



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

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# **DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS**

## **EB-2023-0143**

### **ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

**Getting Ontario Connected Act Variance Account**

**BEFORE:** **Pankaj Sardana**  
Presiding Commissioner

**Fred Cass**  
Commissioner

**Patrick Moran**  
Commissioner

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**January 22, 2024**

## Overview

Following a written hearing initiated on its own motion, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) established a generic, sector-wide variance account called the Getting Ontario Connected Act Variance Account to track incremental costs of locates in 2023 and future years arising from the implementation of the *Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022*. The account is effective as of April 1, 2023.

In the OEB's Notice of Hearing and Procedural Order No. 1 dated August 1, 2023, the OEB granted cost eligibility to all intervenors who had been eligible for costs in the most recent cost of service proceeding for each of the "Large Utilities",<sup>1</sup> up to a maximum of six hours.

After the Decision and Order approving the account was issued, cost claims were filed by the Consumers Council of Canada (CCC), Energy Probe, Quinte Manufacturers Association (QMA), School Energy Coalition (SEC), and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC).

## Findings

The OEB has reviewed the cost claims to ensure that they are compliant with the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* (Practice Direction) and finds that those of CCC, Energy Probe, QMA, and SEC are reasonable. VECC's claim was for 7.25 hours, more than the six-hour maximum for this proceeding. The OEB will therefore disallow 1.25 hours.

The OEB approves cost awards for the eligible participants as follows:

• Consumers Council of Canada	\$1,491.60
• Energy Probe Research Foundation	\$2,108.70
• Quinte Manufacturers Association	\$791.00
• School Energy Coalition	\$1,802.36
• Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition	\$2,127.89

The approved costs will be apportioned amongst all rate-regulated electricity and gas distributors based on customer numbers.

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<sup>1</sup> The Large Utilities comprise Alectra Utilities Corporation, Elexicon Energy Inc., Enbridge Gas Inc., Hydro One Networks Inc., Hydro Ottawa Limited, Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc. and Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited.

## Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amount payable by each rate-regulated electricity and gas 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 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 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 proceeding. The invoice will be sent out at the same time as the invoices for cost assessments under section 26 of the OEB 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.

## THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Each electricity and gas 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. The payment shall be due at the same time as all other cost assessments under section 26 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.
2. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, each electricity and gas distributor listed in Schedule A shall pay the OEB's costs of and incidental to this proceeding immediately upon receipt of the OEB's invoice.

**DATED** at Toronto January 22, 2024

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Nancy Marconi  
Registrar

## Schedule A

## OEB's Decision and Order on Cost Awards

## EB-2023-0143

<b>Gas Distributor, Transmitter, Storage Company</b>	<b>Consumers Council of Canada</b>	<b>Energy Probe Research Foundation</b>	<b>Quinte Manufacturers Association</b>	<b>School Energy Coalition</b>	<b>Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition</b>	<b>Cost Awards</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Enbridge Gas Inc	\$745.80	\$1,054.35	\$395.50	\$901.18	\$1,063.95	\$4,160.78	\$4,160.78
<b>Gas Distribution Total (50%)</b>	<b>\$745.80</b>	<b>\$1,054.35</b>	<b>\$395.50</b>	<b>\$901.18</b>	<b>\$1,063.95</b>	<b>\$4,160.78</b>	<b>\$4,160.78</b>

