



Ontario
Energy
Board

Commission
de l'énergie
de l'Ontario

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2020-0249/EB-2018-0219

PUC DISTRIBUTION INC.

Application for rates and other charges to be effective May 1, 2022

BEFORE: Emad Elsayed
Presiding Commissioner

Lynne Anderson
Chief Commissioner

May 25, 2021

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

This is a decision of the Ontario Energy Board on cost claims filed with respect to a PUC Distribution Inc. proceeding. This Amended Application, filed on October 29, 2020, is a continuation of an earlier proceeding (EB-2018-0219) related to the Sault Smart Grid Project and the two proceedings were therefore combined, as indicated in the OEB's letter of November 12, 2020.

The OEB stated that the parties that were granted intervenor status and cost award eligibility in EB-2018-0219 were deemed to be intervenors and eligible for cost awards in this combined proceeding.¹

Following the issuance of the completeness letter for the Amended Application, Environmental Defence submitted a request for intervenor status and cost eligibility.² Environmental Defence was not an intervenor in the earlier proceeding but was approved as an intervenor in the current proceeding and is eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.³

On April 29, 2021, the OEB issued its Decision and Order in which it set out the process for intervenors to file their cost claims, for PUC Distribution to raise any objections to the claims and for intervenors to respond to any objections raised by PUC Distribution.

The OEB received cost claims by the due date from the Consumers Council of Canada (CCC), Environmental Defence and School Energy Coalition (SEC). The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) filed its cost claim on May 10, 2021. The OEB accepts VECC's cost claim notwithstanding the late filing. No objections to the cost claims were received from PUC Distribution.

Findings

The OEB has reviewed the 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. The OEB finds that the claims of CCC, Environmental Defence, SEC and VECC are reasonable and each of these claims shall be reimbursed by PUC Distribution.

¹ EB-2020-0249/EB-2018-0219, OEBltr_Complete_PUC Distribution_Smart Grid_20201112_signed, November 12, 2020

² Received November 17, 2020

³ EB-2020-0249/EB-2018-0219, OEBltr_ED_intvnr_PUC Distribution_Smart Grid_20201118, November 18, 2020

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 | \$17,339.85 |
| • Environmental Defence | \$4,766.91 |
| • School Energy Coalition | \$26,791.17 |
| • Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition | \$18,436.36 |

DATED at Toronto May 25, 2021

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Christine E. Long
Registrar