



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

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2024-0046

NORTHERN ONTARIO WIRES INC.

**Application for for electricity distribution rates and other charges
beginning May 1, 2025**

BEFORE: **Pankaj Sardana**
Presiding Commissioner

Shahrzad Rahbar
Commissioner

May 6, 2025

OVERVIEW

Northern Ontario Wires Inc. (Northern Ontario Wires) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on August 30, 2024, under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998, seeking approval for changes to the rates Northern Ontario Wires charges for electricity distribution effective May 1, 2025.

The OEB granted School Energy Coalition (SEC) and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) intervenor status and cost award eligibility. Procedural Order No. 1 advised cost eligible intervenors that this application is part of the OEB's intervenor budget pilot project as set out in the OEB's 2025 Filing Requirements [letter](#) dated April 11, 2024. The cost award budget for these applications is \$20,000 per intervenor for the pilot project.

On March 18, 2025, the OEB issued its Decision and Rate Order in which it set out the process for cost claims.

The OEB received cost claims from SEC and VECC. No objections to the cost claims were received from Northern Ontario Wires.

SEC exceeded the \$20,000 budget. In its cost claim, SEC noted that the application involved several components that were both complex and atypical, and which may not have been accounted for in the initial OEB budget, which was informed by historical cost of service proceedings involving small utilities. SEC noted that Northern Ontario Wires last rebasing was in 2017. Other complicating factors were a proposal for an Advanced Capital Module, a proposal for a Standby Rate, and the correction of a cost allocation model error in a previous proceeding.

On a pre-tax basis, VECC did not exceed the \$20,000 budget.

Findings

The OEB has reviewed the claims filed to ensure that they are compliant with the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).

The OEB finds the cost claims reasonable and approves the claims as filed.

In approving the cost claims, the OEB acknowledges that this proceeding was subject to the \$20,000 budget pilot project. However, the complexities of Northern Ontario Wires's application were atypical for a cost of service application. The application involved novel and complex issues that required significant effort from intervenors.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, Northern Ontario Wires shall immediately pay the following amounts to the intervenors for their costs:

• School Energy Coalition	\$26,109.80
• Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition	\$20,751.61

DATED at Toronto May 6, 2025

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar