



EB-2013-0019

**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 Atikokan  
Hydro Inc. for an order or orders approving or fixing just  
and reasonable distribution rates related to Smart Meter  
deployment, to be effective July 1, 2013.

**BEFORE:** Marika Hare  
Presiding Member

**DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS**  
**August 15, 2013**

**Background**

Atikokan Hydro Inc. ("Atikokan"), a licensed distributor of electricity, filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on March 8, 2013 under section 78 of the *Ontario energy Board Act*, 1998, seeking approval for changes to the rates that Atikokan charges for electricity distribution in relation to smart meter deployment, to be effective July 1, 2013.

The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition ("VECC") was granted intervenor status and cost award eligibility.

On June 27, 2013, the Board issued its Decision and Order, in which it set out the process for intervenors to file their cost claims and to respond to any objections raised by Atikokan.

The due date to submit cost claim was July 4, 2013. VECC's cost claim was received by the Board on July 10, 2013. The Board accepts the cost claim filed by VECC notwithstanding the late filing.

In its letter of July 15, 2013, Atikokan raised concerns regarding VECC's cost claim on the grounds that the costs were excessive. Atikokan stated that VECC withdrew one question after submitting the interrogatories, and argued that the Board should allow only 50% of the costs claimed for its participation in this proceeding since VECC would have already done the research to make that request in the previous cost of service application EB-2011-0293.

On July 18, 2013, VECC replied to Atikokan's letter noting that different personnel were involved in the two proceedings. VECC submitted that its intervention was responsible, reasonable and relevant and, as such, its cost claim should be approved in full for recovery.

### **Board Findings**

The Board has reviewed VECC's cost claim and considered the contribution of VECC in this proceeding. The Board considers that VECC's participation was helpful to the Board and finds VECC's total claimed costs to be reasonable and that these shall be reimbursed by Atikokan.

### **THE BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:**

1. Pursuant to section 30 of the Ontario *Energy Board Act, 1998*, Atikokan shall immediately pay Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition \$987.43.
2. Pursuant to section 30 of the Ontario *Energy Board Act, 1998*, Atikokan shall pay the Board's costs of and incidental to, this proceeding immediately upon receipt of the Board's invoice.

**DATED** at Toronto, August 15, 2013

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original Signed By*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary