

# **DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS**

**EB-2018-0219**

**PUC DISTRIBUTION INC.**

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

**BEFORE: Emad Elsayed**  
Presiding Member

**Lynne Anderson**  
Member

**Jenni Byrne**  
Member

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**July 31, 2019**

## INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

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

PUC Distribution filed an incentive rate-setting mechanism (IRM) application with the OEB on January 31, 2019 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B) seeking approval for changes to its electricity distribution rates to be effective May 1, 2019.

As part of its application, PUC Distribution also applied for an Incremental Capital Module (ICM) to recover costs associated with the implementation of the Sault Smart Grid (SSG) project. The OEB bifurcated the application, and issued a Partial Decision and Order on the IRM portion on June 20, 2019. As indicated in the Notice of Application, cost awards in this proceeding are only being considered in relation to PUC Distribution's proposal for incremental capital funding.

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

PUC Distribution filed a letter on June 28, 2019 indicating its intent to amend the ICM portion of the application, and to make best efforts to complete and file the amendment by the end of September 2019. Given the request, the OEB found it appropriate to address the cost claims incurred to date on the ICM portion of the application by the parties to this proceeding.

On July 16, 2019, the OEB issued its Decision and Procedural Order No.5 in which it set out the process for intervenors to file their cost claims to date on the ICM, for PUC Distribution to object to the claims and for intervenors to respond to any objections raised by PUC Distribution.

The OEB received cost claims from CCC, SEC and VECC. No objections to the cost claims were received from PUC Distribution Inc.

### Findings

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

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

**THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:**

1. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, PUC Distribution Inc. shall immediately pay the following amounts to the intervenors for their costs:
  - Consumers Council of Canada \$15,661.80
  - School Energy Coalition \$23,157.09
  - Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition \$15,092.09
  
2. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, PUC Distribution Inc. shall pay the OEB's costs of, and incidental to, this proceeding immediately upon receipt of the OEB's invoice.

**DATED** at Toronto July 31, 2019

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original signed by*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary