



EB-2012-0173

IN THE MATTER OF the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c.15, Schedule B;

AND IN THE MATTER OF an application by Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp. for an order approving just and reasonable rates and other charges for electricity distribution to be effective May 1, 2013.

BEFORE: Paula Conboy
Presiding Member

Emad Elsayed
Member

**DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS
May 28, 2013**

Background

Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp. (“Welland Hydro”) filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) on October 9, 2012 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B), seeking approval for changes to the rates that Welland Hydro charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2013. The Board assigned the application File Number EB-2012-0173.

On November 12, 2012, the Board issued its Procedural Order No. 1, granting the Energy Probe Research Foundation (“Energy Probe”), the School Energy Coalition (“SEC”) and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (“VECC”) intervenor status and cost award eligibility.

The Board issued its Decision and Order on the application on March 21, 2013, in which it set out the process for intervenors to file their cost claims and to respond to any objections raised by Welland Hydro.

On April 11, 2013, the Board issued its Final Rate Order.

On April 14, 2013, VECC requested an extension to the filing date for the intervenor cost claims due to problems with its main server and staff availability issues. On April 16, 2013, the Board granted VECC's requested extension to April 22, 2013.

The Board received cost claims from Energy Probe, SEC and VECC. No objections were received from Welland Hydro.

The Board finds that all parties are eligible for 100% of their reasonably incurred costs of participating in this proceeding. The claim of VECC has been subject to a minor reduction due to failure to comply with the government's *Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive*. The Board finds that the claims of Energy Probe and SEC are reasonable as is the adjusted claim of VECC, and each of these claims shall be reimbursed by Welland Hydro.

THE BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:

1. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, Welland Hydro shall immediately pay:
 - Energy Probe Research Foundation \$14,378.34;
 - School Energy Coalition \$9,537.00; and
 - Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition \$21,068.05.
2. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, Welland Hydro shall pay the Board's costs of and incidental to this proceeding immediately upon receipt of the Board's invoice.

DATED at **Toronto**, May 28, 2013.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary