

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2018-0050

LAKELAND POWER DISTRIBUTION LTD.

**Application for electricity distribution rates and other charges
beginning May 1, 2019**

BEFORE: Lynne Anderson
Presiding Member

May 21, 2019

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

This is a decision of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on cost claims filed with respect to a Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. (Lakeland Power) proceeding.

Lakeland Power filed a cost of service application with the OEB on September 27, 2018 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 Lakeland Power charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2019.

The OEB granted the School Energy Coalition (SEC) and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) intervenor status and cost award eligibility.

On April 18, 2019, the OEB issued its Decision and Rate Order in which it set out the process for intervenors to file their cost claims, for Lakeland Power to object to the claims and for intervenors to respond to any objections raised by Lakeland Power.

The OEB received cost claims from SEC and VECC. No objections were received from Lakeland Power.

Findings

The OEB has reviewed the claims filed to ensure that they are compliant with the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

The cost awards for both SEC and VECC are approved.

The OEB notes that VECC had two different consultants claiming cost awards for attending the Settlement Conference. While it appears that this did not include overlapping attendance, both consultants claimed preparation time for the settlement conference which combined was more than double the preparation time spent by SEC.

If there are reasons why one intervenor may have incurred more time than others, these reasons should be provided with the cost claim. Nevertheless, the OEB is approving the claims because the overall difference in time between SEC and VECC was only 3.25 hours.

The OEB finds that all parties are eligible for 100% of their reasonably incurred costs of participating in this proceeding. The OEB finds that the claims of SEC and VECC are reasonable and each of these claims shall be reimbursed by Lakeland Power.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. shall immediately pay the following amounts to the intervenors for their costs:
 - School Energy Coalition \$10,655.90
 - Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition \$15,177.84
2. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. shall pay the OEB's costs of, and incidental to, this proceeding immediately upon receipt of the OEB's invoice.

DATED at Toronto May 21, 2019

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary