



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

March 16, 2012

Background

On November 29, 2011, the Board issued a letter (the “Letter”) reconvening the Financial Assistance Working Group to discuss the proposed reporting requirements for electricity distributors related to customer service rules. 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 December 15, 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 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 in the December 15, 2011 meeting would be available for a maximum of actual meeting time plus up to an additional 8 hours for preparation and reporting.

On January 18, 2012, the Board issued a Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards in relation to this consultation process (the "Notice"). VECC submitted its cost claim by January 31, 2012. A late cost claim was submitted by LIEN on February 17, 2012 and revised on March 14, 2012.

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

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.
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, March 16, 2012

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

Natural Gas Distributor			
	LIEN	VECC	Total
Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.	16.71	292.06	308.77
Union Gas Ltd.	14.37	251.08	265.45
Natural Resource Gas	0.05	0.94	1.00
Total, Natural Gas Distributors	31.13	544.09	575.22

Electricity Distributor			
	LIEN	VECC	Total
Algoma Power Inc.	0.61	10.70	11.32
Atikokan Hydro Inc.	0.05	0.80	0.84
Attawapiskat Power Corp.	0.03	0.58	0.61
Bluewater Power Distribution Corp.	0.66	11.50	12.16
Brant County Power Inc.	0.21	3.69	3.90
Brantford Power Inc.	0.55	9.58	10.13
Burlington Hydro Inc.	0.97	16.98	17.95
Cambridge And North Dumfries Hydro Inc.	0.74	12.86	13.60
Canadian Niagara Power Inc.	0.57	9.89	10.46
Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd.	0.10	1.71	1.81
Chapleau Public Utilities Corp.	0.02	0.41	0.43
Chatham-Kent Hydro Inc.	0.47	8.26	8.73
COLLUS Power Corp.	0.19	3.33	3.52
Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.	0.02	0.37	0.39
Cornwall Street Railway Light And Power Company Ltd.	0.42	7.36	7.78
E.L.K. Energy Inc.	0.16	2.82	2.98
Enersource Hydro Mississauga Inc.	4.11	71.77	75.88
Enwin Utilities Ltd.	1.69	29.50	31.19
Erie Thames Powerlines Corp.	0.26	4.61	4.88
Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corp.	0.05	0.83	0.87
Essex Powerlines Corp.	0.35	6.13	6.48
Festival Hydro Inc.	0.33	5.82	6.15
Fort Albany Power Corp.	0.02	0.40	0.43
Fort Frances Power Corp.	0.05	0.95	1.00
Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.	0.79	13.81	14.60
Grimsby Power Inc.	0.12	2.15	2.28

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Electricity Distributor	LIEN	VECC	Total
Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc.	0.84	14.76	15.60
Haldimand County Hydro Inc.	0.48	8.47	8.95
Halton Hills Hydro Inc.	0.34	5.88	6.22
Horizon Utilities Corporation	3.10	54.16	57.26
Hydro Hawkesbury Inc.	0.04	0.75	0.79
Hearst Power Distribution Company Ltd.	0.03	0.56	0.59
Hydro 2000 Inc.	0.01	0.21	0.22
Hydro One Brampton Networks Inc.	2.16	37.81	39.98
Hydro One Networks Inc.	39.91	645.09	682.00
Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.	0.41	7.19	7.61
Hydro Ottawa Ltd.	5.11	89.26	94.37
Innisfil Hydro Distribution Systems Ltd.	0.27	4.69	4.96
Kashechewan Power Corp.	0.03	0.55	0.59
Kenora Hydro Electric Corporation Ltd.	0.08	1.33	1.41
Kingston Electricity Distribution Ltd.	0.36	6.32	6.69
Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc.	1.16	20.28	21.46
Lakefront Utilities Inc.	0.15	2.67	2.82
Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.	0.16	2.79	2.95
London Hydro Inc.	1.99	34.83	36.82
Middlesex Power Distribution Corp.	0.11	1.92	2.03
Midland Power Utility Corp.	0.12	2.03	2.14
Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.	0.42	7.42	7.84
Newmarket - Tay Power Distribution Ltd.	0.54	9.49	10.04
Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.	0.96	16.79	17.75
Niagara-On-The-Lake Hydro Inc.	0.16	2.86	3.02
Norfolk Power Distribution Inc.	0.40	6.93	7.32
North Bay Hydro Distribution Ltd.	0.37	6.40	6.77
Northern Ontario Wires Inc.	0.09	1.58	1.67
Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.	1.02	17.85	18.87
Orangeville Hydro Ltd.	0.16	2.85	3.01
Orillia Power Distribution Corp.	0.24	4.19	4.43
Oshawa PUC Networks Inc.	0.69	12.11	12.80
Ottawa River Power Corp.	0.13	2.24	2.37
Parry Sound Power Corp.	0.06	1.08	1.14
Peterborough Distribution Inc.	0.50	8.72	9.22
Powerstream Inc.	5.36	93.65	99.01
PUC Distribution Inc.	0.55	9.59	10.14
Renfrew Hydro Inc.	0.06	1.01	1.07
Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.	0.08	1.33	1.40
St. Thomas Energy Inc.	0.22	3.90	4.12
Sioux Lookout Hydro Inc.	0.07	1.15	1.22
Thunder Bay Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.	0.63	11.05	11.69

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Electricity Distributor			
	LIEN	VECC	Total
Tillsonburg Hydro Inc.	0.10	1.72	1.81
Toronto Hydro-Electric System Ltd.	16.84	294.27	311.10
Veridian Connections Inc.	1.63	28.44	30.06
Wasaga Distribution Inc.	0.14	2.39	2.53
Waterloo North Hydro Inc.	0.90	15.73	16.63
Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.	0.29	5.05	5.34
Wellington North Power Inc.	0.07	1.17	1.24
West Coast Huron Energy Inc.	0.07	1.19	1.26
Westario Power Inc.	0.30	5.20	5.50
Whitby Hydro Electric Corp.	0.65	11.35	12.00
Woodstock Hydro Services Inc.	0.24	4.12	4.35
Total, Electricity Distributors	101.34	1,771.18	1,872.52