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DECISION ON COST ELIGIBILITY

EB-2025-0216

Streamlining Transmission Connections

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

August 26, 2025

On July 31, 2025 the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a [letter](#) to initiate a comprehensive review of electricity transmitter processes and requirements for connecting load customers in response to the Minister of Energy and Mines' [Integrated Energy Plan \(IEP\) Directive \(Streamlining Transmission Connections\)](#). The letter indicated that this review “will assess the reasonableness and timeliness of transmitter connection procedures and recommend changes that will streamline connections for load customers, make the process more efficient, and reduce overall connection timelines. The OEB will also consider whether transmission connection performance standards should be set for transmitters.”

The purposes of the letter were to request that industry participants, including load customers and associations of load customers, provide written input about the transmission connection process by August 15, 2025; to invite stakeholders to attend a virtual Streamlining Transmission Connections Forum to be held on August 27, 2025; and to outline subsequent steps that the OEB will take to support this work. Following the August 27th Forum, OEB staff will establish a working group, made up of load customers, transmitters and IESO representatives, to support OEB staff in the development of recommendations.

The OEB advised that cost awards would be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, which will be paid for by licensed electricity transmitters and that cost will be apportioned between them based on customer numbers. The letter made provision for stakeholders to apply for eligibility and for licensed electricity transmitters to object.

The following organizations applied for cost award eligibility:

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario (AMPCO)
- Pollution Probe

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 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 is granted eligibility given that it represents transmission-connected load customers with

knowledge of the transmission connection process and therefore a direct interest in this process.

In the case of Pollution Probe, the OEB finds that it is not eligible for an award of costs for this consultation. The OEB, in its July 31, 2025 letter, requested that industry participants, including load customers and associations of load customers, provide written input about their views and issues with the transmission connection process. In its letter requesting cost award eligibility, Pollution Probe has stated that it “represents a direct consumer and policy interest related to the issues outlined in the consultation.” However, in its August 12, 2025 email, Pollution Probe provided submissions regarding its interest in which it addressed matters that are not, in the OEB’s view, directly relevant to the scope of the Streamlining of Transmission Connections consultation, such as regional planning. Beyond this, the OEB’s letter clearly focused on participation from “load customers and associations of load customers”. This is a transmission connection-related proceeding. While the OEB is satisfied that AMPCO represents load customers with an interest in the transmission connection process, it is not satisfied that Pollution Probe represents customers of this kind.

In making its finding on cost award eligibility, the OEB wishes to emphasize that this in no way indicates that Pollution Probe is not welcome to participate in the Streamlining Transmission Connections forum to be held on August 27, 2025. It will not, however, be eligible for a cost award for its participation.

Details regarding future task force meetings and subsequent eligible activities for which eligible participants may claim costs will be provided in separate communication.

DATED at Toronto August 26, 2025

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Brian Hewson
Vice President,
Consumer Protection & Industry Performance