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Entegrus Powerlines and St. Thomas Energy to Merge Operations April 1, 2018

For immediate release March 15, 2018

Entegrus Powerlines Inc. (EPI) and St. Thomas Energy Inc. (STEI) will merge operations, effective April 1, 2018. The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) recently issued a Decision and Order approving the application by the two utilities.

On April 1, St. Thomas Energy will adopt the Entegrus Powerlines name, as the combined electrical distributor will now serve 17 communities throughout southwestern Ontario. In total, the entity will serve over 58, 000 customers, becoming the 10th largest Local Distribution Company (LDC) in the Province.

The combined utility will be majority owned by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, followed by the City of St. Thomas. Corix, a leading provider of water and waste water services in multiple communities in Ontario and throughout North America, will continue to be a minority shareholder.

"We are committed to offering the excellent levels of service customers have come to expect," stated Jim Hogan, President and CEO of Entegrus Inc. "Together, we will continue to operate by the strong values that guide us to be a safe, customer and community focused, and sustainable utility,"

Rob Kent, COO of St. Thomas Energy will join the Entegrus leadership team as Vice-President of IT Services & Fibre Operations. Fibre Optic Network Services previously offered by Ascent in St. Thomas will be provided under the Entegrus group of companies.

"We look forward to working with our new team as we begin this transition to merge our operations," stated Kent. "There will be no disruption to services offered by St. Thomas Energy, and the main office at 135 Edward Street will remain open. Additional changes may occur as we begin to merge systems, but we will continue to communicate any changes that will affect our customers."

In the coming months, St. Thomas Energy branding will change to Entegrus on the building, fleet customer bill and website. Customers can visit www.entegrus.com for additional merger related information.

"The combined expertise and dedication of our employees will ensure our customers and communities we serve will benefit from increased resources and experience," added Kent. "The name St. Thomas Energy may be changing, but as a company we are still committed to operating with local values in mind."

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Distribution rates are expected to remain fairly stable over the next several years, with projected increases being less than inflation. The utility plans to seek Ontario Energy Board approval for harmonization of distribution rates between all communities during the next scheduled distribution rate application in 2026.

LDC mergers continue to be encouraged by the Province in order to reduce costs and achieve greater operational efficiencies in the industry.

About Entegrus

The Entegrus Group directly operates and maintains electricity distribution systems for over 40,000 customers in Southwestern Ontario. In addition, Entegrus provides general administrative services, namely in the areas of customer care, billing, collection services, call center and data centre operations for companies, mainly focused on the areas of electricity supply, transmission and distribution, energy and renewable energy, and water supply. Entegrus is committed to operating safe, reliable and cost effective distribution systems while providing high levels of service to its customers, partners and the communities it serves.

About St. Thomas Energy

St. Thomas Energy Inc. operates and maintains the electricity distribution system for over 17,000 customers within the City of St. Thomas. St Thomas Energy is committed to providing a safe, dependable, reliable, cost effective distribution system while maintaining high levels of customer service. St. Thomas Energy also supplies water and sewer billing and collection services to residents on behalf of the City of St. Thomas.

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Media Inquiries

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