



Ontario Energy Board
Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario

**DECISION AND ORDER ON COST
AWARDS**

EB-2017-0039

ESSEX POWERLINES CORPORATION

Application for electricity distribution rates beginning May 1, 2018

BEFORE: Allison Duff
Presiding Member

Emad Elsayed
Member

Michael Janigan
Member

October 10, 2018

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

This is a decision of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on cost claims filed with respect to the Essex Powerlines Corporation (Essex Powerlines) proceeding.

Essex Powerlines filed a cost of service application with the OEB on August 28, 2017 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 Essex Powerlines charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2018.

The OEB granted the School Energy Coalition (SEC) and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) intervenor status and cost award eligibility.

On August 23, 2018, the OEB issued its Decision and Order in which it set out the process for intervenors to file their cost claims, for Essex Powerlines to object to the claims, and for intervenors to respond to any objections raised by Essex Powerlines.

The OEB received cost claims from SEC and VECC. No objections were received from Essex Powerlines.

Findings

The OEB has reviewed the claims filed by SEC and VECC to ensure that they are compliant with the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

The OEB Decision and Order stated that any intervenor cost associated with Essex Powerlines' accounting error would be the responsibility of Essex Powerlines' shareholders. The OEB asked the intervenors to separate these costs from incurred costs related to all other aspects of the proceeding. SEC claimed 30.6 hours in the amount of \$8,416.24 including HST, and VECC claimed 4 hours in the amount of \$1,372.01 including HST. As mentioned above, these amounts are the sole responsibility of Essex Powerlines' shareholders and are not recoverable in rates from customers.

To ensure that intervenor costs associated with Essex Powerlines' accounting error are not borne by its customers, Essex Powerlines shall credit to customers the total amount of \$9,788.25 through Account 1595 (2018), with a corresponding reduction of \$9,788.25 to distribution revenue prior to December 31, 2018.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, Essex Powerlines Corporation shall immediately pay the following amounts to the intervenors for their costs:
 - School Energy Coalition \$28,912.18
 - Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition \$23,185.56
2. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, Essex Powerlines Corporation shall pay the OEB's costs of, and incidental to, this proceeding immediately upon receipt of the OEB's invoice.

DATED at Toronto October **10, 2018**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary