



EB-2013-0174

**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 Veridian  
Connections Inc. for an order approving just and  
reasonable rates and other charges for electricity  
distribution to be effective May 1, 2014.

**BEFORE:** Christine Long  
Presiding Member

Cathy Spoel  
Member

**DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS**  
**June 30, 2014**

**Background**

Veridian Connections Inc. ("Veridian") filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on October 31, 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 Veridian charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2014.

On December 12, 2013, the Board issued Procedural Order No. 1, granting the Consumers Counsel of Canada ("CCC"), the Energy Probe Research Foundation ("Energy Probe"), the School Energy Coalition ("SEC") and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition ("VECC") intervenor status and cost award eligibility.

On April 10, 2014, the Board issued its Decision and Order, in which it set out the process for intervenors to file their cost claims, for Veridian to object to the claims and for intervenors to respond to any objections raised by Veridian.

The Board received cost claims from CCC, Energy Probe, SEC and VECC. No objections were received from Veridian.

## 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 11.20 hours and the other 2.00 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 2.00 hours and approve 11.20 total hours of attendance at the settlement conference. Energy Probe's claim is reduced by \$617.70 (\$580.00 + \$37.70 HST).

The Board notes that SEC claimed costs for two representatives to attend at the settlement conference, one claiming 2.1 hours and the other claiming 16 hours. For the same reason noted above, the Board will reduce SEC's claim by 2.10 hours and approve total 16 hours of attendance at the settlement conference. SEC's claim is reduced by \$693.00 (\$693.00+ \$0 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 claim of CCC and the adjusted claims of Energy Probe, SEC and VECC are reasonable and that each of these claims shall be reimbursed by Veridian.

**THE BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:**

1. Pursuant to section 30 of the Ontario *Energy Board Act, 1998*, Veridian shall immediately pay the following amounts to the specified intervenors for their costs:
  - Consumers Council of Canada \$20,509.50;
  - Energy Probe Research Foundation \$21,328.77;
  - School Energy Coalition \$18,798.00; and
  - Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition \$16,935.39.
2. Pursuant to section 30 of the Ontario *Energy Board Act, 1998*, Veridian shall pay the Board's direct and incidental costs for this proceeding immediately upon receipt of the Board's invoice.

**DATED** at Toronto, June 30, 2014

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original Signed By*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary