Ontario Energy Board Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario



EB-2012-0116

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 Collus PowerStream Corp. for an order approving just and reasonable rates and other charges, to be effective September 1, 2013.

BEFORE:

Ellen Fry Presiding Member

Marika Hare Member

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS December 5, 2013

Background

Collus PowerStream Corp. ("Collus PowerStream") filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on May 24, 2013 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 Collus PowerStream charges for electricity distribution, to be effective September 1, 2013.

On July 10, 2013, the Board issued Procedural Order No. 1 wherein it granted intervenor status and cost award eligibility to each of Energy Probe Research Foundation ("Energy Probe"), School Energy Coalition ("SEC") and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition ("VECC").

On October 24, 2013, the Board issued its Rate Order which set out the process for intervenors to file their cost claims and to respond to any objections raised by Collus PowerStream.

Cost claims were submitted by Energy Probe and VECC by the October 31, 2013 deadline specified in the Rate Order. SEC's cost claim was received on November 19, 2013.

By letter dated November 22, 2013, Collus PowerStream objected to SEC's cost claim because SEC did not adhere to the Board's specified timelines for filing cost claims. However, by a further letter dated November 22, 2013, Collus PowerStream stated that it withdrew its objection.

Board Findings

The Board reminds parties that cost claims are to be filed by the date specified in the Board's order. Late filings delay the Board's decision on cost awards, and may result in denial of costs or a portion thereof to parties who have otherwise acted responsibly and added value to the hearing process.

In this case, after considering the withdrawal of Collus PowerStream's objection, the Board finds that all parties are eligible for 100% of their reasonably incurred costs of participating in this proceeding. The claim of VECC requires a minor reduction to comply with the government's *Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive*. The Board finds that the claims of SEC and Energy Probe and the adjusted claim of VECC are reasonable and each of these claims shall be reimbursed by COLLUS PowerStream.

THE BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:

1. Pursuant to section 30 of the Ontario *Energy Board Act, 1998*, Collus Powerstream shall immediately pay the following amounts to the intervenors for their costs:

•	Energy Probe Research Foundation	\$17,359.49;
٠	School Energy Coalition	\$10,370.00; and
•	Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition	\$19,750.84.

2. Pursuant to section 30 of the Ontario *Energy Board Act, 1998*, Collus Powerstream shall pay the Board's costs of and incidental to, this proceeding immediately upon receipt of the Board's invoice.

DATED at Toronto, December 5, 2013

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary