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Energy
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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

October 3, 2023

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 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. That implementation plan was completed on August 2, 2023.

The December 2020 letter indicated that cost awards would 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 would 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 August 3, 2023, the OEB issued its [Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards](#) (August 2023 Notice) 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 one of the RPPAG meetings. SEC indicated that, while the maximum time allotted for RPPAG Meeting #1 was a total of 3 hours (representing 2 hours of meeting time plus 1 hour for preparation/reporting), SEC noted its records indicate the actual meeting time for RPPAG Meeting #1 was slightly over 3 hours.¹ SEC therefore requested that the OEB allow the additional time (1 additional hour, for a total of 4 hours for that meeting) and noted that since the OEB cost claim system does not allow for hours above the set maximum, the additional time was included under a different meeting – Municipal Information Document subgroup meeting.

Based on a review of SEC's detailed docket, the OEB notes that SEC's request was limited to one meeting and resulted in a minor adjustment of one hour. The OEB will allow the relief sought by SEC and that additional one hour will be attributed to the applicable RPPAG meeting. The OEB therefore also finds that SEC's claim is reasonable and within the maximum number of hours eligible for cost awards.

The OEB approves cost awards for the following eligible participants:

- Pollution Probe \$ 8,203.80
- School Energy Coalition \$ 2,121.01

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,

¹ The focus of that RPPAG meeting was obtaining final feedback for the purpose of finalizing the RPPAG's [Load Forecast Guideline for Ontario](#).

each licensed electricity distributor and transmitter 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 proceeding. 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 at the same time that cost assessments are due.

The OEB makes payment to each eligible participant once 80% of the costs have been recovered by the OEB.

As noted in the August 2023 Notice, with the Implementation Plan in the April 2022 letter now complete, cost awards will continue to be available to eligible participants in relation to any activities (e.g., RPPAG meetings) in the next phase of the RPPAG's work. The OEB will provide further direction regarding the next phase of the RPPAG's work and cost claims for the period after July 15, 2023, at the appropriate time.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Each rate regulated electricity distributor and transmitter listed 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 Act.

DATED at Toronto October 3, 2023

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection &
Industry Performance

Schedule A

OEB's Decision and Order on Cost Awards

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Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator	Pollution Probe	School Energy Coalition	Cost Awards
Alectra Utilities Corporation	\$ 1,104.58	\$ 285.58	\$ 1,390.16
Bluewater Power Distribution Corporation	\$ 38.22	\$ 9.88	\$ 48.10
Burlington Hydro Inc.	\$ 70.98	\$ 18.35	\$ 89.33
Canadian Niagara Power Inc.	\$ 31.02	\$ 8.02	\$ 39.04
Elexicon Energy Inc.	\$ 177.16	\$ 45.80	\$ 222.96
Enova Power Corp.	\$ 163.98	\$ 42.40	\$ 206.38
Entegrus Powerlines Inc.	\$ 63.51	\$ 16.42	\$ 79.93
Enwin Utilities Ltd.	\$ 93.51	\$ 24.18	\$ 117.69
ERTH Power Corporation	\$ 24.76	\$ 6.40	\$ 31.16
Essex Powerlines Corporation	\$ 31.91	\$ 8.25	\$ 40.16
Festival Hydro Inc.	\$ 22.62	\$ 5.85	\$ 28.47
GrandBridge Energy Inc.	\$ 114.44	\$ 29.59	\$ 144.03
Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.	\$ 49.43	\$ 12.78	\$ 62.21
Halton Hills Hydro Inc.	\$ 23.48	\$ 6.07	\$ 29.55
Hydro One Networks Inc.	\$ 1,486.98	\$ 384.45	\$ 1,871.43
Hydro Ottawa Limited	\$ 364.84	\$ 94.33	\$ 459.17
Kingston Hydro Corporation	\$ 28.91	\$ 7.47	\$ 36.38
London Hydro Inc.	\$ 169.49	\$ 43.82	\$ 213.31
Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.	\$ 43.46	\$ 11.23	\$ 54.69
Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.	\$ 45.97	\$ 11.89	\$ 57.86
Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.	\$ 59.65	\$ 15.42	\$ 75.07
North Bay Hydro Distribution Limited	\$ 28.53	\$ 7.38	\$ 35.91
Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.	\$ 77.56	\$ 20.05	\$ 97.61
Oshawa PUC Networks Inc.	\$ 61.99	\$ 16.03	\$ 78.02
PUC Distribution Inc.	\$ 34.97	\$ 9.04	\$ 44.01
Synergy North Corporation	\$ 58.80	\$ 15.20	\$ 74.00
Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited	\$ 811.30	\$ 209.75	\$ 1,021.05
Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.	\$ 25.43	\$ 6.57	\$ 32.00
Westario Power Inc.	\$ 24.99	\$ 6.46	\$ 31.45
Electricity Distribution Total (65%)	\$ 5,332.47	\$ 1,378.66	\$ 6,711.13
Electricity Transmission System Owner/Operator	Pollution Probe	School Energy Coalition	Cost Awards
B2M Limited Partnership	\$ 53.45	\$ 13.82	\$ 67.27
Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie Inc. on behalf of Hydro One S	\$ 70.99	\$ 18.35	\$ 89.34
Hydro One Networks Inc.	\$ 2,746.89	\$ 710.18	\$ 3,457.07
Electricity Transmission Total (35%)	\$ 2,871.33	\$ 742.35	\$ 3,613.68
Grand Total	\$ 8,203.80	\$ 2,121.01	\$ 10,324.81

Note: Total costs of \$304.95 were reallocated to the companies listed in Schedule A based on the Section 26 Cost Assessment Model to eliminate charges under \$25.