



EB-2012-0133

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF an application by Hydro
2000 Inc. for an order or orders approving or fixing
just and reasonable distribution rates and other
charges, to be effective May 1, 2013.

BEFORE: Marika Hare
Presiding Member

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS
May 24, 2013

Background

Hydro 2000 Inc. ("Hydro 2000"), a licensed distributor of electricity, filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on October 10, 2012 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 Hydro 2000 charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2013. The Board assigned the application file number EB-2012-0133.

On October 25, 2012, the Board received a letter from Hydro 2000 objecting to the intervention request by VECC. Hydro 2000 stated that it did not identify nor request any specific issues that would warrant intervention from parties other than Board Staff. Hydro 2000 further stated that it believes that there is no legitimate ground for granting intervenor status to VECC, nor is there any legitimate ground for confirming their eligibility for costs.

VECC responded on October 26, 2012 by letter to the Board noting that Hydro 2000's attempt to conform with the Board's filing standards does not dispense with the required process of review of its application. VECC recognized that Hydro 2000's preparation may well abbreviate the process of review, but cannot, by itself, ensure that the revenue requirement requested is prudent and the rates are just and reasonable.

On October 30, 2012, the Board confirmed VECC as an intervenor eligible for an award of costs in relation to Hydro 2000's proposed revenue-to-cost ratio adjustments. The Board further stated that it will assess VECC's contribution to the Board's understanding of the issues following the conclusion of the proceeding.

On December 18, 2012, Hydro 2000 argued that VECC did not identify any issues that were not already dealt with in Hydro 2000's 2012 Cost-of-Service proceeding and therefore did not warrant recovery of costs.

On April 4, 2013, the Board issued its Decision and Order on the application, in which it set out the process for VECC to file its cost claims and to respond to any objections raised by Hydro 2000.

VECC's cost claim was received by the Board on April 19, 2013 and is accepted by the Board notwithstanding the late filing. No objections were received from Hydro 2000.

Board Findings

The Board has reviewed VECC's cost claim and finds that VECC is eligible for 100% of its reasonably incurred costs of participating in this proceeding. The Board finds that VECC's claim is reasonable and Hydro 2000 shall reimburse VECC for its costs.

THE BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:

1. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, Hydro 2000 shall immediately pay the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition the sum of \$197.49.
2. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, Hydro 2000 shall pay the Board's costs of and incidental to, this proceeding immediately upon receipt of the Board's invoice.

DATED at Toronto, May 24, 2013

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary