



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

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**DECISION AND ORDER ON COST  
AWARDS**

**EB-2008-0150**

**LEAP Emergency Financial Assistance Program Review**

**BEFORE: Cathy Spoel**  
Presiding Member

**Christine Long**  
Vice Chair and Member

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**July 26, 2016**

## INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

In 2008 the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) initiated consultations about how to assist low-income energy customers which culminated in the launch of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program Emergency Financial Assistance program (LEAP EFA) in 2011. The OEB undertook a review of the LEAP EFA program in 2014 and issued the results of its review in a [letter](#) dated October 19, 2015.

On March 22, 2015, the OEB issued a Notice of Hearing inviting eligible participants<sup>1</sup> to file cost claims in relation to the LEAP EFA program review. The Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN) and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) filed cost claims in response to the Notice. On April 20, 2016, Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. filed a letter commenting on both cost claims but did not object to either.

### OEB Findings

The OEB finds that the eligible participants are entitled to 100% of their reasonably incurred costs of participating in this proceeding. LIEN is therefore awarded \$119.19 and VECC is awarded \$3,191.30.

The Notice of Hearing stated that all costs awarded would be recovered from rate-regulated electricity and natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues. That apportionment was consistent with the methodology that was in place at the time for allocating costs for cost assessment purposes under section 26 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act). On February 9, 2016, the OEB issued a [letter](#) giving notice of changes to its Cost Assessment Model. Specifically, under the revised Cost Assessment Model, cost assessments for distributors are now based on customer numbers rather than revenues. The OEB considers it appropriate to apportion cost awards for this initiative in a manner consistent with the revised Cost Assessment Model. In accordance with the cost assessment model, 23.5% of costs will be allocated to gas distributors, 76.5% of costs will be allocated to licensed electricity distributors, and costs will be apportioned based on each distributor's total number of customers. Schedule A has been prepared accordingly.

### Process for Paying the Cost Awards

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<sup>1</sup> In its June 17, 2009 Decision on Cost Eligibility the OEB determined the following participants were eligible for costs in relation to participation in meetings of the Financial Assistance Working Group: Consumers Council of Canada, Housing Help Association of Ontario, Low Income Energy Network, Salvation Army Centre of Hope and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (together, the "eligible participants").

The amount payable by each natural gas distributor and licensed electricity distributor in relation to costs awarded to the eligible participants is listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order. However, the amounts will not be paid directly by the distributor to the participants.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards. Therefore, the OEB will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards relating to this consultation process. Invoices will be issued to distributors at the same time as the invoices for cost assessments are made under section 26 of the OEB Act. The practice of the OEB is to issue to each natural gas distributor and licensed electricity distributor one invoice that covers all cost awards payable by the distributor for the relevant period. As a result, the invoice may cover cost awards payable in relation to a number of consultations, including this one.

**THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:**

1. Each natural gas distributor and electricity distributor listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order shall pay the amounts set out in Schedule A in relation to the costs awarded to each eligible participant.
2. Each natural gas distributor and electricity distributor listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order shall pay the OEB's costs of, and incidental to, this consultation.
3. The payments referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be made to the OEB in accordance with the invoice issued to each distributor, and shall be due at the same time as cost assessments under section 26 of the OEB Act are due.

**DATED** at Toronto July 26, 2016

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original Signed By*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary

**Schedule A****OEB's Decision and Order on Cost Awards****EB-2008-0150**

<b>Natural Gas Distributor,</b>	<b>LIEN</b>	<b>VECC</b>	<b>Total</b>
Enbridge Gas Distribution	21.85	585.16	607.01
Union Gas	14.67	392.91	407.59
Natural Resource Gas	0.08	2.26	2.34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 36.61</b>	<b>\$ 980.33</b>	<b>\$ 1,016.94</b>

<b>Electricity Distributor</b>	<b>LIEN</b>	<b>VECC</b>	<b>Total</b>
Algoma Power Inc.	0.28	7.51	7.79
Atikokan Hydro Inc.	0.04	1.07	1.11
Attawapiskat Power Corp.	0.01	0.30	0.31
Bluewater Power Distribution Corporation	0.87	23.21	24.07
Brantford Power Inc.	0.93	24.86	25.78
Burlington Hydro Inc.	1.59	42.67	44.27
Energy + Inc.	1.50	40.10	41.60
Canadian Niagara Power Inc.	0.69	18.43	19.12
Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd.	0.16	4.32	4.48
Chapleau Public Utilities Corporation	0.03	0.81	0.84
Entegrus Powerlines Inc.	0.97	26.04	27.02
Collus PowerStream Corp.	0.39	10.41	10.80
Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.	0.05	1.27	1.32
E.L.K. Energy Inc.	0.28	7.58	7.86
Enersource Hydro Mississauga Inc.	4.81	128.80	133.61
Enwin Utilities Ltd.	2.07	55.54	57.62
Erie Thames Powerlines Corporation	0.44	11.79	12.23
Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation	0.08	2.13	2.21
Essex Powerlines Corporation	0.68	18.31	19.00
Festival Hydro Inc.	0.49	13.03	13.52
Fort Albany Power Corporation	0.01	0.18	0.19
Fort Frances Power Corporation	0.09	2.41	2.51
Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.	1.13	30.35	31.48
Grimsby Power Incorporated	0.26	6.91	7.17
Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc.	1.26	33.73	34.99

Haldimand County Hydro Inc.	0.51	13.70	14.21
Halton Hills Hydro Inc.	0.51	13.75	14.26
Horizon Utilities Corporation	5.75	153.97	159.72
Hydro Hawkesbury Inc.	0.13	3.57	3.70
Hearst Power Distribution Company Limited	0.07	1.78	1.85
Hydro 2000 Inc.	0.03	0.79	0.82
Hydro One Brampton Networks Inc.	3.51	94.05	97.57
Hydro One Networks Inc.	29.86	799.58	829.44
Hydro One Remote Communities Incorporated	0.09	2.28	2.37
Hydro Ottawa Limited	7.58	202.95	210.53
Innpower Corporation	0.37	9.93	10.30
Kashechewan Power Corporation	0.01	0.23	0.24
Kenora Hydro Electric Corporation Ltd.	0.13	3.59	3.72
Kingston Hydro Corporation	0.65	17.47	18.12
Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc.	2.17	58.10	60.27
Lakefront Utilities Inc.	0.24	6.37	6.61
Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.	0.32	8.53	8.85
London Hydro Inc.	3.64	97.45	101.09
Midland Power Utility Corporation	0.17	4.52	4.69
Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.	0.82	21.83	22.64
Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.	0.83	22.23	23.06
Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.	1.24	33.12	34.36
Niagara-on-the-lake Hydro Inc.	0.20	5.48	5.69
North Bay Hydro Distribution Limited	0.58	15.47	16.04
Northern Ontario Wires Inc.	0.15	3.91	4.06
Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.	1.57	42.02	43.59
Orangeville Hydro Limited	0.28	7.44	7.71
Orillia Power Distribution Corporation	0.32	8.54	8.86
Oshawa PUC Networks Inc.	1.30	34.85	36.15
Ottawa River Power Corporation	0.26	6.92	7.18
Peterborough Distribution Incorporated	0.86	23.08	23.94
Powerstream Inc.	8.35	223.69	232.04
PUC Distribution Inc.	0.80	21.48	22.29
Renfrew Hydro Inc.	0.10	2.73	2.83
Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.	0.14	3.78	3.92
St. Thomas Energy Inc.	0.40	10.61	11.00
Sioux Lookout Hydro Inc.	0.07	1.78	1.85
Thunder Bay Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.	1.21	32.40	33.61
Tillsonburg Hydro Inc.	0.17	4.42	4.59
Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited	17.65	472.53	490.18
Veridian Connections Inc.	2.80	75.06	77.86
Wasaga Distribution Inc.	0.31	8.24	8.55
Waterloo North Hydro Inc.	1.30	34.88	36.19
Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.	0.54	14.38	14.91
Wellington North Power Inc.	0.09	2.38	2.47

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West Coast Huron Energy Inc.	0.09	2.43	2.52
Westario Power Inc.	0.55	14.65	15.20
Whitby Hydro Electric Corporation	0.99	26.58	27.57
Woodstock Hydro Services Inc.	0.37	10.03	10.40

TOTAL	\$ 119.19	\$ 3,191.30	\$ 3,310.49
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