

Justin Safayeni

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January 13, 2016

VIA COURIER, EMAIL & RESS

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
27th Floor
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Email: boardsec@ontarioenergyboard

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Attention: Ms. K. Walli, Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: Windlectric Inc. – Application for Leave to Construct Transmission Facilities (EB-2014-0300)

Cost claim

We are counsel to the Association to Protect Amherst Island ("APAI"), which is an intervenor in this leave to construct application.

On January 6, 2016, Windlectric Inc. ("Windlectric") filed submissions objecting to APAI's cost claim, and arguing that APAI should receive only 25% of its costs and disbursements. APAI offers these brief submissions in order to reply to Windlectric's objection.

Revision to quantum of costs being sought

In its costs claim dated December 16, 2015, APAI claimed \$9,009.17 in costs, incurred as a direct and necessary consequence participating in this proceeding. Upon closer review, however, this figure inadvertently included 1.9 hours of counsel's initial time on this file, which was reflected on APAI's bill, but for which APAI was ultimately not charged by counsel.¹

Removing this figure from the legal fees being claimed, APAI's revised costs claim is for \$8,644.18.

¹ See time docketed on February 13 and 27, 2015.

Supporting dockets confirm that APAI's claim for legal fees is fair and reasonable

As an attachment to this letter (**Tab 1**), APAI has provided supporting dockets for the work done and time claimed by Stockwoods LLP in respect of this matter (as redacted for solicitor-client privilege). Those dockets reflect 7.9 claimed hours of time spent on preparation² and 31.9 claimed hours of time spent on argument³, for a total of 39.8 hours.

The dockets confirm that the hours of counsel time claimed by APAI in its cost claim all directly and exclusively relate to assisting APAI in its intervention on this leave to construct application. Given the volume of material to be reviewed, the various issues raised by the application, and the number of ongoing post-filing issues (*e.g.* concerning the lack of updated CIA and SIA reports), the quantum sought for legal fees is fair and reasonable.

It should be noted that APAI's cost claim does not even cover all of the legal fees it incurred in the course of this intervention. APAI is only claiming for the time of one lawyer from Stockwoods LLP (Justin Safayeni, called to the bar in 2010⁴). APAI is not claiming any costs for the time of the senior supervising lawyer on this file (Paul Le Vay, called to the bar in 1988⁵), which will be borne by APAI regardless of the Board's decision on costs.

Disbursements incurred by APAI are properly claimed

With the exception of the courier costs that were incurred by Stockwoods LLP (supporting documents enclosed at **Tab 2**), all other disbursements were incurred directly by APAI through its representative, Laurie Kilpatrick.

Windlectric objects to these disbursements on the basis that "there is no information to demonstrate the relationship between the items listed in the Staples receipts and APAI's activities undertaken in connection with the proceeding" (p. 6). Windlectric goes on to speculate that some of these disbursements may have related to other regulatory proceedings, or to simply buying general office supplies.⁶

Any suggestion that APAI is improperly claiming disbursements is baseless and should be firmly rejected. As part of APAI's costs claim, Ms. Kilpatrick swore an affidavit explicitly stating that the disbursements claimed "include only costs incurred and time spent directly for the purposes

² The original figure of 9.8 hours includes the 1.9 hours of counsel's time that has since been removed (see page 1 of these submissions). The dockets reflecting the 7.9 hours of claimed preparation time can be found on March 6 (0.6 hours), 12 (0.8 hours), 22 (1.2 hours), 23 (1.8 hours for reviewing documents), 25 (3.5 hours for reviewing documents and legal research)

³ See remainder of dockets

⁴ Represented on the dockets under lawyer code "60"

⁵ Represented on the dockets under lawyer code "10". Again, none of this time is being claimed.

⁶ These submissions appear to be based, in part, on a mischaracterization or misunderstanding of certain expenses. For example, the "3-hole punch" expense does not relate to a piece of office equipment (as Windlectric appears to assume), but rather the cost of paying for the photocopying of documents for the Board to be three hole punched.

of the Party's participation in the Ontario Energy Board process referred to above" (emphasis added). That sworn statement – which Windlectric has never challenged through any responding evidence, or cross-examined Ms. Kilpatrick on – is sufficient to dispel any concerns of improperly claimed disbursements.

Moreover, a review of the supporting receipts shows that APAI has meticulously examined the line items to determine whether they are related to these proceedings. If they do not, then those items have been crossed out (or left without a check mark) and omitted from APAI's costs claim.

Finally, the fact that Windlectric may not have considered all of the content APAI filed using these supplies to have been correct or relevant cannot operate to deprive APAI of its disbursement costs. APAI had a genuine interest in this leave to construct application, and participated reasonably and in good faith throughout the process. Prior to retaining counsel to prepare its written argument, APAI did its best to navigate the procedural complexities on its own, and raised what it viewed to be serious and relevant concerns as best as it could. In these circumstances, APAI should not be denied the costs of paper and ink, simply because the Windlectric did not agree with the words those supplies were used to generate.

APAI's conduct during the pre-counsel period is irrelevant to claim for legal fees

Windlectric also objects to APAI's claim for legal fees on the basis APAI missed certain deadlines and submitted (or encouraged others to submit) repetitive and irrelevant material.

None of Windlectric's arguments in this regard are relevant to APAI's claim for legal fees. That claim must be evaluated based on APAI's conduct during the period for which it is claiming costs for legal counsel in these proceedings (e.g. from March 6, 2015 onwards). All of the conduct relied upon by Windlectric as the basis for its objection (at pp. 3-5) pre-date this period, sometimes by several months. In other words, Windlectric does not argue that, after Stockwoods LLP was retained to assist APAI in this matter, APAI occasioned any delay, submitted repetitive material, raised irrelevant issues or acted in any other manner that might justify denying APAI some or all of the legal fees claimed. Nor could Windlectric reasonably take that position.

Again, it bears repeating that prior to retaining counsel, APAI participated in this application to the best of its ability, and without the benefit of anyone who had previously gone through this kind of proceeding. Once APAI retained counsel, it adopted a more focused and streamlined approach, which benefitted all participants in this process, including the Board.

In these circumstances, it would by wholly unjust to deny APAI's claim for legal fees based on APAI's conduct prior to retaining Stockwoods LLP. Such an approach would effectively punish interveners for acting responsibly, seeking legal advice, and adapting their intervention strategy in accordance with that legal advice. Any objection to a claim for legal fees ought to be grounded in a party's conduct during the period such fees were being incurred – not a party's conduct months earlier, without the benefit of legal representation.

Alternatively and in any event, even if APAI's conduct during the pre-counsel period is taken into account in evaluating the legal fees claimed, it does not justify reducing the amount of those fees. In particular:

- Without the benefit of counsel or anyone experienced in the Board's process, it is not surprising that APAI missed certain deadlines but these modest delays did not occasion any prejudice to Windlectric or any other participant in this process. (In fact, to the extent that the Board's decision in this matter was delayed, it is Windlectric that bears most of the responsibility, given its failure to provide updated SIA and CIA reports).
- The letters of comment written by individual residents of Amherst Island cannot be used to punish APAI by denying it some or all of its costs. These individuals wrote letters to the Board of their own accord, representing their own views, and using their own resources (not APAI's). Their conduct cannot be attributed to APAI. Moreover, these individuals had the right to write letters of comment indeed, the Board *invited* them to do so in its Notice dated October 14, 2015. Nobody should be punished for accepting the Board's invitation, least of all APAI. Finally, even accepting that certain matters raised in the letters of comment were duplicative or irrelevant, there is no indication that they in any way prejudiced Windlectric. As Windlectric's own written argument demonstrates, it did not have to marshal any additional evidence or resources to respond to these letters. It simply ignored them.

Conclusion

For all of these reasons, APAI respectfully submits that it ought to receive its costs of this application in the amount of \$8,644.18, as detailed in its costs claim.

Yours truly,

Justin Safayeni

Encl.

c: Jonathan Myers (Torys LLP)
Maia Chase (IESO)
Laurie Kilpatrick (APAI)
Paul Le Vay (Stockwoods LLP)

TAB 1 STOCKWOODS LLP

12/Jan/2016 Date	Received From/Paid To	Chq#	Client Ledger 13/Feb/2015 To 13/Dec/2015		Bld	Trust Activity
	Explanation	Rec#	Rcpts Disbs	Fees	Inv#	
2970 Assoc 9858 13/Feb/2015	iation to Protect Amherst Island Wind Farms Lawyer: 60 0.80 Hrs X 170.00					Resp Lawyer: PLV
692060	Call to L. Kilpatrick; Lawyer: 10 0.20 Hrs X 330.00			0.00	51741	
692058	Emails with L. Kilpatrick			0.00	51741	
2/Mar/2015 692057	Lawyer: 60 1.10 Hrs X 170.00 Office conference with P. Le Vay: call with L. Kilpatrick; drafting retainer agreement; emails from/to L. Kilpatrick re costs questions			0.00	51741	
6/Mar/2015 685800	Lawyer: 60 0.60 Hrs X 170.00 Call with L. Kilpatrick re next steps;			102.00	51741	
12/Mar/2015 685801	Lawyer: 60 0.80 Hrs X 170.00 Emails to/from and call with L. Kilpatrick re			136.00	51741	
16/Mar/2015 685794	Lawyer: 10 0.50 Hrs X 330.00 Office conference with J. Safayeni			165.00	51741	
22/Mar/2015 685802	Lawyer: 60 1.20 Hrs X 170.00 Reviewing OEB jurisprudence on s. 96;			204.00	51741	
23/Mar/2015 685803	Lawyer: 60 4.80 Hrs X 170.00 Reviewing documentation and drafting responding submissions;			816.00	51741	
24/Mar/2015 685804	Lawyer: 60 6.80 Hrs X 170.00 Drafting responding submissions; call to L. Kilpatrick;			1156.00	51741	
25/Mar/2015 686739	Lawyer: 60 7.40 Hrs X 170.00 Drafting responding submissions; call to client; emails to/from cllent; review of documents; legal research;			1258.00	51741	
26/Mar/2015 686745	Lawyer: 60 6.80 Hrs X 170.00 Drafting and revising responding submissions; calls to client re comments on draft; emails to/from client re same;			1156.00	51741	
27/Mar/2015 686748	Lawyer: 60 3.70 Hrs X 170.00 Finalizing submissions; call with client re submissions; office conference with J.			629.00	51741	
	Braden re same; office conference with S. Ng re filing;					
688770	Lawyer: 10 0.50 Hrs % 330.00 Office conference with J. Safayeni			165.00	51741	
1/Apr/2015 689261	UNITED MESSENGERS LTD. Paid to United Messengers Ref: 00802647		18.05		51741	
7/Apr/2015 688523	Lawyer: 60 0.20 Hrs X 170.00 Emails from L. Kilpatrick: review of Board Staff supplementary letter: emails to/from P. Le Vay:			34.00	51741	
8/Apr/2015 688387	Lawyer: 10 0.30 Hrs X 330.00 Office conference with J. Safayeni; respond to APAI re			99.00	51741	
8/Apr/2015 688526	Office conference with P. Le Vay; review of Windlectric reply submissions; emails to/from P. Le Vay re			119.00	51741	
9/Apr/2015 688398	Lawyer: 10 0.30 Hrs X 330.00 Office conference with J. Safayeni; email to			99.00	51741	
9/Apr/2015 688536	Lawyer: 60 0.40 Hrs X 170.00 Emails from/to L. Kilpatrick re next steps; emails to/from B. Finlay re same;			68.00	51741	
30/Apr/2015 692078	Billing on Invoice 51741 FEES 6206.00 DISBS 18.05		0.00		51741	
30/Apr/2015	TAXES 809.13 Tames on Invoice 51741					
692079	Tames on Fees			806.78	51741	
	Taxes on Disbursements 51741 Taxes on Disbursements	51741	2.35		51741	
25/May/2015	Association to Protect Amherst Is PMT - Client Paying Bill by	889466	6500.00			

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STOCKWOODS LLP Client Ledger

		1	Client Ledge 3/Feb/2015 To 13/				
Date Entry #	Received From/Paid To Explanation	Chq# Rec#	General - Rcpts Di	 abs Fees	Bld Inv# Acc	Trust Activity Rcpts Dish	
29/May/2015 695147	Lawyer: 60 0.30 Hrs X 170.00 Review of Windlectric follow-up		- Ring	51.00	52048	1 2 4	
1/Jun/2015 696794	letter; email to client; Lawyer: 60 0.80 Hrs X 170.00 Emails from/to client re response; review of Modification Report, SIA and CIA reports; drafting letter			136.00	52048		
	to OEB; emails to/from P. Le Vay;						
2/Jun/2015 696799	Lawyer: 60 0.30 Hrs X 170.00			51.00	52048		
12/Jun/2015 697209	Lawyer: 10 0.30 Hrs X 330.00 Review OEB letter and office			99.00	52048		
12/Jun/2015 697387	conference with J. Safayeni Lawyer: 60 0.10 Hrs X 170.00 Review of OEB letter re decision;			17.00	52048		
17/Jun/2015 697436	Association to Protect Amherst PMT - Client Paying Bill by	Is 889576	533.18				
30/Jun/2015 699772	Cheque Billing on Invoice 52048 FEES 354.00 TAKES 46.02		0	.00	52048		
30/Jun/2015 699773	Taxes on Invoice 52048 Taxes on Fees			46.02	52048		
21/Jul/2015 701967	Lawyer: 60 0.10 Hrs X 170.00 Email from L. Kilpatrick; emails to/from P. Le Vay re			17.00	52337		
22/Ju1/2015	strategy; Lawyer: 60 0.50 Hrs X 170.00			25.00	50007		
701969	Reviewing documents; drafting letter to Ontario Energy Board re transmission route issue; emails to/from L. Kilpatrick re same; revisions to letter;			85.00	52337		
23/Jul/2015 701983	Lawyer: 60 0.10 Hrs X 170.00 Sending letter to Ontario Energy Board; review of Windlectric response;			17.00	52337		
27/Ju1/2015 702021	Association to Protect Amherst PMT - Client Paying Bill by cheque	Is 889748	400.02				
31/Ju1/2015 703824			0	.00	52337		
31/Ju1/2015 703825	Taxes on Invoice 52337 Taxes on Fees			15.47	52337		
10/Aug/2015 704452	Lawyer: 60 0.50 Hrs X 170.00 Reviewing L. Kilpatrick email			95.00	53504		
	and OEB Rules; drafting response to L. Kilpatrick; office conference with P. Le						
10/Aug/2015	Vay re same; Lawyer: 10 0.30 Hrs X 330.00						
704604	Office conference with J. Safayeni	Te		99.00	53504		
24/Aug/2015 705408	Association to Protect Amherst PMT - Client Paying Bill by cheque	889840	134.47				
10/Dec/2015 731352	Lawyer: 60 2.30 Hrs X 170.00 Review of decision; emails to/from L. Kilpatrick; completing cost claim form; drafting cost submissions;			391.00	53504		
12/Dec/2015 731358	Lawyer: 60 0.30 Hrs X 170.00 Drafting and revising cost submissions; email to L. Kilpatrick;			51.00	53504		
13/Dec/2015 732763	Lawyer: 60 1.10 Hrs X 170.00			187.00	53504		
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