

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

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2022-0267

Reporting and Record-keeping Requirements

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

April 12, 2024

OVERVIEW

On November 14, 2023, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a <u>letter</u> inviting stakeholders to attend a meeting on January 29, 2024 to hear about upcoming changes to the Reporting and Record-keeping Requirements (RRR), to provide input on potential future changes to the RRR and to provide feedback on other initiatives related to the RRRs.

That letter indicated that cost awards would be (i) available to eligible participants under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act), (ii) recoverable from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors, and (iii) available for participation in the stakeholder meeting to a maximum of actual meeting time plus 50% of meeting time for preparation and reporting. The letter also indicated that participants that were deemed eligible for cost awards in relation to a 2022 RRR stakeholder meeting did not need to reapply.

No applications for cost award eligibility were received, and in its January 25, 2024 <u>Decision on Cost Eligibility</u> the OEB confirmed that the following participants, all of which were deemed eligible for cost awards in relation to the 2022 RRR stakeholder meeting, are eligible for an award of costs under the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* in respect of the January 29, 2024 stakeholder meeting:

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario (AMPCO)
- Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)
- Consumers Council of Canada (CCC)
- Environmental Defence (ED)
- Pollution Probe (PP)
- School Energy Coalition (SEC)

On February 12, 2024, the OEB issued its <u>Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards</u> which set out, among other matters, the process for cost claims. The Notice also indicated the eligible activities and the maximum number of hours for which costs can be claimed as follows:

- Meeting preparation and reporting –Maximum of 1.5 hours
- Attendance and participation in the January 29, 2024 meeting –Maximum of 2 hours

The OEB received cost claims from AMPCO, BOMA, CCC, and SEC. ED and PP confirmed that they did not plan to file a cost claim. No objections to the cost claims filed by eligible participants were received from licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors.

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 the claims are reasonable and within the maximum number of hours eligible for cost awards as set out in the Notice of Hearing.

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

•	AMPCO	\$1,305.15
•	BOMA	\$1,305.15
•	CCC	\$1,305.15
•	SEC	\$655.40

Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amount payable by each licensed rate-regulated 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 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 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 consultation. 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 as 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 licensed rate-regulated electricity distributor listed 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.
- 2. Pursuant to section 30 of the OEB Act, each licensed electricity distributor shall pay the OEB's costs of and incidental to this consultation upon receipt of the OEB's invoice.

DATED at Toronto April 12, 2024

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Brian Hewson Vice President Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

Schedule A

OEB's Decision and Order on Cost Awards

EB-2022-0267

Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator	Association of Major Power Consumers	Building Owners & Managers Association	Consumer Council of Canada	School Energy Coalition	Cost Awards
Alectra Utilities Corporation	\$279.85	\$279.85	\$279.85	\$140.53	\$980.08
Bluewater Power Distribution Corporation	\$9.68	\$9.68	\$9.68	\$4.86	\$33.90
Burlington Hydro Inc.	\$17.98	\$17.98	\$17.98	\$9.03	\$62.97
Canadian Niagara Power Inc.	\$7.86	\$7.86	\$7.86	\$3.95	\$27.53
Elexicon Energy Inc.	\$44.88	\$44.88	\$44.88	\$22.54	\$157.18
Enova Power Corp.	\$41.55	\$41.55	\$41.55	\$20.86	\$145.51
Entegrus Powerlines Inc.	\$16.09	\$16.09	\$16.09	\$8.08	\$56.35
Enwin Utilities Ltd.	\$23.69	\$23.69	\$23.69	\$11.90	\$82.97
Essex Powerlines Corporation	\$8.09	\$8.09	\$8.09	\$4.06	\$28.33
GrandBridge Energy Inc.	\$28.41	\$28.41	\$28.41	\$14.27	\$99.50
Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.	\$12.52	\$12.52	\$12.52	\$6.29	\$43.85
Hydro One Networks Inc.	\$376.74	\$376.74	\$376.74	\$189.17	\$1,319.39
Hydro Ottawa Limited	\$92.43	\$92.43	\$92.43	\$46.42	\$323.71

Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator	Association of Major Power Consumers	Building Owners & Managers Association	Consumer Council of Canada	School Energy Coalition	Cost Awards
London Hydro Inc.	\$42.94	\$42.94	\$42.94	\$21.56	\$150.38
Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.	\$11.01	\$11.01	\$11.01	\$5.53	\$38.56
Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.	\$11.65	\$11.65	\$11.65	\$5.85	\$40.80
Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.	\$15.11	\$15.11	\$15.11	\$7.59	\$52.92
Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.	\$19.65	\$19.65	\$19.65	\$9.87	\$68.82
Oshawa PUC Networks Inc.	\$15.71	\$15.71	\$15.71	\$7.89	\$55.02
PUC Distribution Inc.	\$8.86	\$8.86	\$8.86	\$4.45	\$31.03
Synergy North Corporation	\$14.90	\$14.90	\$14.90	\$7.48	\$52.18
Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited	\$205.55	\$205.55	\$205.55	\$103.22	\$719.87
Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator Total	\$1,305.15	\$1,305.15	\$1,305.15	\$655.40	\$4,570.85
Grand Total	\$1,305.15	\$1,305.15	\$1,305.15	\$655.40	\$4,570.85

Note: Participant costs totaling \$326.36 were reallocated from certain distributors that are liable to pay cost assessments under section 26 of the OEB Act to the distributors listed in Schedule A to avoid any distributor paying costs that are less than \$25 in the aggregate for this consultation. This approach is in line with the Practice Direction on Cost Awards (section 12.02), or as otherwise determined by the Board.