<b>Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator</b>	<b>Consumers Council of Canada</b>	<b>Energy Probe Research Foundation</b>	<b>Quinte Manufacturers Association</b>	<b>School Energy Coalition</b>	<b>Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition</b>	<b>Cost Awards</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Alectra Utilities Corporation	\$167.47	\$236.76	\$88.81	\$202.36	\$238.91	\$934.31	\$934.31
Bluewater Power Distribution Corporation	\$5.80	\$8.19	\$3.07	\$7.00	\$8.27	\$32.33	\$32.33
Burlington Hydro Inc.	\$10.76	\$15.21	\$5.71	\$13.00	\$15.35	\$60.03	\$60.03
Elexicon Energy Inc.	\$26.86	\$37.97	\$14.24	\$32.46	\$38.32	\$149.85	\$149.85
Enova Power Corp.	\$24.86	\$35.15	\$13.18	\$30.04	\$35.47	\$138.70	\$138.70
Entegrus Powerlines Inc.	\$9.63	\$13.61	\$5.11	\$11.64	\$13.74	\$53.73	\$53.73
Enwin Utilities Ltd.	\$14.18	\$20.04	\$7.52	\$17.13	\$20.23	\$79.10	\$79.10
GrandBridge Energy Inc.	\$17.00	\$24.04	\$9.02	\$20.55	\$24.26	\$94.87	\$94.87
Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.	\$7.49	\$10.59	\$3.97	\$9.06	\$10.69	\$41.80	\$41.80
Hydro One Networks Inc.	\$225.44	\$318.73	\$119.56	\$272.41	\$321.60	\$1,257.74	\$1,257.74
Hydro Ottawa Limited	\$55.32	\$78.20	\$29.33	\$66.84	\$78.91	\$308.60	\$308.60
Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.	\$6.59	\$9.31	\$3.49	\$7.96	\$9.40	\$36.75	\$36.75
Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.	\$6.97	\$9.85	\$3.70	\$8.42	\$9.94	\$38.88	\$38.88

Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.	\$9.04	\$12.79	\$4.80	\$10.93	\$12.90	\$50.46	\$50.46
Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.	\$11.76	\$16.62	\$6.24	\$14.21	\$16.78	\$65.61	\$65.61
Oshawa PUC Networks Inc.	\$9.40	\$13.29	\$4.98	\$11.36	\$13.41	\$52.44	\$52.44
PUC Distribution Inc.	\$5.30	\$7.50	\$2.81	\$6.41	\$7.56	\$29.58	\$29.58
Synergy North Corporation	\$8.92	\$12.60	\$4.73	\$10.77	\$12.72	\$49.74	\$49.74
Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited	\$123.01	\$173.90	\$65.23	\$148.63	\$175.48	\$686.25	\$686.25
<b>Electricity Distribution Total (50%)</b>	<b>\$745.80</b>	<b>\$1,054.35</b>	<b>\$395.50</b>	<b>\$901.18</b>	<b>\$1,063.94</b>	<b>\$4,160.77</b>	<b>\$4,160.77</b>

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,491.60</b>	<b>\$2,108.70</b>	<b>\$791.00</b>	<b>\$1,802.36</b>	<b>\$2,127.89</b>	<b>\$8,321.55</b>	<b>\$8,321.55</b>
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Note: Total intervenor costs of \$357.92 were reallocated to the companies listed in the Schedule A based on the Sec.26 Cost Assessment Model to eliminate charges under \$25. This option is in line with the Practice Direction on Cost Awards (section 12.02).

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership	\$13.57
Algoma Power Inc.	\$9.47
Atikokan Hydro Inc.	\$1.25
Attawapiskat Power Corp.	\$0.40
Canadian Niagara Power Inc.	\$23.27
Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd.	\$5.72
Chapleau Public Utilities Corporation	\$0.95
Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.	\$1.89
E.L.K. Energy Inc.	\$9.47
EPCOR Electricity Distribution Ontario Inc.	\$14.32
ERTH Power Corporation	\$18.58
Essex Powerlines Corporation	\$23.94
Festival Hydro Inc.	\$16.96

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Fort Albany Power Corporation	\$0.23
Fort Frances Power Corporation	\$2.90
Grimsby Power Incorporated	\$9.19
Halton Hills Hydro Inc.	\$17.60
Hydro Hawkesbury Inc.	\$4.31
Hearst Power Distribution Company Limited	\$2.11
Hydro 2000 Inc.	\$0.98
Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.	\$3.38
Innpower Corporation	\$15.27
Kashechewan Power Corporation	\$0.34
Kingston Hydro Corporation	\$21.68
Lakefront Utilities Inc.	\$8.32
Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.	\$10.98
Niagara-on-the-lake Hydro Inc.	\$7.54
North Bay Hydro Distribution Limited	\$21.39
Northern Ontario Wires Inc.	\$4.60
Orangeville Hydro Limited	\$9.89
Ottawa River Power Corporation	\$8.95
Renfrew Hydro Inc.	\$3.38
Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.	\$4.62
Sioux Lookout Hydro Inc.	\$2.25
Tillsonburg Hydro Inc.	\$6.14
Wasaga Distribution Inc.	\$11.22
Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.	\$19.07
Wellington North Power Inc.	\$3.05
Westario Power Inc.	\$18.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$357.92</b>