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August 2011

## Welcome to Time-of-Use Rates

As part of the provincial plan to create a culture of conservation in Ontario, we have replaced your old electricity meter with a new **SMART METER**. The new SMART METER will read the amount of electricity you consume and the time of day/day of the week you use it, helping you to better understand and manage your consumption. The new meters will electronically send your information to Erie Thames Powerlines.

### *What does this mean for you?*

- Eliminates the need for manual readings
- Ensures your bill and meter readings are accurate and not estimated

SMART METERS will play an even greater role as Erie Thames Powerlines moves to “**Time-of-Use**” (TOU) pricing. Together, SMART METERS and Time-of-Use rates will create an opportunity for customers, like you, to be charged less for consumption by shifting some of your electricity usage away from peak demand times. For instance, running your dishwasher after 7 p.m. Monday to Friday instead of after dinner represents a shift from mid-peak to off-peak time. This will benefit you and it will help the province smooth out “peak demand” periods, resulting in a more efficient electricity system for all of us.

On September 1, 2011, Erie Thames Powerlines will move to Time-of-Use pricing, under which the cost of electricity reflects the level of demand in the system. During the times of the day and year when demand and production costs are at their highest, rates will be “on-peak”. When production costs and demand go down – in the evenings and on weekends – so will the rates.

A SMART METER combined with Time-of-Use pricing is an important step in reducing the Provincial Carbon Footprint and a drive to make Ontario’s electricity system greener, more modern and efficient. As an active participant, you, along with all Ontarians across the province, will contribute to this effort. Your decisions – and those of your neighbours – about when and how much electricity is used will help Ontario’s energy planners forecast future demand, and how best to meet it.