



Ontario
Energy
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DECISION ON COST ELIGIBILITY

EB-2024-0126

Transmission Connections Review

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

August 6, 2024

1 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

On April 24, 2024, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a [letter](#) to initiate a review of the Transmission System Code's connection-related sections ([Transmission Connections Review](#)). The letter indicated that cost awards would be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, to eligible participants for their participation in the review, which will be paid for by all licensed electricity transmitters. The letter made provision for stakeholders to apply for cost award eligibility and for licensed electricity transmitters to object.

The OEB received requests for cost award eligibility from the following organizations:

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario (AMPCO)
- Distributed Resources Coalition (DRC)
- Energy Probe
- Lakeside Power Consulting (LPC)
- Minogi Corp. representing the interests of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and its members
- Pollution Probe
- Canadian Renewable Energy Association, Energy Storage Canada, and the Ontario Waterpower Association (REASCWA)
- School Energy Coalition (SEC)

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

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

FINDINGS

Having considered the cost eligibility criteria set out in section 3 of the *OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards* (Practice Direction), the OEB has determined that AMPCO, SEC and Minogi Corp. are granted eligibility given that they represent consumer groups which have an interest in this process. Energy Probe and Pollution Probe are granted eligibility given that they represent interests relevant to the Transmission Connections Review. While the OEB recognizes REASCWA and DRC represent groups that may have commercial interests that relate to the transmission system, the OEB accepts that the two organizations are able to contribute to the current consultation process by sharing insights on enabling resource connections and the implications of changes in the connection requirements to support the energy transition. Accordingly, the OEB

finds that both REASCWA and DRC are eligible for an award of costs in this proceeding.

In the case of LPC's application, the OEB finds that it is not eligible for an award of costs. According to its letter requesting cost award eligibility, LPC is a consultant whose clients are distributors and LPC is seeking funding as its only other source of funds would be through charging its client distributors. Subsection 3.05(b) of the *OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards* specifically states that distributors are not eligible for cost awards. Based on the provisions of the Practice Direction, LPC's clients are not eligible for a cost award and LPC has not identified any special circumstances that indicate LPC's distributor clients should be eligible for costs. In making its finding on cost award eligibility, the OEB wishes to emphasize that this in no way indicates that LPC is not welcome to participate on behalf of its distributor clients in the Transmission Connection Review.

As indicated in the OEB's April 24, 2024, letter, the OEB expects that participants representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and coordinate their participation in this process. Such efforts will be considered by the OEB in deciding on the award of costs.

Details regarding future meetings and activities regarding the Transmission Connections Review for which eligible participants may claim costs will be provided in a separate communication.

DATED at Toronto August 6, 2024

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Brian Hewson
Vice President,
Consumer Protection & Industry Performance