DEMANDE DE RENSEIGNEMENTS N° 1 D'OPTION CONSOMMATEURS (OC) À HYDRO-QUÉBEC DISTRIBUTION (HQD)

DEMANDE DE MODIFICATION DES TARIFS ET CONDITIONS DE DISTRIBUTION D'ÉLECTRICITÉ RELATIVE À UNE OPTION D'INSTALLATION D'UN COMPTEUR N'ÉMETTANT PAS DE RADIOFRÉQUENCES

R-3788-2012

PRINCIPES À LA BASE DE LA DEMANDE DU DISTRIBUTEUR

1. Référence : i) HQD-1, doc. 1, p. 7.

Préambule :

En référence i), il est indiqué que :

> « *Le Distributeur soumet que l'ensemble de la clientèle n'a pas à supporter les coûts supplémentaires occasionnés par les clients qui optent pour un compteur autre que celui qui constitue l'offre de base du Distributeur*. »

Demande :

1.1 Why is the installation of non-communicating smart meters considered to be outside HQD's « standard offer of service » as opposed to being viewed as simply another standard service option?

2. Référence : i) HQD-1, doc.1, p. 8.

Préambule :

En référence i), le Distributeur confirme que la relève manuelle continuera de se faire à chaque deux mois :

> *« Afin de maintenir le niveau de service actuel offert aux clients, le Distributeur propose de conserver sa pratique d'effectuer la relève manuelle aux 60 jours. Les droits et obligations quant à la relève des compteurs et à la facturation demeureraient donc inchangés. »*

Demande :

2.1 It is noted that HQD provides Residential customers with the option of sending in their meter readings via phone or the internet[1]. Is it possible for Residential customers who "opt-out" to reduce their annual fee by sending some of the required meter readings to HQD? If not, why not?

[1] http://www.hydroquebec.com/residential/autoreleve/index.html

3. Référence : **i) HQD-1, doc.1, p. 5.**

ii) HQD-1, doc.1, p. 7.

Préambule :

À la référence i), on peut lire que le projet de lecture à distance du Distributeur nécessitera « *de nouveaux compteurs formant, avec d'autres équipements, un réseau maillé sans fil appelé « infrastructure de mesurage avancé » (IMA)* ».

Les clients qui voudront exercer l'option de retrait « *seront facturés par le Distributeur pour les coûts supplémentaires liés à l'installation du nouveau compteur et ceux reliés à la relève manuelle de leur compteur* ».

Demande :

3.1 What is the estimated cost - both initial capital cost and annual operating cost (including any fees paid to telecom service providers) associated with the telecommunications network and services required to relay the smart meter readings back to HQD's central billing data management system?

3.2 Are there any reductions (in terms of either initial capital outlay or annual operating costs) in the cost of the telecommunication network or for the associated telecom services required as a result of customers opting out of the WiFi communications?

3.3 If no, please explain why not? In particular please confirm that none of the annual costs are based on or influenced by the number of meters requiring WiFi communication capability.

3.4 If yes, what is the estimated initial capital cost saving and/or the estimated annual operating cost saving. Note: For the first value, please provide the value for the amortized annual savings (i.e. depreciation, financing and return).

4. Référence : **i) HQD-1, doc. 1, p.7.**

ii) Tarifs et conditions du Distributeur, p. 21 et 22.

Préambule :

Il est inscrit dans les Tarifs et conditions du Distributeur que :

> *Le système biénergie doit être muni d'un commutateur permettant le transfert automatique d'une source d'énergie à l'autre. Ce commutateur doit, à cette fin, être relié à une sonde thermique conformément aux dispositions du sous-alinéa c) ci après;*
>
> *c) la sonde thermique est fournie et installée par le Distributeur à l'endroit et aux conditions déterminées par celui-ci. […].*
>
> *d) le client peut en plus disposer d'un commutateur manuel pour commander lui-même le transfert d'une source d'énergie à l'autre.*

Demande :

4.1 It is noted that the DT rate offered by HQD requires special metering devices. However, there are no additional charges for customers wanting to be billed on this rate as compared to the standard Residential D rate. Please explain why it is appropriate for Residential customers opting for the "non-communicating" meter to pay additional charges while those opting for the DT rate meter do not.

4.2 Will Residential customers currently on the DT rate have smart (communicating) meters installed ?

4.3 If yes, will it be the same smart meter and have the same installation requirements as used for standard Residential D customers ?

4.4 If it does not require the same meter or the same meter installation requirements, how will the meter and or meter installation differ? Will there be an additional cost and will the DT customer be required to pay the incremental difference?

4.5 If there is an additional cost and the DT customer is not required to pay the difference, please explain why not (and compare to the circumstance of the customer who opts out of having a "communicating" meter").

5. Référence : **i) HQD-1, doc. 1, p.7.**

ii) Tarifs et conditions du Distributeur, p. 29.

Préambule :

Il est inscrit dans les Tarifs et conditions du Distributeur à la référence ii) que pour les clients autoproducteurs :

> *« L'abonnement est assujetti à l'option de mesurage net à compter du début de la première période de consommation suivant l'installation des équipements de mesurage appropriés. »*

Demande :

5.1 Please confirm that the net metering option for "Autoproducteur" requires special metering devices.

5.2 Are there additional charges for customers wanting to be billed under this option?

5.3 Will Residential customers have smart (communicating) meters under the net metering option ?

5.4 If yes, will it be the same smart meter and have the same installation requirements as used for standard Residential D customers ?

5.5 If it does not require the same meter or the same meter installation requirements, how will the meter and or meter installation differ ? Will there be an additional cost and will the customers under the net metering option be required to pay the incremental difference ?

5.6 If there is an additional cost and the customer under the net metering option is not required to pay the difference, please explain why not (and compare to the circumstance of the customer who opts out of having a communicating meter).

CONDITIONS PRÉALABLES

6. Référence : i) HQD-1, doc.1, p. 10.

Préambule :

Pour s'inscrire à l'option de retrait, un client ne devra pas avoir reçu d'avis d'interruption de service dans les derniers 24 mois. Le Distributeur explique à la référence i) que :

> « *Compte tenu de cette situation, les clients ayant reçu un avis d'interruption dans les 24 derniers mois présentent un risque suffisamment élevé de non-paiement pour justifier que l'option de retrait ne leur soit pas offerte*. »

Demande :

6.1 In the case of a customer with no historical records of interruption notices, please confirm that the condition would still apply. If yes, please explain why and how the risk of non-payment is or is not affected. If not, please explain what would happen in that case.

6.2 In the case of a customer that has paid his bill after receiving the interruption notice, please confirm that the condition would still apply. If yes, please explain why and how the risk of non-payment is or is not affected. If not, please explain what would happen in that case.

JUSTIFICATION DES COÛTS – FRAIS INITIAUX

7. Référence : i) HQD-2, doc.2, p. 3.

Préambule :

Le Distributeur offre à la référence i) des explications sur la différence de prix des compteurs intelligents et des compteurs non-communicants.

Demande :

7.1 Please confirm that it is assumed that the difference in the acquisition cost per meter for the standard smart meter (with communication capability) and the electronic meter (without communication capability) is negligible.

7.2 Please confirm that the 98 $ initial fee is related solely to installation costs (i.e. the cost of installing the non-communicating meter net of the average cost of installing a standard smart meter). If this is not the case, please explain what other costs are included and how they were derived.

8. Référence : i) HQD2, doc. 1, p. 10.

Préambule :

Lors de la rencontre technique du 24 avril dernier, la composition du taux horaire à coût complet de 140$ a complets a été détaillée (acétate #10).

Demande :

8.1 Please explain fully the basis for each of following components of the $140 hourly rate for meter installation:

5.1.1 Ententes client-fournisseur
5.1.2 Frais corporatifs
5.1.3 Amortissement et taxes
5.1.4 Rendement

As part of the response, please indicate precisely what assets are attracting amortization, taxes and return.

8.2 Please provide the hourly rates and the hours required as used to establish each of the following HQD specific service charges: a) Connection (Regular Hours) and b) Charge for Interrupting Service (At Delivery Point). For each of the hourly rates please provide a break down similar to that provided in Slide 10 for the hourly cost of installation of non-communication meters.

8.3 Please explain any material variances between the hourly rates used in these two circumstances and the $140 used in the calculation of initial fee proposed in the current Application.

