



**EB-2008-0150**

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

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** cost awards in relation to a  
consultation process to examine issues relating to low  
income consumers.

**BEFORE** Paul Sommerville  
Presiding Member

## **DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS**

November 18, 2011

### **Background**

On July 19, 2011, the Board issued a letter (the "Letter") reconvening the Financial Assistance Working Group to monitor the implementation of the LEAP Emergency Financial Assistance program. The Letter indicated that the Board determined that the participants identified in the Board's June 17, 2009 Decision on Cost Eligibility (the "June Decision") were considered eligible for costs in relation to participation in the July 21, 2011 reconvening meeting of the Financial Assistance Working Group and were not required to submit a further request for cost eligibility.

Members of the Financial Assistance Working Group that were identified in the June Decision are: Consumers Council of Canada ("CCC"), Housing Help Association of

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Ontario, Low Income Energy Network (“LIEN”), The Salvation Army Centre of Hope (the “Salvation Army”) and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition “(VECC”).

The Letter also indicated that cost awards for participation on the Financial Assistance Working Group would be available for a maximum of actual meeting time plus 50% of meeting time for preparation and reporting, and that the limits would apply to each eligible party, and not to each individual participant acting on behalf of the eligible party.

On September 8, 2011, the Board issued a Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards in relation to this consultation process (the “Notice”). CCC and VECC submitted cost claims by September 22, 2011. A late cost claim was submitted by LIEN on November 1, 2011.

No objections to the filed cost claims were received.

### **Board Findings on the Cost Claims of the Eligible Participants**

The Board has reviewed the cost claims and finds that the cost claims filed by CCC and VECC are all within the approved overall limits set by the Board. The Board therefore finds that CCC and VECC are entitled to 100% of their reasonably incurred costs of participating in this consultation process.

In its review of LIEN’s cost claim, the Board found that LIEN’s meal expenses were not within the approved limits as set out in the Board’s Practice Direction on Cost Awards. Accordingly, LIEN’s cost claim has been reduced by \$42.18.

The amount payable by each individual licensed electricity and gas distributor in relation to costs awarded to each eligible participant is listed in Appendix A to this Decision and Order.

**Process for Paying the Cost Awards**

The Board has determined that costs should be apportioned between gas distributors and licensed electricity distributors based on the Board's Cost Assessment Model. This results in an allocation of 23.5% of costs to gas distributors, and 76.5% of costs to licensed electricity distributors. As noted above, these costs will then be allocated to each distributor based on their respective distribution revenues.

As stated in the Notice, the Board will use the process set out in section 12 of the Practice Direction to implement the payment of the cost awards. Therefore, the Board will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards relating to this consultation process. Invoices will be issued to distributors at the same time as are invoices for cost assessments made under section 26 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the "Act"). The practice of the Board is to issue to each distributor one invoice that covers all cost awards payable by the distributor for the relevant period. As a result, the invoice may cover cost awards payable in relation to a number of consultations, including this one.

**THE BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:**

1. The amounts to be paid by each individual distributor in relation to the costs awarded to each eligible participant are as set out in Appendix A to this Decision and Order.
2. The individual distributors listed in Appendix A to this Decision and Order shall pay the costs awarded to each of the eligible participants as set out in Appendix A.
3. The individual distributors listed in Appendix A to this Decision and Order shall pay the Board's costs of, and incidental to, this consultation.

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4. Payment of cost awards and of the Board's costs referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 shall be made to the Ontario Energy Board in accordance with the invoice issued to the individual distributor, and shall be due at the same time as cost assessments under section 26 of the Act are due.

**DATED** at Toronto, November 18, 2011

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original Signed By*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary

Appendix A  
to the Board's Decision and Order on Cost Awards

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**Consultation on Energy Issues Relating to Low Income Consumers**

<b>Natural Gas Distributor</b>				
	<b>CCC</b>	<b>LIEN</b>	<b>VECC</b>	<b>Total</b>
Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.	329.28	53.03	237.97	620.28
Union Gas Ltd.	283.08	45.59	204.59	533.25
Natural Resource Gas	1.07	0.17	0.77	2.01
<b>Total, Natural Gas Distributors</b>	<b>613.42</b>	<b>98.79</b>	<b>443.33</b>	<b>1,155.54</b>

<b>Electricity Distributor</b>				
	<b>CCC</b>	<b>LIEN</b>	<b>VECC</b>	<b>Total</b>
Algoma Power Inc.	12.07	1.94	8.72	22.73
Atikokan Hydro Inc.	0.90	0.14	0.65	1.69
Attawapiskat Power Corp.	0.65	0.10	0.47	1.22
Bluewater Power Distribution Corp.	12.97	2.09	9.37	24.43
Brant County Power Inc.	4.16	0.67	3.01	7.83
Brantford Power Inc.	10.80	1.74	7.81	20.35
Burlington Hydro Inc.	19.14	3.08	13.83	36.06
Cambridge And North Dumfries Hydro Inc.	14.50	2.33	10.48	27.31
Canadian Niagara Power Inc.	11.15	1.80	8.06	21.01
Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd.	1.93	0.31	1.39	3.64
Chapleau Public Utilities Corp.	0.46	0.07	0.34	0.87
Chatham-Kent Hydro Inc.	9.31	1.50	6.73	17.54
COLLUS Power Corp.	3.75	0.60	2.71	7.07
Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.	0.42	0.07	0.30	0.78
Cornwall Street Railway Light And Power Company Ltd.	8.30	1.34	6.00	15.63
E.L.K. Energy Inc.	3.18	0.51	2.30	5.99
Enersource Hydro Mississauga Inc.	80.92	13.03	58.48	152.43
Enwin Powerlines Ltd.	33.26	5.36	24.04	62.65
Erie Thames Powerlines Corp.	5.20	0.84	3.76	9.80
Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corp.	0.93	0.15	0.67	1.75
Essex Powerlines Corp.	6.91	1.11	5.00	13.02
Festival Hydro Inc.	6.56	1.06	4.74	12.35
Fort Albany Power Corp.	0.45	0.07	0.33	0.86
Fort Frances Power Corp.	1.07	0.17	0.77	2.01
Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.	15.57	2.51	11.25	29.33

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<b>Electricity Distributor</b>	<b>CCC</b>	<b>LIEN</b>	<b>VECC</b>	<b>Total</b>
Grimsby Power Inc.	2.43	0.39	1.75	4.57
Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc.	16.64	2.68	12.03	31.35
Haldimand County Hydro Inc.	9.55	1.54	6.90	17.99
Halton Hills Hydro Inc.	6.63	1.07	4.79	12.49
Horizon Utilities Corporation	61.06	9.83	44.13	115.03
Hydro Hawkesbury Inc.	0.84	0.14	0.61	1.58
Hearst Power Distribution Company Ltd.	0.63	0.10	0.45	1.18
Hydro 2000 Inc.	0.24	0.04	0.17	0.45
Hydro One Brampton Networks Inc.	42.63	6.87	30.81	80.31
Hydro One Networks Inc.	727.29	117.12	525.63	1,370.04
Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.	8.11	1.31	5.86	15.28
Hydro Ottawa Ltd.	100.63	16.21	72.73	189.57
Innisfil Hydro Distribution Systems Ltd.	5.29	0.85	3.83	9.97
Kashechewan Power Corp.	0.62	0.10	0.45	1.18
Kenora Hydro Electric Corporation Ltd.	1.50	0.24	1.09	2.83
Kingston Electricity Distribution Ltd.	7.13	1.15	5.15	13.43
Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc.	22.87	3.68	16.53	43.08
Lakefront Utilities Inc.	3.01	0.48	2.18	5.67
Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.	3.14	0.51	2.27	5.92
London Hydro Inc.	39.27	6.32	28.38	73.97
Middlesex Power Distribution Corp.	2.16	0.35	1.56	4.07
Midland Power Utility Corp.	2.29	0.37	1.65	4.31
Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.	8.36	1.35	6.04	15.76
Newmarket - Tay Power Distribution Ltd.	10.70	1.72	7.73	20.16
Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.	18.93	3.05	13.68	35.66
Niagara-On-The-Lake Hydro Inc.	3.22	0.52	2.33	6.06
Norfolk Power Distribution Inc.	7.81	1.26	5.65	14.71
North Bay Hydro Distribution Ltd.	7.22	1.16	5.22	13.59
Northern Ontario Wires Inc.	1.78	0.29	1.29	3.36
Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.	20.12	3.24	14.54	37.90
Orangeville Hydro Ltd.	3.21	0.52	2.32	6.05
Orillia Power Distribution Corp.	4.72	0.76	3.41	8.89
Oshawa PUC Networks Inc.	13.65	2.20	9.87	25.72
Ottawa River Power Corp.	2.53	0.41	1.83	4.76
Parry Sound Power Corp.	1.21	0.20	0.88	2.29
Peterborough Distribution Inc.	9.83	1.58	7.11	18.52
Powerstream Inc.	105.58	17.00	76.31	198.89
PUC Distribution Inc.	10.82	1.74	7.82	20.37
Renfrew Hydro Inc.	1.14	0.18	0.82	2.15
Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.	1.50	0.24	1.08	2.82
St. Thomas Energy Inc.	4.40	0.71	3.18	8.28
Sioux Lookout Hydro Inc.	1.30	0.21	0.94	2.44
Thunder Bay Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.	12.46	2.01	9.01	23.47

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<b>Electricity Distributor</b>	<b>CCC</b>	<b>LIEN</b>	<b>VECC</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tillsonburg Hydro Inc.	1.93	0.31	1.40	3.64
Toronto Hydro-Electric System Ltd.	331.76	53.43	239.77	624.96
Veridian Connections Inc.	32.06	5.16	23.17	60.39
Wasaga Distribution Inc.	2.70	0.43	1.95	5.08
Waterloo North Hydro Inc.	17.74	2.86	12.82	33.41
Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.	5.69	0.92	4.12	10.73
Wellington North Power Inc.	1.32	0.21	0.96	2.49
West Coast Huron Energy Inc.	1.34	0.22	0.97	2.53
Westario Power Inc.	5.87	0.94	4.24	11.05
Whitby Hydro Electric Corp.	12.79	2.06	9.25	24.10
Woodstock Hydro Services Inc.	4.64	0.75	3.36	8.75
<b>Total, Electricity Distributors</b>	<b>1,996.88</b>	<b>321.58</b>	<b>1,443.18</b>	<b>3,761.64</b>