



# **DECISION ON COST AWARD ELIGIBILITY**

**EB-2024-0199**

## **VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND SYSTEM HARDENING**

**By Delegation Before: Theodore Antonopoulos**  
Vice President  
Major Applications

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**Original Issue Date: July 18, 2024**

**Amended on: July 19, 2024**

## INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

On June 27, 2024, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a letter launching the Vulnerability Assessment and System Hardening (VASH) project. The letter indicated that cost awards would be available under section 30 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, which will be paid for by rate-regulated electricity distributors. The letter made provision for the stakeholders to apply for eligibility and for electricity distributors to object.

The following organizations applied for cost award eligibility:

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Coalition of Concerned Manufacturers and Businesses of Canada
- Consumers Council of Canada
- Energy Probe Research Foundation
- Pollution Probe
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition
- School Energy Coalition

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 DECISION

The OEB has determined that all eight organizations are eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

The OEB further notes that cost-award eligible participants with similar viewpoints should coordinate their activities to reduce costs. Such efforts will be accounted by the OEB during the decision on award of costs.

As mentioned in the OEB's June 27, 2024 letter, cost awards will be available to eligible participants of the initial stakeholder meeting, to a maximum of actual meeting time plus one hour for preparation. The meeting will be hosted on July 31, 2024.

Further consultation activities for which cost-award eligible participants may claim costs will be announced as the consultation progresses.

**DATED** at Toronto July 18, 2024

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Theodore Antonopoulos  
Vice President,  
Major Applications