8.4 Please explain any variances between the hours required for the installation of non-communicating meters and the hours required for each of Connection and Interrupting Service related specific charges.

9. Référence : i) HQD2, doc. 1, p. 10.

Demande :

9.1 With respect to the hourly rate of 123$ for "Traitement de la Demande" (i.e. $14.76) please explain fully the basis for each of the following components:

9.1.1 Ententes client-fournisseur
9.1.2 Frais corporatifs
9.1.3 Amortissement et taxes
9.1.4 Rendement

As part of the response, please indicate precisely what assets are attracting amortization, taxes and return. Please also explain why the corporate overhead (i.e. frais corporatifs) attributed to this activity are significantly higher than those for the meter installation or meter reading.

10. Référence : i) HQD-1, doc. 1, p. 13.

Préambule :

Le Distributeur réduit les frais initiaux d'installation d'un montant de 39$ qui correspond « *au coût moyen pondéré par client pour chaque installation* » de compteurs durant le déploiement massif.

Demande :

10.1 Please confirm that the $39/meter installation cost for massive deployment is the average cost of installing all standard smart meters, including those to be installed by both 3rd parties and HQD staff. If not, what is this value?

10.2 Does the derivation of the $39/meter included provisions for a) Ententes client-fournisseur, b) Frais corporatifs, c) Amortissement et taxes and d) Rendement (similar to those made for the non-communicating meter installation)?

10.2.1 If no, please explain why not.
10.2.2 If yes, please confirm that such provisions were included for both the activities of the 3rd party installer and HQD staff installers. If not, why not?

11. Référence : i) HQD-1, doc. 1, p. 12.

Préambule :

Le Distributeur exigera des frais initiaux de 98 $ aux clients qui souhaitent exercer l'option de retrait.

Demande :

11.1 After the initial mass deployment of smart meters has been completed, will customers moving into new residences (i.e. ones that where not built/serviced at the time of the mass deployment) be able to opt-out? If not, why not?

11.1.1 If yes, what initial one-time charges will new residential customers requesting a non-communicating meter be assessed versus a new residential customer who accepts installation of the standard smart meter?

11.1.2 If different charges will apply for the two cases, what is rationale for assessing a different charge and how will each be determined?

11.1.3 If the same charge is to apply in each case, how will it be determined and why is there no distinction?

11.2 After the initial mass deployment of smart meters has been completed, if a new customer moves into a place with a communicating meter, will they have the option to opt-out and have a non-communicating meter installed? If yes, will a fee apply and, if so, how will that fee be determined?

JUSTIFICATION DES COÛTS – FRAIS ANNUELS

12. Référence : **i) HQD-1, doc. 1, p. 15.**

ii) HQD-2, doc. 1, p. 10.

Préambule :

À la référence i), il est indiqué que les frais de relève de 33,66 $ sont établis à partir d'un temps moyen de relève de 0,34 heure et un taux horaire au coût complet de 99 $. Le taux horaire au coût complet de 99 $ est décomposé à l'acétate #10 en référence ii).

Demande :

12.1 What is the basis for the assumed 0.34 hours average time per meter read?

12.2 Please explain fully the basis for each of following components of the $99 hourly rate for meter reading:

11.2.1 Ententes client-fournisseur
11.2.2 Frais corporatifs
11.2.3 Amortissement et taxes
11.2.4 Rendement

As part of the response, please indicate precisely what assets are attracting amortization, taxes and return.

12.3 With respect to HQD's 2012-2013 Rate Application, please provide the basis for meter reading costs attributed to Residential (D) customers (i.e. what is the assumed cost per customer per meter read and what hourly rate/ hours required per read is it based on?).

13. Référence : i) HQD-2, doc. 2, p. 7.

Préambule :

Il est indiqué à la référence i) :

> *« Ce développement nécessitera l'équivalent de 650 jours-personnes de travail, répartis de la façon suivante :*
>
> - *analyse : 80 jours ;*
> - *développement : 320 jours ;*
> - *essais : 120 jours ;*
> - *mise en service et support : 70 jours ;*
> - *gestion : 60 jours.*

Demande :

13.1 The person-days required for many of the tasks appear to be high. Please provide further explanation regarding the time required for each of the five tasks.