



Ontario  
Energy  
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de l'Ontario

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# **DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS**

## **EB-2020-0176**

### **Regional Planning Process Review**

**By Delegation Before: Brian Hewson**

Vice President, Consumer Protection &  
Industry Performance

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**August 9, 2022**

## OVERVIEW

On December 10, 2020, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a letter (December 2020 letter) that initiated a consultation to review the regional planning process that applies to Ontario's electricity sector. The December 2020 letter indicated that the first step in the Regional Planning Process Review (RPPR) consultation involved re-establishing the Regional Planning Process Advisory Group (RPPAG) to assist the OEB in that review. On December 20, 2021, the RPPAG completed the first phase of its work in providing its Report to the OEB with recommendations for the OEB's consideration. The OEB then issued a letter on April 28, 2022 (April 2022 letter) with its response to those recommendations and an implementation plan.

The December 2020 letter indicated that cost awards will be available, under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (Act), to eligible participants in relation to the RPPAG activity described in that letter and would continue to be available for any activities that may be necessary following the completion of the RPPAG's work during the first phase of this consultation process. The letter also advised that cost awards will be available to eligible participants for participation in meetings of the RPPAG, to a maximum of actual meeting time plus 50% of meeting time for preparation and reporting.

The December 2020 letter further indicated that costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated licensed electricity distributors (65% of the costs awarded) and all rate-regulated licensed transmitters (35% of the costs awarded). Within the distributor class, costs awarded will be apportioned based on respective customer numbers. Within the transmitter class, apportionment will be based on the most recent respective revenues, as per the OEB's cost assessment model.

On January 18, 2021, the OEB issued its [decision](#) on cost eligibility. The OEB determined the following organizations would be eligible for an award of costs in relation to cost eligible activities (collectively, the eligible participants):

- Common Voice Northwest
- Pollution Probe
- School Energy Coalition

On June 27, 2022, 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 Pollution Probe and School Energy Coalition. Common Voice Northwest did not file a cost claim. No objections were received.

## Findings

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

The OEB finds that Pollution Probe's claim is reasonable and within the maximum number of hours eligible for cost awards.

With respect to SEC's claim, the OEB notes that SEC requested some relief in relation to the hours claimed for the RPPAG meeting activity. SEC indicated that, while the maximum number of allowable hours to prepare for some of the RPPAG meetings (1.5 times actual meeting time) was exceeded because certain meetings required more preparation (SEC referred to initial meetings which required review of the IESO Report and background regional planning documents, as an example). SEC noted that it did not exceed the overall maximum of 47.25 hours potentially available for recovery in relation to all seven RPPAG meetings in its claim.

Based on a review of SEC's detailed docket, the OEB notes that SEC's request was limited to two meetings and resulted in a minor adjustment of less than 1.5 hours. As a consequence, the OEB will allow the relief sought by SEC, in this instance. The OEB therefore also finds that SEC's claim is reasonable and within the maximum number of hours eligible for cost awards.

The OEB emphasizes that relief was granted to SEC in the particular circumstances of this claim. The OEB's limits on cost awards in this and other consultations are clearly set out in correspondence that is issued by the OEB at the commencement of each policy proceeding. Neither SEC nor other eligible parties should assume that similar relief will be granted in the future.

The OEB approves cost awards for the following eligible participants:

- Pollution Probe \$29,645.54
- School Energy Coalition \$18,673.78

## Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amount payable by each licensed electricity distributor and transmitter 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 licensed electricity distributor to the eligible participants.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of the Practice Direction on Cost Awards 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 licensed electricity distributor and transmitter are 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 proceeding.

**THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:**

1. Each licensed electricity distributor and transmitter in Schedule A to this Decision and Order shall make a payment to the OEB in accordance with the invoice set out in Schedule A. The payment shall be due at the same time as all other cost assessments under section 26 of the OEB Act.

**DATED** at Toronto August 9, 2022

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Brian Hewson  
Vice President, Consumer Protection &  
Industry Performance

## Schedule A

### OEB's Decision and Order on Cost Awards

**EB-2020-0176**

Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator	Pollution Probe	School Energy Coalition	Cost Awards
Algoma Power Inc.	44.22	27.85	72.07
Alectra Utilities Corporation	3,874.20	2,440.37	6,314.57
Bluewater Power Distribution Corporation	134.55	84.76	219.31
GrandBridge Energy Inc.	393.76	248.03	641.79
Burlington Hydro Inc.	249.98	157.46	407.44
Canadian Niagara Power Inc.	108.35	68.25	176.61
Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd.	26.57	16.74	43.31
EPCOR Electricity Distribution Ontario Inc	66.43	41.85	108.28
E.L.K. Energy Inc.	45.99	28.97	74.97
Entegrus Powerlines Inc.	220.96	139.18	360.14
Enwin Utilities Ltd.	328.49	206.92	535.41
ERTH Power Corporation	85.88	54.09	139.97
Essex Powerlines Corporation	111.82	70.43	182.25
Ellexicon Energy	618.21	389.41	1,007.63
Festival Hydro Inc.	78.96	49.74	128.69
Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.	174.45	109.89	284.34
Grimsby Power Incorporated	42.61	26.84	69.44
Halton Hills Hydro Inc.	82.25	51.81	134.06
Hydro Hawkesbury Inc.	19.94	12.56	32.50
Hydro One Networks Inc.	5,153.30	3,246.08	8,399.38
Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.	15.66	9.86	25.52
Hydro Ottawa Limited	1,263.47	795.86	2,059.34
Innpower Corporation	70.45	44.38	114.83
Kingston Hydro Corporation	101.01	63.63	164.64
Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc.	361.18	227.51	588.68
Lakefront Utilities Inc.	38.80	24.44	63.23
Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.	50.82	32.01	82.84
London Hydro Inc.	591.29	372.46	963.75
Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.	150.51	94.81	245.31
Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.	161.12	101.49	262.61
Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.	207.82	130.91	338.73
Niagara-on-the-lake Hydro Inc.	35.12	22.12	57.25
North Bay Hydro Distribution Limited	88.53	55.76	144.29
Northern Ontario Wires Inc.	21.60	13.61	35.21
Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.	269.99	170.07	440.06
Orangeville Hydro Limited	46.30	29.17	75.47
Oshawa PUC Networks Inc.	216.93	136.65	353.58
Ottawa River Power Corporation	41.72	26.28	68.01
PUC Distribution Inc.	123.00	77.48	200.48
Renfrew Hydro Inc.	15.84	9.98	25.81
Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.	21.50	13.54	35.04
Synergy North Corporation	207.33	130.60	337.93
Tillsonburg Hydro Inc.	28.18	17.75	45.94
Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited	2,840.35	1,789.14	4,629.49
Wasaga Distribution Inc.	51.95	32.72	84.67
Waterloo North Hydro Inc.	213.09	134.23	347.31
Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.	87.74	55.27	143.01
Westario Power Inc.	87.34	55.02	142.35
<b>Electricity Distribution Total (65%)</b>	<b>\$ 19,269.60</b>	<b>\$ 12,137.96</b>	<b>\$ 31,407.56</b>

Electricity Transmission System Owner/Operator	Pollution Probe	School Energy Coalition	Cost Awards
B2M Limited Partnership	202.05	127.27	329.32
Canadian Niagara Power Inc.	28.36	17.86	46.22
Five Nations Energy Inc.	48.76	30.72	79.48
Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie Inc. on behalf of	226.57	142.72	369.28
Niagara Reinforcement Limited Partnership	53.32	33.59	86.91
Hydro One Networks Inc.	9,816.88	6,183.67	16,000.54
<b>Electricity Transmission Total (35%)</b>	<b>\$ 10,375.94</b>	<b>\$ 6,535.82</b>	<b>\$ 16,911.76</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,645.54</b>	<b>\$ 18,673.78</b>	<b>\$ 48,319.32</b>

*\*total intervenor costs of \$143.42 was reallocated to the companies listed in the Schedule A based on the s.26 Cost Assessment Model to eliminate charges under \$25. This option is in line with the Practice Direction on Cost Awards (section 12.02).*