

Scorecard - Waterloo North Hydro Inc.

Performance Outcomes	Performance Categories	Measures	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Trend	Target		
									Industry	Distributor	
<b>Customer Focus</b> Services are provided in a manner that responds to identified customer preferences.	Service Quality	New Residential/Small Business Services Connected on Time	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%		90.00%		
		Scheduled Appointments Met On Time	98.10%	96.40%	99.33%	98.58%	99.68%		90.00%		
		Telephone Calls Answered On Time	86.70%	72.77%	92.72%	90.73%	86.59%		65.00%		
	Customer Satisfaction	First Contact Resolution	99.92%	99.90%	99.87%	99.82%	99.90%				
		Billing Accuracy	99.73%	99.97%	99.97%	99.89%	99.97%		98.00%		
		Customer Satisfaction Survey Results	92%	92%	96%	96%	96%				
<b>Operational Effectiveness</b> Continuous improvement in productivity and cost performance is achieved; and distributors deliver on system reliability and quality objectives.	Safety	Level of Public Awareness	82.00%	82.00%	82.00%	82.00%	82.00%				
		Level of Compliance with Ontario Regulation 22/04 <sup>1</sup>	C	C	C	C	C			C	
		Serious Electrical Incident Index	Number of General Public Incidents	1	1	6	1	3			1
			Rate per 10, 100, 1000 km of line	0.618	0.618	3.645	0.605	1.820			0.857
	System Reliability	Average Number of Hours that Power to a Customer is Interrupted <sup>2</sup>	0.71	0.76	0.92	0.85	0.80			0.79	
		Average Number of Times that Power to a Customer is Interrupted <sup>2</sup>	1.15	1.50	1.32	1.29	1.02			1.33	
	Asset Management	Distribution System Plan Implementation Progress	23.05%	41.81%	61.36%	82.07%	101.83%				
	Cost Control	Efficiency Assessment	4	3	3	3	3				
		Total Cost per Customer <sup>3</sup>	\$809	\$773	\$819	\$833	\$797				
		Total Cost per Km of Line <sup>3</sup>	\$28,094	\$26,800	\$28,499	\$29,241	\$28,166				
<b>Public Policy Responsiveness</b> Distributors deliver on obligations mandated by government (e.g., in legislation and in regulatory requirements imposed further to Ministerial directives to the Board).	Connection of Renewable Generation	Renewable Generation Connection Impact Assessments Completed On Time	80.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%				
		New Micro-embedded Generation Facilities Connected On Time	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%		90.00%		
<b>Financial Performance</b> Financial viability is maintained; and savings from operational effectiveness are sustainable.	Financial Ratios	Liquidity: Current Ratio (Current Assets/Current Liabilities)	1.01	1.08	1.08	0.93	1.04				
		Leverage: Total Debt (includes short-term and long-term debt) to Equity Ratio	1.23	1.18	1.14	1.13	1.24				
		Profitability: Regulatory Return on Equity	Deemed (included in rates)	9.19%	9.19%	9.19%	9.19%	9.19%			
			Achieved	10.13%	8.37%	8.20%	7.13%	7.94%			

1. Compliance with Ontario Regulation 22/04 assessed: Compliant (C); Needs Improvement (NI); or Non-Compliant (NC).

2. An upward arrow indicates decreasing reliability while downward indicates improving reliability.

3. A benchmarking analysis determines the total cost figures from the distributor's reported information.

4. The CDM measure is based on the now discontinued 2015-2020 Conservation First Framework. 2019 results include savings reported to the IESO up until the end of February 2020.

**Legend:**

5-year trend  
 up down flat

Current year  
 target met target not met

# 2020 Scorecard Management Discussion and Analysis (“2020 Scorecard MD&A”)

The link below provides a document titled “Scorecard - Performance Measure Descriptions” that has the technical definition, plain language description, and how the measure may be compared for each of the Scorecard’s measures in the 2020 Scorecard MD&A:

[http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/ Documents/scorecard/Scorecard Performance Measure Descriptions.pdf](http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Documents/scorecard/Scorecard%20Performance%20Measure%20Descriptions.pdf)

## Scorecard MD&A - General Overview

Waterloo North Hydro Inc. (WNH) exceeded all performance targets in 2020 with the exception of Average Number of Hours that Power to a Customer is Interrupted.

WNH discovered a material misstatement in the data used for capital additions in 2016 (see the section on cost control) and made a request to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to correct this error. The error was verified with OEB staff in 2017 and corrected on the Benchmarking Reports, however, the OEB will not reflect the correct information on the Scorecard for 2016 as a matter of policy.

## Service Quality

- **New Residential/Small Business Services Connected on Time**

In 2020, WNH connected 100% of the 600 eligible low-voltage residential and small business customers (those utilizing connections under 750 volts) to its system within the five-day timeline prescribed by the OEB. This maintains the high level of service from the previous year and is above the OEB-mandated threshold of 90%. WNH works with customers and customer representatives to ensure very timely responses to their requests and expects to maintain this level of service in 2021.

- **Scheduled Appointments Met On Time**

WNH scheduled over 300 appointments with its customers in 2020 to complete work requested by customers, read meters, reconnect services, or perform necessary maintenance. The utility met 99.68% (2019 – 98.58%) of these appointments on time, which significantly exceeds the industry target of 90%. WNH focuses on ensuring high levels of customer service when

requested to meet with customers or customer representatives. It is very rare for WNH to miss an appointment or require an appointment to be rescheduled. Where this could occur is during a major outage, inclement weather, or illness. WNH expects to continue this level of service in 2021.

- **Telephone Calls Answered On Time**

WNH's customer contact centre received over 25,000 calls from customers in 2020. The call centre agents answered 86.59% of these calls in 30 seconds or less, representing a minor decrease from 2019 (90.73%). This performance exceeds the industry target of 65.0% for timely call response. With the OEB regulatory and rate changes impact due to COVID-19 such as TOU rate changes, and COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) for Residential and Small Commercial, there was a sudden increase in call volumes. Another surge of call volumes in the fall of 2020 was due to the regulatory change of allowing customers the option of opting-in for Tiered Pricing. Although OEB's target is 65%, WNH has an internal target of 90% to maintain its high level of customer satisfaction rating and expects that the call response percentage will increase back to normal levels in 2021.

## Customer Satisfaction

- **First Contact Resolution**

First Contact Resolution is measured based on the number of calls escalated to a supervisor after a call centre agent first assisted the customer. In 2020, only 26 calls needed escalation to a supervisor after the first contact resulting in a 99.90% resolution on first contact (2019 – 99.82%). WNH expects this level of resolution to continue in 2021.

- **Billing Accuracy**

During 2020, WNH issued more than 708,000 bills and achieved a billing accuracy of 99.97% (2019 – 99.89%). This compares favourably to the industry target of 98%. WNH expects this level of accuracy to continue in 2021.

- **Customer Satisfaction Survey Results**

The OEB introduced the Customer Satisfaction Survey measure in 2013. Electricity distributors are required to measure and report customer satisfaction results at least every other year.

In 2020, WNH engaged an independent third party to conduct customer satisfaction surveys. The survey asks customers questions on a wide range of topics including: overall satisfaction with WNH, customer service, outages, cost, billing and corporate image, customer expectations and needs. This feedback is incorporated into WNH's planning process and forms

the basis of plans to improve customer satisfaction, meet the needs of customers, and address areas of improvement. In 2020, WNH received a satisfaction score of 96% from its customers which is consistent with the 2018 survey of 96%, WNH's results are above the provincial average of 9%. WNH believes that its customer feedback and satisfaction score reflects efforts that it continues to make in the community by listening to customer feedback and incorporating it into business plans. WNH's next customer satisfaction survey is scheduled to occur in 2022.

## Safety

- **Public Safety**

- **Component A – Public Awareness of Electrical Safety**

In 2015, the OEB introduced the Level of Public Awareness indicator which attempts to measure the level of awareness of key electrical safety precautions among the public in the electricity distributor's service territory. Utilities are required to carry out a survey developed by the Electrical Safety Authority every two years. WNH was able to maintain a score of 82% in 2019, which was the same score received in the first and second surveys conducted in 2015 and 2017. While WNH is satisfied with these results, the utility will strive to improve upon this score through public education initiatives going forward. The next survey is scheduled to be completed in 2021.

- **Component B – Compliance with Ontario Regulation 22/04**

This measure addresses the level of distributor compliance to Ontario Regulation 22/04, Electrical Distribution Safety. This regulation establishes a standard for safety performance that deals with electrical safety requirements for the design, construction, and maintenance of electrical distribution systems. It includes an audit of compliance, declaration of compliance, reports evaluated (e.g., due diligence inspections, audits, public safety concerns, etc.), and outcome (e.g., compliant, needs improvement, non-compliant). The performance target for the level of compliance with Ontario Regulation 22/04 is for the distributor to be fully compliant with Ontario Regulation 22/04. WNH has been compliant with Ontario Regulation 22/04 since the measure was initially tracked in 2010 through to 2020.

