



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

DECISION AND ORDER

EB-2020-0163

EB-2020-0186

Amending the Independent Electricity System Operator's Licence to require it to assist with the administration of the Covid-19 Energy Assistance Program – Small Business

BY DELEGATION, BEFORE: Brian Hewson
Vice President,
Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

October 28, 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is amending the licence of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to reflect amendments that were recently made to the licences of licensed electricity distributors and licensed unit sub-meter providers (collectively Utilities) in regard to the implementation of the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) and the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program – Small Business (CEAP-SB). Specifically, the IESO’s licence is being amended to facilitate the winding down of CEAP and CEAP-SB by inserting a “sunset” date for the processing by the IESO of reimbursement claims from Utilities.

This Decision and Order is being issued by Delegated Authority without a hearing pursuant to section 6(4) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act).

By [letter](#) dated June 17, 2021, the OEB notified Utilities of the Ministry of Energy’s confirmation that no additional funding would be provided for CEAP or CEAP-SB. The Ministry of Energy also asked the OEB to take whatever prudent steps it considered to be necessary to manage CEAP to a conclusion. By [letter](#) dated July 5, 2021, the OEB provided notice that final funding amounts had been allocated to certain Utilities reporting the greatest need and affirmed that all CEAP funds had been allocated. By [letter](#) dated October 21, 2021 the OEB instructed the IESO to cease providing reimbursement to Utilities for CEAP or CEAP-SB claims made after November 4, 2021. The letter further advised that OEB would be amending the IESO’s licence to reflect this direction.

DECISION

The amendment to the IESO’s licence reflects the directions provided by the OEB in its October 21, 2021 letter regarding settlement with Utilities, and reflect the Ministry of Energy’s request that the OEB should take appropriate steps to manage CEAP and CEAP-SB to a conclusion.

The new licence conditions are effective immediately. All other licence conditions remain unchanged.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Sections 23 and 24 of the IESO’s licence are amended to reflect the changes described in this Decision and Order as set out in Attachment A:

DATED at Toronto October 28, 2021

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

Attachment A
Decision and Order dated October 28, 2021
EB-2020-0163 / EB-2020-0186
Licence Conditions – Independent Electricity System Operator

23 Settlement of COVID-19 Energy Assistance Plan Funding

23.1 For the purposes of paragraphs 23.1 to 23.7:

“CEAP” means the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program as described in the Board’s Decision and order dated January 18, 2021 (EB-2020-0163),

“Utility” means an electricity distributor or a unit sub-meter provider licensed by the Board

23.2 Subject to paragraph 25.1, the Licensee shall distribute to Utilities the funds it receives from the Government of Ontario for the purposes of CEAP in accordance with paragraphs 23.3 to 23.6.

23.3 Subject to paragraph 23.6, the Licensee shall reimburse each Utility for any credits provided by the Utility to eligible residential customers on account of CEAP, and shall do so on a monthly basis commencing in August 2020 and in accordance with paragraph 23.4.

23.4 Reimbursement shall be made to a Utility following receipt of a claim submitted in accordance with such settlement instructions as the Licensee may reasonably provide, and in accordance with such settlement processes as the Licensee may reasonably apply having regard to efficiency and the time limited nature of CEAP.

23.5 The Licensee is not required to independently verify the claims for reimbursement submitted by a Utility and may rely on the information contained in such claims for the purposes of making reimbursement.

23.6 The Licensee shall not reimburse a Utility an amount greater than the total aggregated amount of CEAP and CEAP-SB funding that has been allocated to that Utility by the Board, nor shall it reimburse a Utility for any CEAP or CEAP-SB related claims made after November 4, 2021.

23.7 The Licensee shall:

(a) keep complete records of its settlement activities under paragraphs 23.1 to 23.6 for a period of two years following the date on which the last report is made to the Board under paragraph 23.7(b), and provide them to the Board on request; and

(b) report the following information to the Board, in such form as may be required by the Board, on the 20th day of each month starting August 20, 2020 and until such time as the funds provided to the Licensee by the Government of Ontario on account of CEAP have been expended and the Licensee has fully reported to the Board thereon:

(i) The amount of CEAP funding (on both a monthly and total basis) claimed by each Utility; and

(ii) The amount of CEAP funding (on both a monthly and total basis) distributed by the Licensee to each Utility.

24 Settlement of COVID-19 Energy Assistance Plan – Small Business Funding

24.1 For the purposes of paragraphs 24.1 to 24.7:

“CEAP-SB” means the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program – Small Business as described in the Board’s Decision and Order dated January 18, 2021 (EB-2020-0186).

“Utility” means an electricity distributor or a unit sub-meter provider licensed by the Board

24.2 Subject to paragraph 25.1, the Licensee shall distribute to Utilities the funds it receives from the Government of Ontario for the purposes of CEAP-SB in accordance with paragraphs 24.3 to 24.6.

24.3 Subject to paragraph 24.6, the Licensee shall reimburse each Utility for any credits provided by the Utility to eligible customers on account of CEAP-SB, and shall do so on a monthly basis commencing in October 2020 and in accordance with paragraph 24.4.

24.4 Reimbursement shall be made to a Utility following receipt of a claim submitted in accordance with such settlement instructions as the Licensee may reasonably provide, and in accordance with such settlement processes as the Licensee may reasonably apply having regard to efficiency and the time limited nature of CEAP-SB.

24.5 The Licensee is not required to independently verify the claims for reimbursement submitted by a Utility and may rely on the information contained in such claims for the purposes of making reimbursement.

24.6 The Licensee shall not reimburse a Utility an amount greater than the total aggregated amount of CEAP-SB and CEAP funding that has been allocated to that Utility by the Board, nor shall it reimburse a Utility for any CEAP or CEAP-SB related claims made after November 4, 2021.

24.7 The Licensee shall:

- (a) keep complete records of its settlement activities under paragraphs 24.1 to 24.6 for a period of two years following the date on which the last report is made to the Board under paragraph 24.7(b), and provide them to the Board on request; and
- (b) report the following information to the Board, in such form as may be required by the Board, on the 20th day of each month starting October 20, 2020 and until such time as the funds provided to the Licensee by the Government of Ontario on account of CEAP-SB have been expended and the Licensee has fully reported to the Board thereon:
 - (i) The amount of CEAP-SB funding (on both a monthly and total basis) claimed by each Utility; and
 - (ii) The amount of CEAP-SB funding (on both a monthly and total basis) distributed by the Licensee to each Utility.