



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

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2021-0076

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Cost of Service Filing Requirements for Small Utilities

BEFORE: Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President, Applications Division

February 10, 2022

OVERVIEW

On April 15, 2021, the OEB issued a [letter](#) that set out the plan to engage a working group to review filing requirements for small utilities for 2023 rates and beyond.¹

Based on the criteria set out in section 3 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* (Practice Direction), the OEB determined that the following persons are eligible for cost awards (collectively the Eligible Participants):

- Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe)
- School Energy Coalition (SEC)
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)

The OEB's May 11, 2021 [letter](#) noted that cost awards will cover preparation, attendance, and reporting time in relation to each working group meeting. The maximum number of cost eligible hours per participant to prepare for, attend and report on working group meetings is 1.5 times the time spent by representatives in each meeting. Costs are recoverable in respect of only one representative per participant at any time. The OEB has applied the considerations set out in section 5 of its Practice Direction when awarding costs including the hourly rates set out in the OEB's Cost Award Tariff. Eligible costs will be recovered from all small electricity distributors, as defined in the May 1 letter, based on customer numbers.

On December 16, 2021, the OEB issued its Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards in which it set out the process for cost claims. The OEB received cost claims from Energy Probe, SEC and VECC. No objections were received.

Findings

The OEB has reviewed the cost claims filed to ensure they were compliant with the OEB's Practice Direction. The OEB finds that the claims are reasonable and approves the cost claims as filed.

The OEB approves cost awards for the Eligible Participants as follows:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • Energy Probe Research Foundation | \$16,342.43 |
| • School Energy Coalition | \$15,905.88 |
| • Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition | \$16,464.10 |

¹ Small utilities are defined as those with less than 20,000 customers in the 2019 Yearbook of Electricity Distributors

Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amount payable by each small electricity distributor in relation to costs awarded to each Eligible Participant is listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order. The amounts will not be paid directly by the small electricity distributors to the Eligible Participants. The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of the Practice Direction to implement the payment of the approved cost awards whereby the OEB will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards. Consistent with this process, each small electricity distributor is issued one invoice that covers all cost awards payable for the relevant period. As a result, the invoice may cover cost awards payable in relation to a number of proceedings and consultations, including this one.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Each small electricity distributor listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order will receive an invoice from the OEB that includes the total costs set out in Schedule A.
2. Each small electricity distributor in Schedule A to this Decision and Order shall make a payment to the OEB in accordance with the invoice referred to in paragraph 1. The payment shall be due at the same time as all other cost assessments under section 26 of the OEB Act.

DATED at Toronto February 10, 2022

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Acting Registrar

Schedule A				
OEB's Decision and Order on Cost Awards				
EB-2021-0076				
Electricity Distribution System (Less than 20,000 customer)	Energy Probe Research Foundation	School Energy Coalition	Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition	Cost Awards
Algoma Power Inc.	942.40	917.23	949.42	2,809.05
Atikokan Hydro Inc.	131.69	128.17	132.67	392.53
Attawapiskat Power Corporation	41.13	40.03	41.43	122.58
Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd.	555.92	541.07	560.06	1,657.05
Chapleau Public Utilities Corporation	99.09	96.44	99.83	295.35
EPCOR Electricity Distribution Ontario Inc	1,379.18	1,342.34	1,389.45	4,110.97
Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.	179.19	174.41	180.53	534.13
E.L.K. Energy Inc.	979.86	953.68	987.15	2,920.69
Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation	264.72	257.64	266.69	789.05
Fort Albany Power Corporation	23.75	23.12	23.93	70.80
Fort Frances Power Corporation	301.31	293.26	303.55	898.13
Grimsby Power Incorporated	913.48	889.07	920.28	2,722.83
Hydro Hawkesbury Inc.	445.36	433.46	448.67	1,327.49
Hearst Power Distribution Company Limited	217.10	211.30	218.72	647.12
Hydro 2000 Inc.	103.03	100.28	103.80	307.10
Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.	290.10	282.35	292.26	864.72
Innpower Corporation	1,389.64	1,352.52	1,399.98	4,142.14
Kashechewan Power Corporation	34.40	33.48	34.65	102.53
Lakefront Utilities Inc.	831.44	809.23	837.63	2,478.30
Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.	1,086.88	1,057.85	1,094.97	3,239.69
Niagara-on-the-lake Hydro Inc.	752.59	732.49	758.20	2,243.28
Northern Ontario Wires Inc.	479.62	466.81	483.19	1,429.62
Orangeville Hydro Limited	990.55	964.09	997.93	2,952.57
Ottawa River Power Corporation	894.09	870.21	900.75	2,665.05
Renfrew Hydro Inc.	345.49	336.26	348.06	1,029.82
Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.	473.91	461.25	477.44	1,412.60
Sioux Lookout Hydro Inc.	227.10	221.04	228.79	676.93
Tillsonburg Hydro Inc.	574.23	558.89	578.51	1,711.63
Wasaga Distribution Inc.	1,091.87	1,062.70	1,099.99	3,254.56
Wellington North Power Inc.	303.32	295.22	305.58	904.12
Electricity Distribution Total	16,342.43	15,905.88	16,464.10	48,712.41