



DECISION ON COST ELIGIBILITY

EB-2023-0188

Evaluation of Policy on Utility Consolidations

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

August 18, 2023

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

On July 27, 2023, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a [letter](#) to initiate a consultation to engage stakeholders to review and update the OEB's *Handbook to Electricity Distributor and Transmitter Consolidations* (MAADs Handbook)¹, and associated *Filing Requirements for Consolidation Applications*. The letter indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible participants under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, and that costs awarded will be recovered from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors. The letter made provision for stakeholders to apply for eligibility and for rate-regulated licensed electricity distributors to object.

The following organizations applied for cost award eligibility:

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario (AMPCO)
- Consumers Council of Canada (CCC)
- Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe)
- School Energy Coalition (SEC)
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)

No objections were received in relation to these requests for cost award eligibility.

This cost eligibility decision is being issued by delegated authority under section 6 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

OEB FINDINGS

The OEB finds that AMPCO, CCC, Energy Probe, SEC and VECC are eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

As indicated in Appendix A to the OEB's July 27, 2023 letter, the OEB expects that groups representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and co-ordinate their participation in this process. The OEB reminds prospective participants that those efforts will be taken into account by the OEB in making a decision on the award of costs.

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants for participation in the initial meeting(s) with OEB staff to a maximum of actual meeting time plus 50% of meeting time for preparation and reporting. Details on subsequent consultation activities eligible for cost awards will be provided later, and any OEB determination(s) on limits on cost

¹ The MAADs Handbook uses the term consolidation to be inclusive of mergers, acquisitions, amalgamations and divestitures.

awards for later meetings and/or other activities will be provided in a separate communication.

DATED at Toronto August 18, 2023

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Brian Hewson
Vice President,
Consumer Protection & Industry Performance