



Ontario  
Energy  
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Ontario

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## **DECISION ON COST AWARD ELIGIBILITY**

**EB-2020-0133**

**Consultation on the Deferral Account – Impacts Arising  
from the COVID-19 Emergency**

**By Delegation, Before: Ted Antonopoulos**

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**May 27, 2020**

## INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

On May 14, 2020, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a [letter](#) initiating a consultation on a deferral account relating to impacts arising from the COVID-19 emergency (the Account) in the electricity and natural gas sectors. The Account applies to electricity distributors, electricity transmitters, natural gas distributors, and Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG). The objective of the consultation is to assist the OEB in the development of new accounting guidance related to the Account and filing requirements, where appropriate, for the review and disposition of the Account, giving due regard to bill impacts on customers.

The letter indicated that cost awards would be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, which will be recovered from all rate-regulated electricity distributors, rate-regulated electricity transmitters, rate-regulated natural gas distributors, and OPG. As stated in the letter, cost awards will be available in relation to written comments on the draft issues list set out in the letter (up to 12 hours), and preparation for and attendance at the preliminary stakeholder meeting (1.5 times actual meeting time, up to a total of 12 hours).

In that letter, stakeholders interested in participating in the consultation were asked to indicate their intent by filing a letter with the OEB by May 22, 2020, and to advise whether they were seeking cost eligibility. If any rate-regulated electricity distributors, rate-regulated electricity transmitters, rate-regulated natural gas distributors, and OPG had any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections were to be filed with the OEB by May 26, 2020. The OEB did not receive any objections.

The OEB received 41 requests to participate in this consultation. Twelve stakeholders requested cost eligibility. Appendix A contains the list of stakeholders, including those who requested cost eligibility.

This cost eligibility decision is being issued by delegated authority under section 6 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

## FINDINGS

All stakeholders that filed letters of intent with the OEB have been placed on the list of participants for this consultation.

The OEB has reviewed the requests for cost eligibility from participants to ensure they are compliant with section 3 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* (Practice

Direction). As per section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, the OEB has determined that cost awards, along with any other costs incurred in this consultation, will be recovered from all rate-regulated electricity distributors, rate-regulated electricity transmitters, rate-regulated natural gas distributors, and OPG. The costs are to be apportioned amongst all rate-regulated electricity distributors, rate-regulated electricity transmitters, rate-regulated natural gas distributors, and OPG in the same manner as under the OEB's Cost Assessment Model.

All requests for cost eligibility are granted. The OEB reminds parties that the maximum hours allocated for each activity are per stakeholder.

The OEB also notes that there are stakeholders with overlapping interests. The OEB expects that participants with similar viewpoints will coordinate their activities to the extent possible in order to increase efficiency and minimize costs.

A decision and order on cost awards will be issued at a later date. As the OEB will determine the next steps in this consultation following the preliminary stakeholder meeting and issuance of a final issues list, the OEB will communicate at a future date(s) any subsequent activities that may be eligible for cost awards. This cost eligibility decision will apply to any further eligible activities in this consultation process.

**DATED** at Toronto May 27, 2020

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original signed by*

Ted Antonopoulos  
Vice President  
Applications Division

**APPENDIX A**

**EB-2020-0133**

**MAY 27, 2020**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**Appendix A**  
EB-2020-0133 – List of Participants

(\* denotes a request for cost eligibility)

1. Alectra Utilities Corporation
2. Algoma Power Inc.
3. Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario\*
4. Association of Power Producers of Ontario\*
5. Bluewater Power Distribution Corporation
6. Brantford Power Inc.
7. Building Owners and Managers Association\*
8. Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters\*
9. Canadian Niagara Power Inc.
10. Consumers Council of Canada\*
11. Cornerstone Hydro Electric Concepts
12. E.L.K. Energy Inc.
13. Electricity Distributors Association
14. Elexicon Energy Inc.
15. Enbridge Gas Inc.
16. Energy Probe Research Foundation\*
17. Energy+ Inc.
18. Entegrus Powerlines Inc.
19. ENWIN Utilities Ltd.
20. EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership
21. EPCOR Electricity Distribution Ontario Inc.
22. Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario\*
23. Hydro One Networks Inc.
24. Hydro Ottawa Limited
25. Industrial Gas Users Association\*
26. Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.
27. London Hydro Inc.
28. London Property Management Association\*
29. Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.
30. Ministry of Energy, Northern Development & Mines
31. NextBridge Infrastructure, operating on behalf of Upper Canada Transmission, Inc.
32. Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.
33. Ontario Energy Association
34. Ontario Power Generation Inc.

35. Pollution Probe\*
36. Power Workers' Union
37. School Energy Coalition\*
38. Society of United Professionals
39. Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited
40. Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition\*
41. Wataynikaneyap Power LP