ontario related to,

(a) eliminating coal generation and fostering the growth of and investment in clean, modern and reliable energy sources and technologies,

(b) removing barriers to and promoting opportunities for clean and renewable energy sources and technologies,

(c) promoting conservation, demand management and energy efficiency, and

(d) investing in energy infrastructure to ensure a clean, modern and reliable system; (“initiative pour l’énergie propre”)

“electricity vendor” means,

(a) a licensed distributor,

(b) a licensed retailer,

(c) the IESO in circumstances where it directly invoices a specified consumer for electricity used in Ontario, or

(d) such other person as may be prescribed; (“vendeur d’électricité”)

“fair allocation amount” means an amount calculated under section 20; (“montant de répartition équitable”)

“finance amount” means the finance amount determined in accordance with the regulations; (“montant de financement”)

“Financial Services Manager” means the Financial Services Manager appointed under section 18; (“gestionnaire des services financiers”)

“financing entity” means an entity established or caused to be established by the Financial Services Manager as described in subsection 22 (2); (“entité de financement”)

“Financing Plan” means the plan prepared under section 21; (“Plan de financement”)

“funding obligation” means a payment obligation incurred by or on behalf of an investment interest owner to fund its ownership of an investment interest or a payment obligation that meets such other criteria as may be prescribed; (“obligation de financement”)

“funding rebate” means a payment obligation incurred by the IESO as part of the transfer of the regulatory asset; (“remboursement de financement”)

“IESO” means the Independent Electricity System Operator continued under Part II of the *Electricity Act, 1998*; (“SIERE”)

“IESO deferral” means the amount determined under section 23; (“report de la SIERE”)

“investment asset” means the rights and interests described in section 29; (“actif d’investissement”)

“investment interest” means,

(a) an ownership interest in the investment asset, and

(b) in circumstances where the ownership interest is transferred, the rights and benefits specified in the agreement under which the interest is transferred; (“participation d’investissement”)

“investment interest owner” means a financing entity that has acquired and holds an investment interest; (“détenteur d’une participation d’investissement”)

“licensed distributor” means a person licensed under Part V of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* to own or operate a distribution system within the meaning of that Act; (“distributeur titulaire d’un permis”)

“licensed retailer” means a person who is licensed under Part V of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* to retail electricity; (“détaillant titulaire d’un permis”)

“Minister” means the Minister of Energy or such other member of the Executive Council as may be assigned the administration of this Act under the *Executive Council Act*; (“ministre”)

“Ontario Power Generation Inc.” means the corporation incorporated as Ontario Power Generation Inc. under the *Business Corporations Act* on December 1, 1998; (“Ontario Power Generation Inc.”)

“prescribed” means prescribed by the regulations; (“prescrit”)

“reference period” means,

(a) the period beginning on July 1, 2017 and ending on October 31, 2017, and

(b) during the period beginning on November 1, 2017 and ending on either April 30, 2047 or such later day as may be prescribed,

(i) every six-month period following the period mentioned in clause (a), or

(ii) any period shorter than six months, as may be prescribed; (“période de référence”)

“refinancing” means, subject to the regulations, the incurrence of debt in connection with a redemption, repayment or repurchase of a funding obligation; (“refinancement”)

“regulation” means a regulation made under this Act; (“règlement”)

“regulatory asset” means the right established under section 25; (“actif réglementaire”)

“specified consumer” means,

(a) a person who has an account with an electricity vendor for the supply of electricity in Ontario and meets the criteria set out in subsection (2), or

(b) such other person as may be prescribed; (“consommateur déterminé”)

“transfer” includes, when used in relation to an investment interest, the assignment, conveyance, disposition or sale of the investment interest; (“transfert”)

“true up amount” means a true up amount determined in accordance with the regulations; (“montant d’égalisation”)

“unit sub-metering” has the same meaning as in the *Energy Consumer Protection Act, 2010*; (“activités liées aux compteurs divisionnaires d’unité”)

“unit sub-meter provider” has the same meaning as in the *Energy Consumer Protection Act, 2010*; (“fournisseur de compteurs divisionnaires d’unité”)

“variance account” means the variance account established by the IESO under subsection 24 (1). (“compte d’écart”)

Specified consumer

(2) For the purposes of clause (a) of the definition of “specified consumer” in subsection (1), the person must meet any one of the following criteria:

1. The person has a demand for electricity of not more than 50 kilowatts, or such other amount as may be prescribed.
2. The person annually uses not more than 250,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, or such other amount as may be prescribed.
3. The person carries on a business that is a farming business for the purposes of the *Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act, 1993* and either holds a valid registration number assigned under that Act or has had the obligation to file a farming business registration form waived pursuant to an order made under subsection 22 (6) of that Act.
4. The person’s account with the electricity vendor relates to,
 - i. a dwelling,
 - ii. a property within the meaning of the *Condominium Act, 1998*,
 - iii. a residential complex within the meaning of subsection 2 (1) of the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*, without regard to section 5 of that Act, or
 - iv. a property that includes one or more housing units and that is owned or leased by a co-operative within the meaning of the *Co-operative Corporations Act*.
5. The person satisfies such criteria as may be prescribed.

Transfer of regulatory asset

(3) In this Act, a reference to the transfer of a specified portion of the regulatory asset is a reference to the following, as provided for in subsection 26 (3):

1. A reduction in the balance in the variance account.
2. The adjustment of the regulatory asset.
3. The acquisition by a financing entity of the investment interest corresponding to the specified portion of the regulatory asset.

Effect of invalidity

2 (1) For greater certainty, all of the provisions of this Act remain in full force and effect, even if one or more provisions are held to be invalid, the intention of the Legislature being to give separate and independent effect to the extent of its powers to every provision contained in this Act.

Same, funding obligation

(2) The fact that any provision of this Act is held to be invalid or ceases to be in effect for any reason does not affect the validity or enforceability of a funding obligation incurred before the day that the provision is held to be invalid or ceases to be in effect, or any rights or obligations associated with the funding obligation.

Purposes

3 The purposes of this Act are,

- (a) to ensure that clean energy costs and clean energy benefits are fairly allocated among present and future specified consumers;
- (b) to recognize that clean energy benefits have accrued and will accrue over time and will continue to benefit present and future electricity consumers in the Province; and
- (c) to align clean energy costs with clean energy benefits, in order to provide fairness for specified consumers over time.

Crown bound

4 This Act binds the Crown.

Protection and assurances

Prohibition

5 (1) No action or omission by the Board, the Minister or the Crown shall be effective to reduce, impair, postpone or terminate the obligations of specified consumers to pay amounts in respect of the clean energy adjustment or to impair or postpone the invoicing, collection or remittance of the clean energy adjustment.

Agreements

(2) The Minister and the Minister of Finance may together, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, enter into agreements on behalf of the Province of Ontario with any person in respect of this Act, including agreements regarding the performance of the IESO or electricity vendors under this Act or related transactions.

Guarantee, indemnification

(3) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may by order,

- (a) authorize the Minister and the Minister of Finance, acting together on behalf of the Province,
 - (i) to agree to guarantee or indemnify any debts, obligations, securities or undertakings associated with an investment interest, and
 - (ii) to determine terms and conditions of the guarantee or indemnity and the maximum liability for the guarantee or indemnity;
- (b) specify terms and conditions that must be included in any guarantee or indemnity given by the Minister and the Minister of Finance; and
- (c) specify a maximum liability for the guarantee or indemnity.

**PART II
FAIR ADJUSTMENT**

Definition

6 In this Part,

“regulated rate consumer” means a specified consumer who meets the following criteria:

1. The consumer is a member of the class of consumers prescribed by the regulations made under the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for the purposes of subsection 79.16 (1) of that Act.
2. The consumer would, if the consumer were not subject to this Act, be invoiced the rates determined by the Board under clause 79.16 (1) (b) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

Regulated rate consumers, first adjustments

7 (1) Despite clause 79.16 (1) (b) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, the electricity rates payable by regulated rate consumers for the period beginning on July 1, 2017 and ending on April 30, 2018 are the rates determined by the Board under this section and in accordance with the regulations.

Determination by Board

(2) The rates mentioned in subsection (1) shall be the rates that would result in a hypothetical regulated rate consumer who meets the prescribed criteria being invoiced a total invoice amount, consisting of such types of amounts as may be prescribed, that is 25 per cent less than a different total invoice amount, consisting of such types of amounts as may be prescribed, that the consumer would have been invoiced under the comparison rates described in subsection (3).

Comparison rates

(3) The comparison rates are the rates that would have been effective May 1, 2017 if they had been determined by the Board for the consumer mentioned in subsection (2) using the method prescribed by the regulations made under clause 79.16 (1) (b) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, without taking into account any forecasted impact of any other provisions of this Act.

Other specified consumers, first adjustments

8 (1) For the period beginning on July 1, 2017 and ending on April 30, 2018, the adjustments made under section 25.33 of the *Electricity Act, 1998* shall, with respect to specified consumers who are not regulated rate consumers, be further adjusted by electricity vendors in accordance with the regulations and in accordance with the determinations made by the Board in accordance with the regulations.

Regulations

(2) The regulations may specify different adjustments, or methods of determining the adjustments, to be made in respect of prescribed classes of specified consumers who are not regulated rate consumers.

Determinations by Board

9 The Board shall make the determinations mentioned in sections 7 and 8 no later than 15 business days after the day this section receives Royal Assent and, regardless of whether the Board makes the determinations before or after July 1, 2017, the determinations shall be effective as of July 1, 2017.

Implementation by electricity vendors

10 (1) As soon as possible after the Board makes determinations under section 9, each electricity vendor shall, in respect of electricity used on or after July 1, 2017, ensure that its invoices reflect the determinations of the Board.

Same

(2) The electricity vendor shall ensure that, if any of its customers who are specified consumers have been invoiced in a manner that does not reflect the determinations of the Board under section 9, the specified consumer receives the difference between the amounts shown on the invoice and the amounts reflecting the Board’s determinations, provided as a lump sum credit on the first invoice issued after the electricity vendor has adapted its invoices or by such other means as may be prescribed.

Subsequent adjustments

11 (1) Despite clause 79.16 (1) (b) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* and subject to subsection (2), the Lieutenant Governor in Council may prescribe methodologies to be applied by the Board after April 30, 2018 for the purpose of determining,

- (a) electricity rates for regulated rate consumers; or
- (b) further adjustments to be applied by electricity vendors, in accordance with the regulations and in accordance with the Board's determinations, to the adjustments made under section 25.33 of the *Electricity Act, 1998* in respect of specified consumers who are not regulated rate consumers.

Regulations

(2) The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall have regard to the following in making the regulations:

1. The purposes of this Act.
2. The clean energy costs borne by specified consumers over time.
3. Such other matters as may be prescribed.

Same

(3) The regulations may prescribe,

- (a) different methodologies for different prescribed classes of specified consumers and in respect of different periods of time; and
- (b) different adjustments to be applied in respect of prescribed classes of specified consumers who are not regulated rate consumers and in respect of different periods of time.

Sub-metering

12 (1) This section applies if a specified consumer provides to another person electricity in respect of which a determination of the Board referred to in section 9 or 11 applies.

Same

(2) If an invoice for the electricity is issued to the person by the specified consumer or a unit sub-meter provider providing unit sub-metering for the specified consumer, the amounts or rates payable for the electricity by the person who is liable to pay the invoice shall be determined in accordance with the regulations.

Same

(3) The regulations may prescribe different amounts or rates or different methods for determining amounts or rates for different prescribed classes of specified consumers.

PART III CLEAN ENERGY ADJUSTMENT

Specified consumers to pay

13 (1) Upon receipt of an invoice from an electricity vendor that includes an amount in respect of the clean energy adjustment, a specified consumer shall pay the amount to the electricity vendor as agent of the investment interest owners.

Same

(2) For greater certainty, subsection (1) applies regardless of whether any estimate, projection or other input used in calculating the clean energy adjustment was erroneous or out of date at the time of the calculation and regardless of whether any of those estimates, projections or other inputs is subsequently amended, updated or corrected.

Terms

(3) The payment shall be made in accordance with such terms of payment as may be specified in the invoice, which may include terms relating to late payment fees and interest charges.

Indebtedness of specified consumer

(4) An unpaid amount that is required to be paid by a specified consumer under this section constitutes indebtedness of the specified consumer to each investment interest owner to the extent of each owner's respective interest in the investment asset.

Same

(5) The indebtedness mentioned in subsection (4) is a single and separate debt obligation owed by the specified consumer and may be enforced independently from any other payment obligation or indebtedness owing by the specified consumer.

Unit sub-metering

(6) A specified consumer who provides electricity through unit sub-metering may collect amounts in respect of the clean energy adjustment payable under this section in accordance with the regulations.

Irrevocability of amount

14 (1) An amount in respect of the clean energy adjustment shown on an invoice issued to a specified consumer under this Act is determinative of the amount of the consumer's indebtedness resulting from the clean energy adjustment and is irrevocable upon invoicing the consumer and may not be set off or bypassed.

Exception

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to the extent that the invoice reflects a clerical, typographical or calculation-related error.

**Determination of clean energy adjustment
Financial Services Manager to determine**

15 (1) The Financial Services Manager shall determine the clean energy adjustment payable by all specified consumers in respect of each month in a reference period by taking the following steps:

1. Calculate the sum of the following:
 - i. The estimated finance amount in respect of the reference period.
 - ii. The true up amount in respect of the reference period.
2. Divide the sum calculated under paragraph 1 by the number of months in the reference period.

Regulations re true up amount

(2) The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall, in making regulations with respect to the determination of the true up amount, have regard to the following principles:

1. The true up amount should serve to ensure that the collection of the clean energy adjustment is sufficient to pay the finance amount when it is due.
2. The method for determining the true up amount should take into account historical and reasonably foreseeable,
 - i. differences between the estimated and actual finance amount for the applicable reference period,
 - ii. differences between amounts invoiced and amounts collected due to various factors, including applicable taxes, consumer defaults and delays, billing lags and write-offs, and
 - iii. variations in billings due to variations in electricity consumption.

Financial Services Manager to notify Board

(3) The Financial Services Manager shall, in accordance with the regulations, notify the Board of the clean energy adjustment in respect of a reference period and such other information related to the determination of the clean energy adjustment as may be prescribed.

Board to determine rates

(4) Without changing the clean energy adjustment, the Board shall, in accordance with the regulations, determine the rates at which specified consumers are invoiced to recover the clean energy adjustment in respect of the reference period.

IESO to receive amounts

16 (1) The IESO shall, as agent of the investment interest owners, receive amounts in respect of the clean energy adjustment paid to it from electricity vendors in accordance with the market rules made under section 32 of the *Electricity Act, 1998* or the regulations.

Account

(2) All of the following amounts received by the IESO shall, until remitted to or for the benefit of the investment interest owners in accordance with subsection (4), be deposited promptly into an account established for the purposes of receiving those amounts:

1. Amounts described in subsection (1).
2. Payments made by specified consumers directly to the IESO as electricity vendor under subsection 13 (1).
3. Proceeds of amounts described in paragraphs 1 and 2.

Same, held in trust

(3) All amounts received by the IESO in respect of the clean energy adjustment shall, until remitted to or for the benefit of the investment interest owners, be held in trust by the IESO for the investment interest owners.

IESO to remit

(4) The IESO shall remit amounts received by it in respect of the clean energy adjustment, inclusive of interest earned on the amounts referred to in subsection (1), to or for the benefit of the investment interest owners in accordance with the regulations.

Electricity vendor to invoice specified consumers

17 (1) Each electricity vendor shall issue an invoice to each of its customers who is a specified consumer for the amount payable by the consumer in respect of the clean energy adjustment, as determined by applying the rate set by the Board under subsection 15 (4) and in accordance with the regulations.

Electricity vendor to report

(2) Each electricity vendor shall, in accordance with the regulations, promptly report to the IESO the total amount invoiced to its customers who are specified consumers in respect of the clean energy adjustment, the amount collected and such other information as may be prescribed.

Electricity vendor to collect

(3) Each electricity vendor shall, as agent of the investment interest owners, collect amounts in respect of the clean energy adjustment from specified consumers in accordance with the regulations.

Pro rating of payments

(4) If an electricity vendor receives a payment made by or on behalf of a specified consumer in respect of amounts payable under one or more invoices and the amount paid is less than the total amount payable, the electricity vendor shall allocate the payment on a pro rata basis to the clean energy adjustment and other amounts payable under the relevant invoices in respect of electricity charges in respect of the same invoice period.

Held in trust

(5) Payments received by an electricity vendor from or on behalf of specified consumers in respect of the clean energy adjustment and all proceeds of the payments shall, until remitted to the IESO for the benefit of the investment interest owners in accordance with subsection (6), be held by each electricity vendor in trust for the benefit of the investment interest owners.

Remittance to IESO

(6) Each electricity vendor shall remit amounts in respect of the clean energy adjustment to the IESO for the benefit of the investment interest owners in accordance with the regulations.

**PART IV
IMPLEMENTATION**

FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER

Appointment

18 Ontario Power Generation Inc. is appointed as the Financial Services Manager for the purposes of this Act, unless it is unable or unwilling to do so, in which case the Minister may appoint a different Financial Services Manager in accordance with the regulations.

Duties and powers

19 (1) The Financial Services Manager shall perform the duties assigned to it under this Act and may administer the investment asset on behalf of the investment interest owners.

Same

(2) The administration of the investment asset may include providing information to the IESO in respect of obligations under Part III and such other activities as may be prescribed.

Fees

(3) Subject to any prescribed limitations, the Financial Services Manager may establish and charge fees in relation to such matters as may be prescribed in accordance with the regulations, which regulations may provide for the ability to recover costs and expenditures and to earn a return.

Same, Board approval

(4) Before establishing fees under subsection (3), the Financial Services Manager shall submit them to the Board for approval in accordance with the regulations.

FAIR ALLOCATION AMOUNT

Minister to calculate fair allocation amount

20 (1) Before the first funding obligation is incurred, the Minister shall calculate a fair allocation amount in respect of each reference period as follows:

1. Determine, in accordance with the following steps and the regulations and by applying such method as the Minister considers appropriate, the estimated clean energy costs to be allocated to specified consumers in respect of the reference period:
 - i. Determine the clean energy costs incurred or expected to be incurred in respect of all reference periods.
 - ii. Determine the clean energy benefits in respect of,
 - A. all reference periods, and
 - B. the prescribed period of time that preceded the first reference period and during which clean energy costs were incurred.
 - iii. Attribute the value of the clean energy benefits determined under subparagraph ii across the reference periods and the period of time described in sub-subparagraph ii B.
 - iv. Allocate clean energy costs determined under subparagraph i in proportion to the relative attributions of clean energy benefits determined in subparagraph ii in respect of the reference periods.
2. Subject to subsection (2), determine, in accordance with the regulations and by applying such method as the Minister considers appropriate, the estimated financing costs, consisting of such types of costs as may be prescribed, in respect of the reference period.
3. Determine, in accordance with the regulations and by applying such method as the Minister considers appropriate, the estimated clean energy costs that would have been payable, in the absence of this Act, by specified consumers in respect of the reference period.
4. Determine the amount, if any, by which the sum of the determinations under paragraphs 1 and 2 exceeds the determination under paragraph 3.
5. Calculate the sum of the amount determined under paragraph 4 and such other amounts as may be prescribed in respect of the reference period.

Part II adjustments

(2) If the Board has made a determination under section 9 or 11 in respect of the reference period or in respect of a prior reference period and, as a result of the determination, the prescribed circumstances arise, the Minister shall take the prescribed steps to make the prescribed adjustments to the determination made under paragraph 2 of subsection (1).

Minister's considerations

(3) In calculating a fair allocation amount, the Minister shall have regard to the purposes of this Act and such other matters as may be prescribed.

Minister to inform Financial Services Manager

(4) The Minister shall provide the fair allocation amount in respect of each reference period to the Financial Services Manager.

Recalculation

(5) The calculation of a fair allocation amount under this Part may be changed by such person as may be prescribed, subject to the following requirements:

1. The prescribed person shall comply with such requirements as may be prescribed.
2. Subsections (1), (2) and (3) apply to the new calculation, with necessary modifications, as if that person were the Minister.

Same

(6) No change under subsection (5) shall affect any clean energy adjustment that arises as a result of a funding obligation that has been incurred before the change.

Information

(7) The Minister, the IESO, the Financial Services Manager, the Board and electricity vendors shall provide such information as may be prescribed in accordance with the regulations for the purposes of facilitating a change under subsection (5).

FINANCING PLAN**Financial Services Manager to prepare Financing Plan**

21 (1) The Financial Services Manager shall prepare a written plan entitled the Financing Plan to be used by the Financial Services Manager to evaluate whether potential funding obligations should be incurred for the purposes of a financing entity acquiring and financing an investment interest in accordance with this Act or for the purposes of a refinancing.

Plan to be provided to Minister

(2) The Financial Services Manager shall provide the Financing Plan to the Minister.

Principles

(3) In preparing the Financing Plan, the Financial Services Manager shall have regard to the following principles:

1. Funding obligations should be incurred such that, along with any funding obligations already incurred, the estimated finance amount that would, subject to any refinancing, become due and payable during a reference period will reasonably align with the fair allocation amount determined in respect of the reference period, in each case after reducing the fair allocation amount by the readjustment amount, if any, in respect of the reference period.
2. Incurrences should be implemented in a manner that, in the opinion of the Financial Services Manager, is reasonable, cost effective and that reflects prevailing market terms and conditions.
3. Reasonable assumptions should be made regarding such matters as may be prescribed.
4. Such other principles as may be prescribed.

Limitation

(4) In respect of each reference period from July 1, 2017 to April 30, 2021, no funding obligation shall be incurred that would result in amounts payable in respect of the clean energy adjustment in respect of the reference period unless,

- (a) the amounts are payable in respect of a reference period in respect of which there is no readjustment amount; or
- (b) if there is a readjustment amount in respect of the reference period, the amounts payable in respect of the clean energy adjustment in respect of the reference period do not exceed the fair allocation amount in respect of the reference period after subtracting the readjustment amount.

Other reports

(5) The Financial Services Manager shall submit to the Minister such reports and information as the Minister may require from time to time and shall, if required by the Minister to do so, examine, report and advise on any question relating to the Financing Plan.

Amendments to plan

(6) The Financial Services Manager may amend the Financing Plan at any time but no such amendment shall affect any clean energy adjustment that has already been determined under section 15 or any funding obligations that have already been incurred before the amendment.

Same

(7) In the event that the Financing Plan is amended, any reference in this Act to the Financing Plan is deemed to be a reference to the plan as amended.

Readjustment amount

(8) In this section,

“readjustment amount” has the meaning set out in the regulations.

Incurrence of funding obligations

22 (1) The Financial Services Manager shall ensure that funding obligations incurred for the purposes of this Act are incurred in a manner that is consistent with the applicable Financing Plan.

Financing entities

(2) In accordance with the Financing Plan, the Financial Services Manager may establish or cause to be established one or more financing entities that may incur funding obligations.

Prohibition

(3) Neither the Financial Services Manager nor a financing entity shall provide for funding obligations to be incurred with any recourse to any assets of an electricity vendor, the Board, Ontario Power Generation Inc., the Province or the Lieutenant Governor in Council, except to the extent that any of these persons or entities may be liable to perform obligations or duties arising under this Act or under the express terms of a funding obligation or other agreement.

Effect of amendment to fair allocation amount

(4) Each funding obligation incurred and each transfer made by a financing entity is deemed to be consistent with the Financing Plan and to provide for the reasonable alignment of the estimated finance amount with the fair allocation amount.

Same

(5) For greater certainty, subsection (4) applies despite the failure of the Financial Services Manager to comply with subsection (1).

**PART V
THE REGULATORY ASSET**

IESO deferral

23 (1) The IESO deferral for each month, commencing May 1, 2017, shall be determined by the IESO in accordance with the regulations.

Same, retrospective amounts

(2) For greater certainty, the regulations may provide for the IESO deferral to include an amount that was incurred by the IESO on or after May 1, 2017 and before the day this section comes into force.

Electricity vendors to provide information

(3) Electricity vendors shall provide to the IESO such information as the IESO may reasonably request for the purposes of determining the IESO deferral under subsection (1) and such further information as may be prescribed.

Same

(4) The IESO may rely on information provided by electricity vendors for the purposes of the determination under subsection (1).

Variance account to be established, maintained

24 (1) The IESO shall establish and maintain a variance account in which it records the following:

1. The IESO deferral for each month.
2. All payments received by the IESO resulting from the exercise of the right of recovery under section 25 and any transfer under section 26.
3. Such other adjustments as may be prescribed, including adjustments in respect of the period that commences on or after May 1, 2017 and before the day this section comes into force.

Recording determinative

(2) Subject to the correction of any obvious error by the IESO, its recording of the balance in the variance account is determinative of the balance as of the time of the recording.

Rights of investment interest owner

(3) No change made by the IESO to the balance in the variance account shall, if the previous balance was relied upon by an investment interest owner in the context of a transfer under section 26, affect the rights acquired by the investment interest owner under the transfer.

Regulatory asset established

25 (1) Effective May 1, 2017, the IESO has the right, exercisable in accordance with this Act and the regulations, to recover the balance recorded in the variance account from specified consumers.

Board to set rates

(2) Subject to subsection (3), the Board shall, from time to time and in accordance with the regulations, determine and set rates payable by specified consumers to allow for the IESO to recover the balance recorded in the variance account.

Limitation

(3) The IESO shall not be entitled to collect all or part of the balance recorded in the variance account from specified consumers before May 1, 2021.

Transfer of regulatory asset

26 (1) The IESO may from time to time, in accordance with this Act and the regulations, transfer a specified portion of the regulatory asset to a financing entity in accordance with this section.

Agreement

(2) An agreement between the IESO and a financing entity in relation to the transfer of a specified portion of the regulatory asset shall provide for consideration of a payment by the financing entity to the IESO in an amount equal to the amount of the specified portion.

Effect of payment

(3) Upon receipt by the IESO of the payment by the financing entity,

- (a) the balance in the variance account shall be reduced by the amount of the payment;
- (b) the regulatory asset shall be adjusted accordingly;

(c) the financing entity shall acquire a corresponding investment interest; and

(d) the IESO shall retain no further right, title or interest in the corresponding investment interest.

Validity of transfer

27 (1) A transfer of a specified portion of the regulatory asset under section 26 constitutes a valid and enforceable absolute assignment, conveyance and sale of the corresponding investment interest to the transferee.

Same

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), any transfer agreement that states an intention of the parties for the IESO to dispose of a specified portion of the regulatory asset and to assign, convey or sell a corresponding investment interest shall be treated for all purposes as an absolute assignment, conveyance, disposition and sale of the IESO's right to recover the corresponding amount in the variance account and not merely as a security interest.

Deemed perfection, etc.

(3) At the time a transfer of the regulatory asset is made under section 26, the transfer shall be deemed to have been and shall be perfected, vested, valid and binding as against the transferor and all other persons who have claims of any kind against the transferor.

Priority of transfer

(4) Subsection (3) applies regardless of whether the persons who have claims have received notice of the transfer and the property rights and interests acquired by the transferee shall have priority over any liens in favour of those persons.

**PART VI
THE INVESTMENT ASSET**

Investment asset established

28 (1) The transfer of a specified portion of the regulatory asset under section 26 creates an investment asset or, if it is not the first transfer, adds to the investment asset.

Same

(2) Upon transfer of a specified portion of the regulatory asset under section 26 to a financing entity, the investment asset resulting from the transfer is immediately vested in the financing entity, free and clear of any adverse claim.

Investment asset, irrevocable rights and interests

29 (1) The investment asset constitutes a current and irrevocable property right and interest consisting, collectively, of the following rights and interests of investment interest owners:

1. The right and interest to impose, invoice, collect, receive and recover the clean energy adjustment from specified consumers, including the right to determine the clean energy adjustment in accordance with this Act.
2. The right to receive, collect and recover the clean energy adjustment that is imposed, invoiced and recoverable under this Act, including any amounts in respect of the clean energy adjustment that are held by electricity vendors, the IESO and other prescribed parties.
3. All rights and entitlements under such accounts as may be prescribed by regulation and all amounts on deposit in such accounts.
4. The right to enforce the duties and obligations under this Act of each electricity vendor to impose, attribute, charge and invoice for the clean energy adjustment.
5. The right to enforce the duties and obligations under this Act of each electricity vendor and the IESO to collect, receive and remit amounts received by it in respect of the clean energy adjustment, including all collections and the proceeds of any enforcement action undertaken by any electricity vendor to recover payment of the clean energy adjustment.
6. All rights of any kind related to any of the other property rights or interests that comprise the investment interest, including any rights to receive funding rebates.
7. All revenue, collections, claims, payments, money and proceeds of or derived from the rights described in paragraphs 1 to 6, regardless of whether it is invoiced, collected and maintained together with or commingled with other revenue, collections, claims, payments, money and proceeds.

Not affected by failure to impose etc. clean energy adjustment

(2) An investment interest is not affected by any failure to impose, attribute, invoice, accrue or collect amounts in respect of the clean energy adjustment.

No set off, etc.

(3) The investment asset shall not be set off,

- (a) by a consumer, an electricity vendor, the IESO, an agent of the investment interest owners or an owner in the Province of a distribution system within the meaning of the *Electricity Act, 1998*;
- (b) in connection with any default of a person mentioned in clause (a); or
- (c) by any affiliate or successor of a person mentioned in clause (a).

Exercise of rights

(4) The rights of the investment interest owners to collect the clean energy adjustment and enforce their rights and interests in, to and in respect of the investment asset against a specified consumer shall be exercised in accordance with Part III of this Act.

Collective action required

(5) If one investment interest owner owns a right or interest in the investment asset that comprises less than the entire property right and interest constituted by the investment asset, the right or interest shall only be enforced by the investment interest owner collectively and in coordination with all other investment interest owners, and any agreement among that collective in furtherance of the collective action shall be valid and binding on the investment interest owners as a collective in accordance with its terms.

Transfer of investment interest

30 An investment interest owner may transfer all or a portion of an investment interest to any other investment interest owner, including by way of a transfer of a divided or an undivided interest, in accordance with the Financing Plan.

Validity of transfer

31 (1) A transfer of an investment interest under this Act is a valid and enforceable sale and absolute transfer of the investment interest and confers upon the transferee a valid property right and interest in, to and under the applicable investment interest acquired in accordance with the terms of the transfer.

Same

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), a transfer that by its terms is intended to constitute a sale or absolute transfer shall be treated for all purposes as an absolute transfer of an investment interest owner's right, title and interest in, to and under an investment interest, and not merely as a security interest, and upon such absolute transfer the transferor shall retain no right, title or interest in the investment interest subject to the transfer, including all rights to the investment interest arising after the transfer.

Deemed perfection, etc.

(3) At the time a transfer of an investment interest is made, the transfer shall be deemed to have been and shall be perfected as described in the *Personal Property Security Act*, vested, valid and binding as against the transferor and all other persons who have claims of any kind against the transferor.

Priority of transfer, assignment, etc.

(4) Subsection (3) applies regardless of whether the persons who have claims have received notice of the transfer, and the property rights and interests acquired by the investment interest owner shall have priority over any liens in favour of such other persons.

Investment interest owner may grant security interest

32 (1) An investment interest owner may grant a security interest over all or a specified portion of its right, title and interest in, to and under the investment interest to or in favour of any person to secure a funding obligation.

Validity

(2) A security interest granted under this Act shall be valid and enforceable in accordance with its terms.

Perfection and priority of security interests

(3) All provisions of the *Personal Property Security Act* shall apply to the investment asset and each investment interest on the basis that the investment asset and each investment interest is intangible personal property, except as otherwise provided for in this section, and any granting of a security interest by an investment interest owner to secure a funding obligation shall, subject to the terms of the funding obligation, give rise to a security interest in respect of which that Act applies and may be perfected by registering a financing statement under that Act on that basis.

Proceeds

(4) All proceeds of an investment interest that are subject to the security interest and that are received by the investment interest owner shall immediately be subject to the security interest and shall be perfected without any physical delivery of the proceeds, registration of any financing statement or any further act.

Perfection

(5) The security interest shall be a continuously perfected security interest and shall have priority over any other lien, created by operation of law or otherwise, that may subsequently attach to the property rights and interests in the investment interest subject to the security interest, unless the person to whom the security interest has been granted consents otherwise.

Same

(6) The person to whom the security interest has been granted shall have a perfected security interest in revenues or other proceeds that are deposited in any account of any electricity vendor, an agent of an electricity vendor or other person who may have commingled such revenues or other proceeds with other funds.

Notice required

(7) The secured party shall be entitled to exercise the rights of an investment interest owner only after the secured party has given notice of the enforcement of its security interest to the IESO.

Interpretation

(8) For the purposes of this section, a security interest is perfected when it is perfected as described in the *Personal Property Security Act*.

**PART VII
MISCELLANEOUS**

Appointment of agent, invoicing or collection

33 (1) If a prescribed circumstance applies, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may by regulation appoint a person to carry out some or all of the obligations of an electricity vendor under this Act in the place of an electricity vendor with respect to invoicing or collection.

Same, not Crown agent

(2) For greater certainty, a person appointed under this section is not an agent of the Crown for any purpose, despite the *Crown Agency Act*.

Board's authority

34 (1) Each electricity vendor, the IESO and the Financial Services Manager shall maintain such accounts and provide such information to the Board as the Board may require for the purposes of carrying out its responsibilities under this Act, in the form and manner and within the time required by the Board.

No hearing required

(2) Despite anything to the contrary in the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, the Board may exercise any of its responsibilities under this Act without a hearing.

Sequestration

35 (1) A court in the Province may, upon application by an investment interest owner or a secured party, order the sequestration and payment of amounts in respect of the clean energy adjustment, collections or remittances, as applicable, for the benefit of the investment interest owner or secured party by any person or entity authorized to collect amounts in respect of the clean energy adjustment.

Same

(2) An order under subsection (1) does not limit any other remedies available to the applicant.

Choice of law

36 The law governing, as applicable, the validity, enforceability, attachment, perfection, priority and exercise of remedies with respect to a transfer under this Act or the creation of a security interest in the regulatory asset, the investment asset, the clean energy adjustment or the undertaking of the Crown under section 5 shall be the laws of the Province.

Conflict

37 The provisions of this Act and the regulations apply despite any provision of any other Act regarding the attachment, assignment or perfection, or the effect of perfection or priority of any transfer or security interest.

No further approvals, etc.

38 Despite any requirement under any Act, no approvals, notices or authorizations other than those specified in this Act are required under the Financing Plan or in relation to the determination of the fair allocation amount.

Liability

39 (1) No action or other civil proceeding shall be commenced against any employee of the Province or Ontario Power Generation Inc. for any act done in good faith in the exercise or performance or the intended exercise or performance of a power or duty under this Act, the regulations or for any alleged neglect or default in the exercise or performance in good faith of such a power or duty.

Same

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) shall be read as limiting the effect of subsection 19 (1) of the *Electricity Act, 1998* or subsection 11 (1) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

Same

(3) Despite subsections 5 (2) and (4) of the *Proceedings Against the Crown Act*, subsection (1) does not relieve the Crown of liability in respect of a tort committed by a person mentioned in subsection (1) to which it would otherwise be subject.

References in marketing materials and offering documents

40 No person shall include, in marketing materials or offering documents relating to the financing of funding obligations, references to any rights, obligations, guarantees or undertakings arising under section 5 unless the prescribed requirements, if any, are satisfied.

Compliance and restraining orders

Application to court

41 (1) On the application of an investment interest owner, the Superior Court of Justice may make an order described in subsection (2) if it is satisfied that an electricity vendor, the IESO or the Financial Services Manager has failed to comply with or has contravened this Act or the regulations or that one of those entities will fail to comply with or will contravene this Act or the regulations.

Order

(2) The Superior Court of Justice may, by order,

- (a) direct the electricity vendor, the IESO or the Financial Services Manager to comply with this Act or the regulations;
- (b) restrain the electricity vendor, the IESO or the Financial Services Manager from contravening this Act or the regulations; or
- (c) require compensation to be provided by the electricity vendor, the IESO or the Financial Services Manager to the investment interest owner.

Same

(3) An application under subsection (1) may be made by an investment interest owner in addition to exercising any other right of the investment interest owner.

Regulations

42 (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations in respect of the following matters:

1. Governing anything that is required or permitted to be prescribed or that is required or permitted to be done by, or in accordance with, the regulations or as authorized, specified or provided in the regulations.

2. Defining, for the purposes of a regulation, words and expressions used in this Act that are not defined in the Act.
3. Governing the incurrence of debt for the purposes of the definition of "refinancing" in subsection 1 (1).
4. Governing the inclusion of information under this Act on or with invoices, which may include requiring notice to be provided by electricity vendors to specified consumers and other prescribed persons regarding the adjustments, including providing for different requirements in different circumstances and for different classes of specified consumers.
5. Governing the inclusion of information about the clean energy adjustment and any other matters provided for under this Act on or with invoices issued to specified consumers, including the form that the information must take and the form of the invoices and the form of any notice to be provided to the specified consumer under this Act.
6. Governing the manner by which invoices or notices provided for under this Act are to be provided to specified consumers and other prescribed persons.
7. Providing for a right of compensation for investment interest owners affected by the failure of any person or entity to give effect to the rights and interests provided for under section 29 and the manner in which such a right may be enforced under this Act.
8. Prescribing the time within which any action required by this Act may be required to be done.
9. Providing for such other matters as the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers advisable to carry out the purpose of this Act.

Limitation

(2) Despite subsection (1) or any other Act, no regulation under this Act shall have the effect of reducing, impairing, postponing or terminating the obligations of specified consumers to pay amounts in respect of the clean energy adjustment or impairing or postponing the invoicing, collection, remittance or recovery of the clean energy adjustment.

PART VIII (OMITTED)

43, 44 OMITTED (AMENDS, REPEALS OR REVOKES OTHER LEGISLATION).

PART IX (OMITTED)

45 OMITTED (PROVIDES FOR COMING INTO FORCE OF PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT).

46 OMITTED (ENACTS SHORT TITLE OF THIS ACT).

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