- **Component C – Serious Electrical Incident Index**

The Serious Electrical Incident Index component of the public safety measure is intended to address the resultant impact in improving public electrical safety on the distribution networks over time. It measures the number of and rate of serious electrical incidents occurring on a distributor's assets and is normalized per 1,000 km of line. Both the actual number and the rate per km of line are shown on the Scorecard.

The performance target for Serious Electrical Incident Index is set based on a distributor's specific performance target using the distributor's historical data and prior performance.

The data reported on the 2020 scorecard are the results from the 2020 ESA audit of 2019 events. In 2019 there were three serious electrical incidents within Waterloo North Hydro's service territory. Two of the three incidents were initiated as a result of items beyond the control of WNH (motor vehicle accidents). The third incident was a result of equipment failure. It is important to note that there were no personal injuries in the events noted. The resulting rate for the 2020 scorecard is 1.820 (2019 ESA Audit – 0.605). This rate is above the established performance target of 0.857 incidents per 1,000 km. On March 23, 2017 the ESA provided new mandatory guidelines which lowered the threshold for serious incidents which in turn increased the amount of events that are reported on WNH's scorecard. WNH consistently sees a similar number of total incidents, however with the changes to the guidelines the serious incident number increased. WNH takes a diligent and highly cooperative approach to the ESA audits in order to be proactive and ensure the safest environment possible. WNH reviews these incidents and makes appropriate adjustments to system renewal and maintenance activities as required.

## System Reliability

- **Average Number of Hours that Power to a Customer is Interrupted**

During 2020, there were 667 interruptions resulting in 74,159 total customer interruptions with an average duration of 0.80 hours per customer. This average represents a decrease from the 2019 duration period (0.85 hours per customer), and is close to the target of 0.79 hours per interruption.

WNH continues to view the reliability of electricity service as a high priority for its customers and as such developed programs several years ago for the continuous improvement of reliability. The program includes a constant review of reliability within the 24/7 control room and a response plan for any areas of the distribution system experiencing a degradation in reliability. This, combined with WNH's commitment to review the worst performing feeders on an ongoing basis to improve reliability, will ensure customers continue to receive high value from their electricity service.

- **Average Number of Times that Power to a Customer is Interrupted**

WNH's Average Number of Times that Power to a Customer is Interrupted for 2020 was 1.02 times per customer. This rate is below WNH's target of 1.33 and has decreased from 2019 (1.29). WNH has adopted a proactive, balanced approach to distribution system planning and infrastructure investment and replacement programs to address immediate risks associated with end-of-life assets, to manage distribution system risks, to ensure the safe and reliable delivery of electricity, and to balance

customer and utility affordability.

## Asset Management

- **Distribution System Plan Implementation Progress**

Distribution System Plan (DSP) implementation progress is a performance measure instituted by the OEB in 2014. Consistent with other new measures, utilities were given an opportunity to define it in the manner that best fits their organization. The DSP outlines WNH's forecasted capital expenditures over the next five (5) years that are required to maintain and expand the electricity system to serve current and future customers. The "Distribution System Plan Implementation Progress" measure is intended to assess WNH's effectiveness at planning and implementing the DSP.

WNH filed an application with the OEB for a full review of its rates effective January 1, 2016, that included a DSP. The application and DSP were approved by the OEB in the Fall of 2015. In 2020, during the fifth year of the current five year DSP (2016-2020), WNH has reported 101.83% in its Distribution System Plan Implementation Progress as of December 31, 2020. This measure was calculated by comparing WNH's actual capital expenditures from 2016-2020 compared to the total five-year capital expenditures as per the DSP.

## Cost Control

- **Efficiency Assessment**

The total costs for Ontario's local electricity distribution companies are evaluated by the OEB to produce a single efficiency ranking. The electricity distributors are divided into five groups based on the magnitude of the difference between their respective actual and predicted costs. In 2020, WNH maintained its place in Group 3, where a Group 3 distributor is defined as having actual costs within +/- 10 percent of predicted costs. Group 3 is considered "average efficiency" – in other words, WNH's costs are within the average cost range for distributors in the Province of Ontario. WNH's forward-looking goal is to maintain its efficiency ranking.

When the 2016 Scorecard was published, WNH had made a request to the OEB to correct a material misstatement in the data used for capital additions in 2016. The error was verified with OEB staff in 2017 and reflected on the 2017-2020 Benchmarking Reports, however, the OEB will not change this to reflect the correct information on the Scorecard as a matter of policy. The actual verified data places WNH in Group 3 for 2016, however, the Scorecard has the original incorrect information placing WNH in Group 4.

- **Total Cost per Customer**

Total cost per customer is calculated as the sum of WNH's capital and operating costs per customer. The cost performance result for 2020 is \$797/customer which represents a decrease of 4.3% from 2019 (\$833).

WNH's initial cost performance result for 2016 was \$809/customer at the time the 2016 Scorecard was published. As noted above, WNH discovered a material misstatement in the data used for capital additions in 2016 and made a request to the OEB to correct this error. WNH had submitted to the OEB revised data on capital additions that would have resulted in a Total Cost per Customer of \$785/customer. The error has been verified with OEB staff and is reflected in the 2017-2020 Benchmarking Reports, however, the OEB will not change this to reflect the correct information on the 2016 data on Scorecards as a matter of policy.

WNH will continue to replace distribution assets proactively, along a carefully managed timeframe in a manner that balances system risks and customer rate impacts as demonstrated in the 2016 rate application. WNH will continue to implement productivity improvement initiatives to help offset some of the costs associated with future system improvements and enhancements.

- **Total Cost per Km of Line**

This measure uses the same total cost that is used in the Cost per Customer calculation above - the total cost is divided by the kilometers of line that WNH operates. WNH's 2020 rate is \$28,166 per Km of line, a 3.7% decrease from 2019 (\$29,241). WNH continues to seek innovative solutions to help ensure cost/km of line remains competitive and is affordable for customers.

The Scorecard has the incorrect Total Cost per Km Line for 2016 (\$28,094) as the OEB will not change the 2016 data on the Scorecard as a matter of policy. The 2016 rate should be \$27,251 (verified and corrected).

## **Connection of Renewable Generation**

- **Renewable Generation Connection Impact Assessments Completed on Time**

Electricity distributors are required to conduct Connection Impact Assessments (CIAs) within 60 days of receiving authorization from the Electrical Safety Authority. In 2020, WNH completed four CIAs within the prescribed time limit for a rate of 100.00% (2019 – 100.00%).



- **New Micro-embedded Generation Facilities Connected On Time**

In 2020, WNH connected one new micro-embedded generation facility (microFIT and net-meter projects of less than 10 kW) within the prescribed time frame of five business days (2020-100%, 2019 – 100%). The minimum acceptable performance level for this measure is 90%. WNH's workflow to connect these projects is streamlined and transparent with customers. WNH works closely with its customers and their contractors to resolve any connection issues to ensure projects are connected on time.

## Financial Ratios

- **Liquidity: Current Ratio (Current Assets/Current Liabilities)**

As an indicator of financial health, a current ratio of 1.0 or greater is considered good as it indicates that a company can meet its short-term financial obligations.

WNH's current ratio increased from 0.93 to 1.04 from 2019 to 2020. 2019's lower current ratio was mainly attributed to the OEB Time-Of-Use rate changes effective November 1, 2019, which affected the working capital, however in 2020, WNH was able to increase its cash management and is in line with 2010 – 2018 results.

- **Leverage: Total Debt (includes short-term and long-term debt) to Equity Ratio**

The OEB uses a deemed capital structure of 60% debt, 40% equity for electricity distributors when establishing rates. This deemed capital mix is equal to a debt to equity ratio of 1.5 (60/40). Debt to equity ratio of more than 1.5 indicates that a distributor is more highly levered than the deemed capital structure. A high debt to equity ratio may indicate that an electricity distributor may have difficulty generating sufficient cash flows to make its debt payments. Debt to equity ratio of less than 1.5 indicates that the distributor is less levered than the deemed capital structure. WNH's 2020 ratio of 1.24 (2019 – 1.13) is well below the OEB threshold of 1.5.

- **Profitability: Regulatory Return on Equity – Deemed (included in rates)**

WNH's current distribution rates were approved by the OEB and include an expected (deemed) regulatory return on equity of 9.19%. The OEB allows a distributor to earn within +/- 3% of the deemed return on equity. When a distributor performs outside of this range, the actual performance may trigger a regulatory review by the OEB of the distributor's revenues and costs structure .



- **Profitability: Regulatory Return on Equity – Achieved**

WNH's return achieved in 2020 was 7.94%, which is within the +/-3% range allowed by the OEB. The average return over the past 3 years was 7.76%, which is also within the return included in WNH's approved rates.

## Note to Readers of 2020 Scorecard MD&A

The information provided by distributors on their future performance (or what can be construed as forward-looking information) may be subject to a number of risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause actual events, conditions, or results to differ materially from historical results or those contemplated by the distributor regarding their future performance. Some of the factors that could cause such differences include legislative or regulatory developments, financial market conditions, general economic conditions, and the weather. For these reasons, the information on future performance is intended to be management's best judgement on the reporting date of the performance scorecard and could be markedly different in the future.