



EB-2014-0227

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF cost award eligibility for
interested stakeholders in relation to the low income
assistance strategy review

BEFORE: Marika Hare
Board Member

Cathy Spoel
Board Member

SUPPLEMENTAL DECISION ON COST ELIGIBILITY

On [October 23, 2014](#) the Board issued a letter (the “Letter”) regarding its Low-income Assistance Strategy Review initiative. The Letter invited interested stakeholders to provide input on the development of an ongoing ratepayer-funded bill assistance program for low-income electricity customers, as one facet of a broader review of strategies that the Board might employ, directly or indirectly, to assist those consumers.

The Letter stated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to their participation in eligible activities forming part of the Board’s Low-income Assistance Strategy Review initiative, and that any costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated electricity distributors and transmitters.

On [October 31, 2014](#) the Board issued a Decision on Cost Eligibility with respect to this initiative. In that Decision, the Board confirmed how costs awarded will be apportioned between distributors and transmitters, determined that one stakeholder was eligible for an award of costs and further determined that the following stakeholders were eligible for an award of costs subject to any objections filed by November 7, 2014: Low Income

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Energy Network; Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition; Salvation Army Centre of Hope; and Housing Help Association of Ontario. No objections were filed, and the Board therefore confirms the cost eligibility of these stakeholders.

On November 7, 2014, the Board received a late request for cost eligibility from Energy Probe Research Foundation (“Energy Probe”). Energy Probe apologized for the lateness of its request, noting that there had been some degree of confusion regarding the filing of cost eligibility requests for this initiative. The Board notes that Energy Probe participated in the stakeholder forum that was held earlier this month. The Board finds that Energy Probe is eligible for an award of costs in accordance with the criteria set out in section 3 of the Board’s *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. Energy Probe’s cost award eligibility in this consultation is subject to any objections that may be filed on or before **December 5, 2014**.

DATED at Toronto, November 25, 2014

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary