



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

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2023-0188

Evaluation of Policy on Utility Consolidations Consultation

By Delegation Before: Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President, Major Applications

August 16, 2024

OVERVIEW

On July 27, 2023, the OEB issued a [letter](#) launching a consultation to engage stakeholders to review and update the OEB's *Handbook to Electricity Distributor and Transmitter Consolidations*, and associated filing requirements.¹

The July 2023 letter indicated that cost awards would be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) to eligible participants. The OEB determined that costs awarded will be recovered from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors. The July 2023 letter stated that cost awards will be available to eligible participants for participation in a meeting with OEB staff to a maximum of actual meeting time plus 50% of meeting time for preparation and reporting.

The OEB issued a decision² on August 18, 2023 that determined the following participants in this consultation process were eligible to apply for an award of costs:

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario (AMPCO)
- Consumers Council of Canada (CCC)
- Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe)
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)
- School Energy Coalition (SEC)

On February 8, 2024, the OEB posted an OEB Staff Discussion Paper (the Paper), and invited stakeholders registered to participate in the consultation to provide written comments on the Paper.³ The OEB determined that cost awards will be available under section 30 of the *OEB Act, 1998* in relation to the provision of comments on the Paper. The OEB stated that cost awards will be available to participants already determined eligible to apply for an award of costs as per the OEB's August 2023 Decision on Cost Eligibility for the review of the Paper and preparation of written comments up to a maximum of 20 hours.

On July 4, 2024, the OEB issued a Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards in which it set out the process for cost claims in relation to the following eligible activities:

- (a) Participation in the meeting with OEB staff outlined in the OEB's letter dated July 27, 2023, launching the consultation.
- (b) Review of the OEB Staff Discussion Paper posted on February 8, 2024 and preparation of written comments.

¹ Originally issued in January 2016.

² EB-2023-0188, Decision on Cost Eligibility, August 18, 2023

³ EB-2023-0188, OEB Letter, February 8, 2024

The Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards specified that, with respect to item a), a total of 3.75 is the maximum number of hours for this activity for eligible participants.

The OEB received cost claims from AMPCO, CCC, Energy Probe, VECC, SEC. No objections were received from licensed electricity distributors.

FINDINGS

The OEB has reviewed the cost claims filed by AMPCO, CCC, Energy Probe, SEC, and VECC to ensure they were compliant with the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

The cost claims submitted by AMPCO, CCC, Energy Probe, SEC, and VECC are approved.

The OEB approves cost awards as follows:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| • AMPCO | \$7,830.91 |
| • CCC | \$5,127.38 |
| • Energy Probe | \$3,778.09 |
| • SEC | \$7,619.03 |
| • VECC | \$4,802.03 |

As stated in the OEB's July 2023 letter, the consultation's focus is on electricity distribution-related consolidations. The OEB has determined that all costs awarded are to be recovered from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors. Within the distributor class, costs awarded will be apportioned based on respective customer numbers as per the OEB's cost assessment model.

Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amount payable by each licensed electricity distributor in relation to costs awarded is listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order. 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 payment shall be due at the same time as all other cost assessments under section 26 of the OEB Act.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Each licensed rate-regulated electricity distributor 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.

DATED at Toronto August 16, 2024

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President, Major Applications

Schedule A

OEB's Decision and Order on Cost Awards

EB-2023-0188

| Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator | Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario | Consumer Council of Canada | Energy Probe Research Foundation | School Energy Coalition | Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition | Cost Awards |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Alectra Utilities Corporation | \$1,567.39 | \$1,026.27 | \$756.20 | \$1,524.98 | \$961.15 | \$5,835.99 |
| Algoma Power Inc. | \$17.95 | \$11.76 | \$8.66 | \$17.47 | \$11.01 | \$66.85 |
| Bluewater Power Distribution Corporation | \$54.34 | \$35.58 | \$26.22 | \$52.87 | \$33.32 | \$202.33 |
| Burlington Hydro Inc. | \$100.28 | \$65.66 | \$48.38 | \$97.57 | \$61.50 | \$373.39 |
| Canadian Niagara Power Inc. | \$44.31 | \$29.01 | \$21.38 | \$43.11 | \$27.17 | \$164.98 |
| Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd. | \$10.86 | \$7.11 | \$5.24 | \$10.57 | \$6.66 | \$40.44 |
| E.L.K. Energy Inc. | \$18.09 | \$11.85 | \$8.73 | \$17.61 | \$11.10 | \$67.38 |
| Elexicon Energy Inc. | \$253.56 | \$166.02 | \$122.33 | \$246.70 | \$155.49 | \$944.10 |
| Enova Power Corp. | \$233.66 | \$152.99 | \$112.73 | \$227.34 | \$143.29 | \$870.01 |
| Entegrus Powerlines Inc. | \$90.91 | \$59.53 | \$43.86 | \$88.45 | \$55.75 | \$338.50 |
| Enwin Utilities Ltd. | \$132.68 | \$86.87 | \$64.01 | \$129.09 | \$81.36 | \$494.01 |
| EPCOR Electricity Distribution Ontario Inc. | \$27.23 | \$17.83 | \$13.14 | \$26.49 | \$16.70 | \$101.39 |
| ERTH Power Corporation | \$35.51 | \$23.25 | \$17.13 | \$34.54 | \$21.77 | \$132.20 |
| Essex Powerlines Corporation | \$45.33 | \$29.68 | \$21.87 | \$44.10 | \$27.80 | \$168.78 |
| Festival Hydro Inc. | \$32.34 | \$21.17 | \$15.60 | \$31.46 | \$19.83 | \$120.40 |
| GrandBridge Energy Inc. | \$161.68 | \$105.86 | \$78.00 | \$157.30 | \$99.14 | \$601.98 |
| Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc. | \$69.83 | \$45.72 | \$33.69 | \$67.94 | \$42.82 | \$260.00 |
| Grimsby Power Incorporated | \$17.28 | \$11.32 | \$8.34 | \$16.81 | \$10.60 | \$64.35 |
| Halton Hills Hydro Inc. | \$33.35 | \$21.84 | \$16.09 | \$32.45 | \$20.45 | \$124.18 |
| Hydro Hawkesbury Inc. | \$8.19 | \$5.36 | \$3.95 | \$7.97 | \$5.02 | \$30.49 |
| Hydro One Networks Inc. | \$2,096.70 | \$1,372.84 | \$1,011.57 | \$2,039.97 | \$1,285.73 | \$7,806.81 |
| Hydro Ottawa Limited | \$522.55 | \$342.14 | \$252.11 | \$508.41 | \$320.43 | \$1,945.64 |
| Innpower Corporation | \$29.87 | \$19.56 | \$14.41 | \$29.06 | \$18.31 | \$111.21 |
| Kingston Hydro Corporation | \$40.76 | \$26.68 | \$19.66 | \$39.65 | \$24.99 | \$151.74 |
| Lakefront Utilities Inc. | \$15.78 | \$10.33 | \$7.61 | \$15.35 | \$9.67 | \$58.74 |

| Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator | Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario | Consumer Council of Canada | Energy Probe Research Foundation | School Energy Coalition | Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition | Cost Awards |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. | \$20.89 | \$13.68 | \$10.08 | \$20.33 | \$12.81 | \$77.79 |
| London Hydro Inc. | \$241.75 | \$158.29 | \$116.64 | \$235.21 | \$148.25 | \$900.14 |
| Milton Hydro Distribution Inc. | \$62.07 | \$40.64 | \$29.95 | \$60.39 | \$38.06 | \$231.11 |
| Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd. | \$65.22 | \$42.70 | \$31.47 | \$63.46 | \$39.99 | \$242.84 |
| Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc. | \$84.77 | \$55.50 | \$40.90 | \$82.48 | \$51.98 | \$315.63 |
| Niagara-on-the-lake Hydro Inc. | \$14.29 | \$9.36 | \$6.90 | \$13.91 | \$8.76 | \$53.22 |
| North Bay Hydro Distribution Limited | \$40.30 | \$26.39 | \$19.44 | \$39.21 | \$24.71 | \$150.05 |
| Northern Ontario Wires Inc. | \$8.65 | \$5.66 | \$4.17 | \$8.42 | \$5.30 | \$32.20 |
| Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc. | \$110.48 | \$72.34 | \$53.30 | \$107.49 | \$67.75 | \$411.36 |
| Orangeville Hydro Limited | \$18.70 | \$12.25 | \$9.02 | \$18.20 | \$11.47 | \$69.64 |
| Oshawa PUC Networks Inc. | \$88.58 | \$58.00 | \$42.74 | \$86.18 | \$54.32 | \$329.82 |
| Ottawa River Power Corporation | \$16.94 | \$11.09 | \$8.17 | \$16.49 | \$10.39 | \$63.08 |
| PUC Distribution Inc. | \$49.41 | \$32.35 | \$23.84 | \$48.08 | \$30.30 | \$183.98 |
| Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc. | \$8.71 | \$5.70 | \$4.20 | \$8.47 | \$5.34 | \$32.42 |
| Synergy North Corporation | \$83.12 | \$54.42 | \$40.10 | \$80.87 | \$50.97 | \$309.48 |
| Tillsonburg Hydro Inc. | \$11.92 | \$7.81 | \$5.75 | \$11.60 | \$7.31 | \$44.39 |
| Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited | \$1,150.98 | \$753.62 | \$555.30 | \$1,119.82 | \$705.80 | \$4,285.52 |
| Wasaga Distribution Inc. | \$21.64 | \$14.17 | \$10.44 | \$21.05 | \$13.27 | \$80.57 |
| Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp. | \$36.49 | \$23.89 | \$17.61 | \$35.50 | \$22.38 | \$135.87 |
| Westario Power Inc. | \$35.57 | \$23.29 | \$17.16 | \$34.61 | \$21.81 | \$132.44 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator Total | \$7,830.91 | \$5,127.38 | \$3,778.09 | \$7,619.03 | \$4,802.03 | \$29,157.44 |
| Grand Total | \$7,830.91 | \$5,127.38 | \$3,778.09 | \$7,619.03 | \$4,802.03 | \$29,157.44 |

| Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator | Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario | Consumer Council of Canada | Energy Probe Research Foundation | School Energy Coalition | Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition | Cost Awards |
|--|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
|--|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|

Note: Total intervenor costs of \$161.98 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).

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|---|---------------|
| Atikokan Hydro Inc. | 8.69 |
| Attawapiskat Power Corp. | 2.84 |
| Chapleau Public Utilities Corporation | 6.56 |
| Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc. | 13.82 |
| Fort Albany Power Corporation | 1.69 |
| Fort Frances Power Corporation | 20.09 |
| Hearst Power Distribution Company Limited | 14.59 |
| Hydro 2000 Inc. | 6.81 |
| Hydro One Remote Communities Inc. | 23.61 |
| Kashechewan Power Corporation | 2.36 |
| Renfrew Hydro Inc. | 23.53 |
| Sioux Lookout Hydro Inc. | 15.65 |
| Wellington North Power Inc. | 21.74 |
| Total | 161.98 |