



EB-2013-0159

**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 Oakville  
Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc. approving just and  
reasonable rates and other charges for electricity  
distribution to be effective May 1, 2014.

**BEFORE:** Emad Elsayed  
Presiding Member

Paula Conboy  
Member

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

**June 18, 2014**

### **Background**

Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc. ("Oakville Hydro") filed a complete cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on October 1, 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 Oakville Hydro charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2014.

On November 27, 2013, the Board issued Procedural Order No. 1, granting the Association of Major Power Consumers of Ontario ("AMPCO"), the Energy Probe Research Foundation ("Energy Probe"), the HVAC Coalition ("HVAC"), the School Energy Coalition ("SEC") and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition ("VECC") intervenor status and cost award eligibility.

On May 1, 2014, the Board issued its Decision and Rate Order, in which it set out the process for intervenors to file their cost claims, for Oakville Hydro to object to the claims and for intervenors to respond to any objections raised by Oakville Hydro.

The Board received cost claims from AMPCO, Energy Probe, HVAC, SEC and VECC. No objections were received from Oakville Hydro.

## Board Findings

The Board has reviewed all cost claims.

Energy Probe's claim included costs for two consultants to attend at the settlement conference, one claiming 12 hours and the other 2.75 hours. The Board finds it important to maintain its practice of permitting more than one representative from an intervenor group to attend the settlement conference, but limit the applicant's responsibility to only pay the costs of one representative. The Board will therefore reduce Energy Probe's claim by 2.75 hours and approve 12 total hours of attendance at the settlement conference. Energy Probe's claim is reduced by \$849.34 (\$797.50 + \$51.84 HST).

The Board notes that VECC also claimed costs for two representatives to attend at the settlement conference. For the same reason noted above, the Board will approve 13.05 total hours of attendance at the settlement conference, thereby reducing the claim by 2.5 hours or \$857.51 (\$825.00 + \$32.51 HST).

With the exceptions noted above, the Board finds that all parties are eligible for 100% of their reasonably incurred costs of participating in this proceeding. Energy Probe's claim required a further minor reduction due to a calculation error in the Summary of Fees and Disbursements. VECC's claim also required a minor reduction to comply with the government's *Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive*. The Board finds that the claims of AMPCO, HVAC, and SEC and the adjusted claims of Energy Probe and VECC are reasonable and that each of these claims shall be reimbursed by Oakville Hydro.

**THE BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:**

1. Pursuant to section 30 of the Ontario *Energy Board Act, 1998*, Oakville Hydro shall immediately pay the following amounts to the specified intervenors for their costs:
  - Association of Major Power Consumers of Ontario \$18,432.19;
  - Energy Probe Research Foundation \$16,157.82;
  - HVAC Coalition \$7,227.00;
  - School Energy Coalition \$19,788.00; and
  - Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition \$18,105.93.
2. Pursuant to section 30 of the Ontario *Energy Board Act, 1998*, Oakville Hydro shall pay the Board's direct and incidental costs for this proceeding immediately upon receipt of the Board's invoice.

**DATED** at Toronto, June 18, 2014

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original Signed By*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary