



EB- 2011-0043

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 parties and stakeholders participating as members of the Regional Planning Standing Committee.

BEFORE: Marika Hare
Presiding Member

Cathy Spoel
Board Member

DECISION ON COST ELIGIBILITY

January 22, 2015

In its [July 25, 2013 letter](#) (the “July Letter”) the Board announced its intention to establish a Regional Planning Standing Committee (the “Standing Committee”) to provide the Board with on-going assistance related to the review and maintenance of the regional planning process. At the same time, the Board invited interested parties to submit nominations for membership on the Standing Committee.

On [August 18, 2014](#), the Board issued a [letter](#) to address the matter of cost awards in relation to participating as a member on the Standing Committee. The letter stated that costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated electricity distributors and all rate-regulated electricity transmitters. The costs will be apportioned amongst these entities in a manner to be determined by the Board at a later date.

By letter dated [November 17, 2014](#), the Board announced the members of the Standing Committee. Of those members, the following had requested cost eligibility in relation to their participation on the Committee within the time established for that purpose in the Board's August 18, 2014 letter:

- [Association of Power Producers of Ontario \(APPrO\)](#)
- [Iain Angus, City of Thunder Bay](#)

Electricity distributors and electricity transmitters were given an opportunity to file any objections they might have in relation to the eligibility of the above-noted participants for an award of costs. The Board did not receive any objections from electricity distributors or transmitters by the deadline established for that purpose in the Board's August 18, 2014 letter.

In late November, the Board received a late request for cost eligibility from Ray Quinn, a resident of Thunder Bay, who was also selected by the Board to be a member of the Standing Committee. The Board has accepted Mr. Quinn's request despite the late filing.

Mr. Angus' and Mr. Quinn's requests for cost award eligibility were limited to a request for the recovery of expenses incurred to attend Standing Committee meetings, including airfare, overnight accommodation and meals. The Board has determined that Mr. Angus and Mr. Quinn are eligible for cost awards in relation to expenses incurred in relation to attendance at meetings of the Standing Committee, or alternatively in relation to expenses incurred to participate in a meeting remotely by telecommunication facility.

The Board reminds Mr. Angus and Mr. Quinn that expenses will only be allowed in accordance with section 7 of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* (the "Practice Direction") and the Board's Tariff, including as applicable the principles and rules set out in the *Travel, Meal and Hospitality Directive* referred to in the Tariff.

APPrO would not usually be eligible for an award of costs due to its inclusion in the list of ineligible parties in section 3.05 of the Practice Direction. Under section 3.06 of the Practice Direction, however, such a participant may nonetheless be eligible for a cost award if the participant is a customer of the applicant.

Generators are customers of both transmitters and distributors, who in turn for cost awards purposes are considered to be the applicants in the context of this initiative. Moreover, the Board has previously determined APPrO to be eligible for cost awards in relation to the regional planning initiative, including in relation to APPrO's participation on the Regional Planning Process Working Group. The Board has therefore determined that APPrO is eligible for cost awards in relation to its participation on the Standing Committee.

ISSUED at Toronto, January 22, 2015.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary