

# Scorecard - ERTH Power Corporation

Performance Outcomes	Performance Categories	Measures	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	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	99.00%	97.00%	97.60%	98.59%	95.84%		90.00%		
		Scheduled Appointments Met On Time	99.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	99.06%		90.00%		
		Telephone Calls Answered On Time	96.00%	95.00%	96.52%	95.92%	95.02%		65.00%		
	Customer Satisfaction	First Contact Resolution	96.7	99.74	99.85	99.58	99.26				
		Billing Accuracy	100.00%	99.00%	98.49%	99.75%	99.85%		98.00%		
		Customer Satisfaction Survey Results	86.96%	77.08%	77.1	77%	77 %				
<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	84.08%	84.08%	85.10%	85.10%	84.40%				
		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	0	0	0	1	1			0
			Rate per 10, 100, 1000 km of line	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.229	0.226			0.000
	System Reliability	Average Number of Hours that Power to a Customer is Interrupted <sup>2</sup>	0.79	0.95	0.94	0.78	2.17			0.91	
		Average Number of Times that Power to a Customer is Interrupted <sup>2</sup>	0.37	0.35	0.56	0.29	0.87			0.39	
	Asset Management	Distribution System Plan Implementation Progress	82.80%	99.10%	108%	106.8%	104.5%				
	Cost Control	Efficiency Assessment			3	3	3				
		Total Cost per Customer <sup>3</sup>	\$689	\$703	\$691	\$680	\$676				
		Total Cost per Km of Line <sup>3</sup>	\$38,539	\$39,341	\$36,992	\$36,142	\$35,797				
<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 <sup>4</sup>	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%					
		New Micro-embedded Generation Facilities Connected On Time	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)	0.88	0.86	0.76	0.77	0.73				
		Leverage: Total Debt (includes short-term and long-term debt) to Equity Ratio	1.25	1.25	1.00	0.90	0.86				
		Profitability: Regulatory Return on Equity	Deemed (included in rates)	9.09%	9.00%	9.00%	9.00%	9.00%			
			Achieved	8.58%	10.38%	12.05%	8.35%	9.06%			

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. Value displayed for 2021 reflects data from the first quarter, as the filing requirement was subsequently removed from the Reporting and Record-keeping Requirements (RRR).

**Legend:**

5-year trend

up down flat

Current year

target met target not met

## 2021 Scorecard Management Discussion and Analysis (“2021 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 2021 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

- ERTH Power Corporation, launched in July 2000 in the heart of Southwestern Ontario, representing the amalgamation of seven Public Utilities Commissions (PUCs) within the municipalities of Port Stanley, Aylmer, Belmont, Ingersoll, Thamesford, Otterville, Norwich, Burgessville, Beachville, Embro and Tavistock. In 2011, Clinton, Mitchell and Dublin, Ontario and most recently in 2019, Goderich, Ontario was added to our service territory. We are a licensed distribution company (LDC) providing efficient delivery of electricity, billing and maintenance service to over 25,000 residential and commercial customers across 15 communities within our licensed boundaries.
- In 2021, ERTH Power exceeded most performance targets. The only targets ERTH Power did not meet was the Serious Electrical Incident target of zero and system reliability stats. ERTH Power reported one (1) serious incident on our 2021 scorecard, which is the second such incident in 7+ years. A municipal snowplow in the Town of Goderich struck a streetlight pole which fell and made contact with a nearby 2400V primary conductor and neutral, bringing the lines to the ground. ERTH is committed to safety and the incident was investigated by both the MOL and ESA, alongside ERTH. ERTH Power also saw a reduction in performance with respect to its system reliability which was driven by weather events and an increase in planned outages to allow for system improvements and substation maintenance.
- ERTH Power performed well with respect to its targets and sustained its strong performance. ERTH Power monitors its results with respect to the measures reported on the scorecard, and is continually seeking to improve upon its performance in order to improve the service provided to its customers.

### Service Quality

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

In 2021 ERTH Power connected 95.84% of its 433 new residential and small businesses to the distribution system within the required 5-day window that has been determined by the Ontario Energy Board. New connections have continued to increase annually since the 2016 number of 230 with 2021 seeing the largest growth in new connection since the inception of ERTH Power. ERTH has been able to maintain its strong level of performance even with the increases in new connections over the past few years. ERTH expects to continue to maintain the current level of performance in 2022.

- **Scheduled Appointments Met On Time**

ERTH Power scheduled 320 appointments with its customers in 2021 to complete work requested by customers. Consistent with prior years (100%), the utility met 99% of these appointments on time which significantly exceeds the industry target of 90%. ERTH Power expects to continue this level of service in 2022.

- **Telephone Calls Answered On Time**

In 2021 ERTH Power customer service staff received 20,101 calls (a 2% increase over 2020) and achieved a service level of 95.03% in answering those calls within 30 seconds, while only 5.29% of calls received were abandoned prior to customers speaking with an agent. ERTH will look to continue with its excellent call center performance in 2021.

## Customer Satisfaction

- **First Contact Resolution**

Specific customer satisfaction measurements were introduced by the Ontario Energy Board on July 1, 2015. The OEB plans to review the information provided by electricity distributors over the next few years and implement a commonly defined measure for these areas in the future. As a result, each electricity distributor may have different measurements of performance until such time as the OEB provides specific direction regarding a commonly defined measure.

First Contact Resolution can be measured in a variety of ways and further regulatory guidance is necessary in order to achieve meaningful comparable information across electricity distributors.

For ERTH Power, First Contact Resolution was measured based upon actual calls received from customers with respect to the same or similar issue and calculated this number as a percentage of all customer contacts received that resulted in the generation of an issue and for which a service order was created. The result was that 99.26% of customers' issues were dealt with on first contact. ERTH Power has maintained a level well above 96% since the target has been measured in 2016.

- **Billing Accuracy**

For the year 2021 ERTH Power issued 288,839 bills and achieved a billing accuracy of 99.85% this compares favourably to the prescribed OEB target of 98%. ERTH Power continues to monitor its billing accuracy results and processes to maintain this high level of service.

- **Customer Satisfaction Survey Results**

At a minimum, electricity distributors are required to measure and report a customer satisfaction result at least every other year. At this time the Ontario Energy Board is allowing electricity distributors to use their own discretion as to how they implement this measure. As a result, this measure may differ from other utilities in the Province. Surveys need to be completed every other year. In 2020, ERTH Power contracted RedHead Media to conduct the Ontario Energy Board regulated Customer Satisfaction Survey and scored a 77% satisfaction rate. ERTH Power is reviewing the results and will work diligently to address areas of concern and improve its customer satisfaction level. It is important to note that this was the first customer survey conducted since the merger with West Coast Huron Energy.

- **Public Safety**

This measure looks at safety from a customers' point of view as safety of the distribution system is a high priority. The Safety measure is generated by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) and includes three components: Public Awareness of Electrical Safety, Compliance with Ontario Regulation 22/04, and the Serious Electrical Incident Index.

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

In 2021 ERTH Power completed its survey of its customers (for the entire merged service territory) with respect to public awareness of Electrical Safety. ERTH utilized a third party agency to survey its customers and ensure that an accurate sampling of its population was achieved. The results of this survey found that 84.4% of ERTH customers have strong awareness of electrical safety. The survey in 2021 resulted in a small decrease of less than 1% in awareness from the survey completed in 2019. ERTH will continue to work within its communities to ensure that this metric continues to improve in the future. This survey is required to be completed at a minimum every 2 years.

ERTH provides an Electrical Safety Awareness school program that targets grade one to eight throughout the schools in its service territory on a rotating basis. This program works to instill awareness of electrical safety at an early age and is an effort to ensure that all residents within the province are aware and safe around electrical equipment.

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

In 2021, ERTH Power was found to be compliant with Ontario Regulation 22/04 (Electrical Distribution Safety). This was achieved by our strong commitment to safety, and adherence to company procedures & policies. Ontario Regulation 22/04 - *Electrical Distribution Safety* establishes objective based electrical safety requirements for the design, construction, and maintenance of electrical distribution systems owned by licensed distributors. Specifically, the regulation requires the approval of equipment, plans, specifications and inspection of construction before they are put into service.

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

ERTH Power reported one (1) serious incident on its 2021 scorecard. A municipal snowplow in the Town of Goderich struck a streetlight pole which fell and made contact with a nearby 2400V primary conductor and neutral, bringing the lines to the ground. As a result, the upstream substation breaker operated and de-energized the line. ERTH is committed to safety and the incident was voluntarily reported to ESA, and investigated internally at ERTH. ERTH communicated the dangers associated with the incident to the municipal staff involved. We will continue to value both public and employee safety as our top priority moving forward to ensure our track record remains positive

## System Reliability

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

ERTH Power had an increase in 2021 of the number of hours that power to a customer is interrupted to 2.17 from 0.78 in 2020. ERTH results remain below the former range of acceptable results set by the Ontario Energy Board for the entire industry and are among the best results in the province historically. However the results in 2021 are above the utility specific target now set by the scorecard of the average of the prior five years. This target of 0.91 is the result of several years of excellent results that were at the lowest levels of all LDCs. The increase in 2021 can be attributed to an overall increase in planned outages with 16 more outages and 4,700 more hours than in 2020 two of which were longer duration required for substation maintenance. These planned outages were scheduled through the night and in order to minimize the impact to customers. ERTH Power also experience a failed switch causing 8,400 hrs in outages for one single event impacting an entire town. If these events were avoided the outage results for 2021 would have been within the targeted range.

ERTH Power continues to view reliability of electricity service as a high priority for its customers and as such conducts a vegetation management program that ensures the whole system is trimmed every three years. Similarly, ERTH is dedicated to upgrading its assets to 27.6 kV in order to reduce its reliance on substations and thereby ensure that its reliability continues to be above average as aging stations are retired. This, combined with the ERTH Power' commitment to review the worst performing feeders on a quarterly basis in order to potentially improve reliability, will ensure customers continue to receive excellent reliability from ERTH's system.

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

ERTH average number of times that power to a customer is interrupted has increased in 2021 and remains at the low end of the former range of acceptable results set by the Ontario Energy Board for the entire industry and among the best results in the province historically. When compared to the new distributor specific target of 0.39, ERTH at 0.87 for 2021 was above its own target. This decrease in performance is due to the same issues that impacted SAIDI results as the two larger planned outage and one failed switch impacted large groups of customers and drove the number of customer interruptions for 2021 up significantly over historical levels.

ERTH Power will continue to monitor the age and condition of its' assets and outages to ensure that the capital spend is appropriate to ensure that the number of outages are maintained at a level below the OEB target as well within customer tolerance levels.

## Asset Management

- **Distribution System Plan Implementation Progress**

ERTH Power has completed its DSP and filed it with the OEB in September of 2017. The DSP has become the guiding document for tracking our capital spend beginning in 2020. ERTH has detailed its 5 year spend and projects and has measured itself on an annual basis with respect to the actual spending level versus its plan. In 2021 ERTH spent approximately 104.5% of the dollars planned to be invested into its distribution system.

## Cost Control

- **Efficiency Assessment**

The total costs for Ontario local electricity distribution companies are evaluated by the Pacific Economics Group LLC on behalf of 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 individual actual and predicted costs. In 2021, for the third year in a row, ERTH Power was placed 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, ERTH Power costs are within the average cost range for distributors in the Province of Ontario. In 2021, 46% (27 distributors) of the Ontario distributors were ranked as “average efficiency”; 44% were ranked as “more efficient”; 10% were ranked as “least efficient. ERTH Power’s forward looking goal is to advance to the “more efficient” group and management’s expectation is that efficiency performance will not decline. In 2021 ERTH Power’s performance improved by 4.8% in relation to expected results.

- **Total Cost per Customer**

Total cost per customer is calculated as the sum of ERTH Power capital and operating costs and dividing this cost figure by the total number of customers that ERTH serves. The cost performance result for 2021 is \$676/customer which is a reduction of (0.5%) over 2020 and \$15/customer lower than the previous 4 years rolling average showing that ERTH is focused on cost containment to ensure value for its customers and driving efficiencies from its merger with West Coast Huron Energy in 2019.

Similar to most distributors in the province, ERTH Power has experienced increases in its total costs required to deliver quality and reliable services to customers. Increased Health and Safety costs due to COVID19, province wide changes in billing parameters, growth in wage and benefits costs for our employees, as well as investments in new information systems technology and the renewal and growth of the distribution system, have all contributed to increased operating and capital costs. Despite these changes ERTH has worked diligently to keep its cost of operations relatively flat and in doing so has been able to maintain it’s efficiently ranking of cohort 3 while merging with a utility that was ranked in cohort 5 prior to the merger. ERTH Power will continue to replace distribution assets proactively along a carefully managed timeframe in a manner that balances system risks and customer rate impacts.

- **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 ERTH Power operates to serve its customers. ERTH 2021 rate is \$35,797 per Km of line, a 0.9% decrease over 2020, and a \$1,957 reduction over the average cost for the previous four years.

ERTH staff have been diligent in ensuring that its costs are controlled and those efforts have resulting in these positive changes in cost changes year over year both by kilometers of line and cost per customer growth being less than inflation.

## Connection of Renewable Generation

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

ERTH Power had no renewable generation CIA's in 2021.

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

ERTH Power connected no Micro-embedded Generation Facilities in 2021.

## Financial Ratios

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

As an indicator of financial health, a current ratio that is greater than 1 is considered good as it indicates that the company can pay its short term debts and financial obligations. Companies with a ratio of greater than 1 are often referred to as being “liquid”. The higher the number, the more “liquid” and the larger the margin of safety to cover the company’s short-term debts and financial obligations. ERTH Power current ratio remains stable at 0.73 for 2021 as compared to 0.77 in 2020.

- **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. A debt to equity ratio of 1.5 indicates that a distributor is structured appropriately in line with 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. ERTH Power maintains a debt to equity structure that is in line with the deemed 60% to 40% capital mix as set out by the OEB.

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

ERTH Power current distribution rates were approved by the OEB and include an expected (deemed) regulatory return on equity of 9.00%. The OEB allows a distributor to earn within +/- 3% of the expected return on equity. When a distributor performs outside of this range, the actual performance may trigger a regulatory review of the distributor’s revenues and costs structure by the OEB.

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

ERTH Power's return achieved in 2021 was 9.06%, which is well within the +/-3% range allowed by the OEB. The average return over the past 5 years was 9.68% which is also well within return included in ERTH Power approved rates. ERTH Power has been extremely successful at driving efficiencies through its merger, while balancing its incremental costs, lost revenues and offsetting operating savings due to the impacts of COVID 19.

## Note to Readers of 2021 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.