



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

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2018-0278

Activities and Program-based Benchmarking Initiative

By Delegation Before: Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection &
Industry Performance

April 6, 2023

OVERVIEW

On November 3, 2022, the OEB issued a [letter](#) indicating that further steps would be taken to enhance Activity and Program-based Benchmarking. In the letter, electricity distributors and other interested stakeholders were invited to a virtual meeting on November 30, 2022 to provide input on proposed enhancements to the Vegetation Management Operations & Maintenance (O&M) and Meters Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) programs. Stakeholders were also invited to share feedback through surveys posted on the [APB Engage with Us page](#).

The November 3, 2022 letter indicated that cost awards would be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, and that costs would be recovered from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors, apportioned based on their respective customer numbers.

The OEB issued a [Decision on Cost Eligibility](#) on December 7, 2022 that determined the following participants were eligible for cost awards (Eligible Participants):

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario (AMPCO)
- Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)
- Consumers Council of Canada (CCC)
- Environmental Defence
- London Property Management Association (LPMA)
- Pollution Probe
- School Energy Coalition (SEC)
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)

On February 16, 2023, the OEB issued a Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards (the Notice) setting out the maximum number of hours and eligible activities in relation to participation in the stakeholder meeting. The eligible activities and maximum number of hours are copied below for reference.

No.	Activity Eligible for Cost Awards	Maximum Number of Hours
1	Meeting Preparation and Reporting	4
2	Attendance and participation in the November 30, 2022 Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	3

The OEB received cost claims from AMPCO, BOMA, CCC, Pollution Probe and SEC. By e-mail, the Environmental Defence, LPMA and VECC stated that they would not file a cost claim. No objections were received.

OEB Findings

The OEB has reviewed the cost claims filed by AMPCO, BOMA, CCC, Pollution Probe and SEC to ensure they are compliant with the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

The OEB finds that the cost claims of AMPCO, BOMA, CCC, Pollution Probe and SEC are reasonable having considered the instructions provided in the OEB's letters regarding eligible activities. The OEB approves cost awards for the Eligible Participants as follows:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario | \$1,491.61 |
| • Building Owners and Managers Association | \$1,118.70 |
| • Consumers Council of Canada | \$1,211.93 |
| • Pollution Probe | \$1,864.50 |
| • School Energy Coalition | \$884.79 |

The OEB also approves an amount of \$95,400 for recovery of the OEB's costs of and incidental to this consultation from licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors.

Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amount payable by each licensed rate-regulated electricity distributor in relation to costs awarded to each Eligible Participant is listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order. However, the amounts will not be paid directly by the distributor to the Eligible Participant.

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 rate-regulated 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 several proceedings and consultations, including this consultation. The invoice will be sent out at the same time as the invoices for cost assessments under section 26 of the Act are sent out, and payment will be due while cost assessments are due.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Each licensed rate-regulated electricity distributor in Schedule A to this Decision and Order shall make a payment to the OEB in accordance with the amounts set out in Schedule A, upon receiving an invoice from the OEB.

DATED at Toronto April 6, 2023

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

Schedule A

OEB's Decision and Order on Cost Awards

EB-2018-0278

Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator	Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario	Building Owners & Managers Association	Consumer Council of Canada	Pollution Probe	School Energy Coalition	Cost Awards	OEB Costs	Total Costs
Algoma Power Inc.	3.41	2.56	2.77	4.26	2.02	15.02	218.05	233.07
Alectra Utilities Corporation	298.65	223.99	242.65	373.31	177.15	1,315.75	19,101.06	20,416.81
Atikokan Hydro Inc.	0.46	0.34	0.37	0.57	0.27	2.01	29.26	31.27
Bluewater Power Distribution Corporation	10.38	7.79	8.43	12.98	6.16	45.74	663.94	709.68
GrandBridge Energy Inc.	30.36	22.77	24.67	37.95	18.01	133.76	1,941.78	2,075.54
Burlington Hydro Inc.	19.28	14.46	15.67	24.10	11.44	84.95	1,233.21	1,318.16
Canadian Niagara Power Inc.	8.36	6.27	6.79	10.45	4.96	36.83	534.49	571.32
Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd.	2.05	1.54	1.66	2.56	1.21	9.02	130.99	140.01
EPCOR Electricity Distribution Ontario Inc	5.12	3.84	4.16	6.40	3.04	22.56	327.39	349.95
Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.	0.68	0.51	0.55	0.85	0.40	2.99	43.33	46.32

Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator	Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario	Building Owners & Managers Association	Consumer Council of Canada	Pollution Probe	School Energy Coalition	Cost Awards	OEB Costs	Total Costs
E.L.K. Energy Inc.	3.55	2.66	2.88	4.43	2.10	15.62	226.81	242.43
Entegrus Powerlines Inc.	17.04	12.78	13.84	21.30	10.11	75.07	1,089.67	1,164.74
Enwin Utilities Ltd.	25.34	19.00	20.59	31.67	15.03	111.63	1,620.54	1,732.17
ERTH Power Corporation	6.62	4.97	5.38	8.28	3.93	29.18	423.50	452.68
Espanola Regional Hydro Distribution Corporation	0.94	0.70	0.76	1.17	0.56	4.13	59.85	63.98
Essex Powerlines Corporation	8.62	6.47	7.01	10.78	5.11	37.99	551.45	589.44
Elexicon Energy	47.66	35.75	38.72	59.58	28.27	209.98	3,048.30	3,258.28
Enova Power Corp	44.28	33.21	35.98	55.35	26.27	195.09	2,832.03	3,027.12
Festival Hydro Inc.	6.09	4.57	4.95	7.61	3.61	26.83	389.45	416.28
Fort Frances Power Corporation	1.06	0.79	0.86	1.32	0.63	4.66	67.64	72.30
Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.	13.46	10.09	10.94	16.82	7.98	59.29	860.86	920.15
Grimsby Power Incorporated	3.29	2.46	2.67	4.11	1.95	14.48	210.14	224.62
Halton Hills Hydro Inc.	6.35	4.76	5.16	7.93	3.76	27.96	405.82	433.78

Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator	Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario	Building Owners & Managers Association	Consumer Council of Canada	Pollution Probe	School Energy Coalition	Cost Awards	OEB Costs	Total Costs
Hydro Hawkesbury Inc.	1.54	1.15	1.25	1.92	0.91	6.77	98.45	105.22
Hearst Power Distribution Company Limited	0.75	0.56	0.61	0.93	0.44	3.29	47.82	51.11
Hydro One Networks Inc.	397.35	298.01	322.86	496.73	235.75	1,750.70	25,415.33	27,166.03
Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.	1.20	0.90	0.98	1.50	0.71	5.29	76.96	82.25
Hydro Ottawa Limited	97.39	73.05	79.13	121.74	57.77	429.08	6,229.14	6,658.22
Innpower Corporation	5.42	4.07	4.41	6.78	3.22	23.90	346.77	370.67
Kingston Hydro Corporation	7.79	5.85	6.33	9.74	4.62	34.33	498.52	532.85
Lakefront Utilities Inc.	2.99	2.24	2.43	3.74	1.77	13.17	191.35	204.52
Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.	3.92	2.94	3.18	4.90	2.32	17.26	250.64	267.90
London Hydro Inc.	45.59	34.20	37.05	56.99	27.05	200.88	2,916.13	3,117.01
Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.	11.59	8.69	9.42	14.49	6.88	51.07	741.37	792.44
Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.	12.43	9.32	10.10	15.53	7.37	54.75	794.71	849.46
Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.	16.02	12.02	13.02	20.03	9.50	70.59	1,024.67	1,095.26

Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator	Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario	Building Owners & Managers Association	Consumer Council of Canada	Pollution Probe	School Energy Coalition	Cost Awards	OEB Costs	Total Costs
Niagara-on-the-lake Hydro Inc.	2.71	2.03	2.20	3.39	1.61	11.94	173.23	185.17
North Bay Hydro Distribution Limited	6.83	5.12	5.55	8.54	4.05	30.09	436.86	466.95
Northern Ontario Wires Inc.	1.67	1.25	1.35	2.08	0.99	7.34	106.63	113.97
Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.	20.81	15.61	16.91	26.01	12.34	91.68	1,330.93	1,422.61
Orangeville Hydro Limited	3.57	2.68	2.90	4.46	2.12	15.73	228.36	244.09
Oshawa PUC Networks Inc.	16.73	12.55	13.59	20.91	9.92	73.70	1,069.87	1,143.57
Ottawa River Power Corporation	3.22	2.41	2.61	4.02	1.91	14.17	205.79	219.96
PUC Distribution Inc.	9.49	7.12	7.71	11.86	5.63	41.81	607.02	648.83
Renfrew Hydro Inc.	1.22	0.92	0.99	1.53	0.72	5.38	78.15	83.53
Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.	1.66	1.24	1.35	2.07	0.98	7.30	106.10	113.40
Sioux Lookout Hydro Inc.	0.80	0.60	0.65	1.00	0.47	3.52	51.10	54.62
Synergy North Corporation	16.00	12.00	13.00	20.00	9.49	70.49	1,023.13	1,093.62
Tillsonburg Hydro Inc.	2.17	1.63	1.76	2.71	1.29	9.56	138.83	148.39

Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator	Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario	Building Owners & Managers Association	Consumer Council of Canada	Pollution Probe	School Energy Coalition	Cost Awards	OEB Costs	Total Costs
Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited	219.11	164.33	178.03	273.88	129.97	965.32	14,013.68	14,979.00
Wasaga Distribution Inc.	4.00	3.00	3.25	5.00	2.37	17.62	256.07	273.69
Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.	6.76	5.07	5.50	8.46	4.01	29.80	432.62	462.42
Wellington North Power Inc.	1.09	0.81	0.88	1.36	0.64	4.78	69.41	74.19
Westario Power Inc.	6.74	5.05	5.47	8.42	4.00	29.68	430.80	460.48
Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator Total	\$ 1,491.61	\$ 1,118.70	\$ 1,211.93	\$ 1,864.50	\$ 884.79	\$ 6,571.53	\$ 95,400.00	\$ 101,971.53
Grand Total	\$ 1,491.61	\$ 1,118.70	\$ 1,211.93	\$ 1,864.50	\$ 884.79	\$ 6,571.53	\$ 95,400.00	\$ 101,971.53

The OEB typically applies a \$25 threshold. Costs apportioned to companies based on customer numbers or transmitter revenues that fall under this threshold are re-allocated to companies that are invoiced an amount greater than \$25.

In this case, total costs of \$72.03 have been re-allocated to the companies listed in Schedule A to eliminate charges under \$25.