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

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2024-0199

Vulnerability Assessment and System Hardening Project

By Delegation Before: Kevin Mancherjee
Vice President
Electricity Networks

July 3, 2026

OVERVIEW

This Decision and Order on Cost Awards provides the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) determination on cost claims submitted by eligible participants in relation to their participation in the Vulnerability Assessment and System Hardening (VASH) project that was established to support local distribution companies in their climate resiliency planning.

On June 27, 2024, the OEB issued a letter launching the VASH project. This letter indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible participants under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) in relation to their participation in this consultation based on the criteria set out in the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards (Practice Direction).

The OEB issued its Decision on Cost Award Eligibility on July 18, 2024 (amended on July 19, 2024), which established that the following eight organizations were eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's Practice Direction:

- 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

The OEB issued a Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards (Notice) on May 6, 2026, inviting the eligible participants to submit cost claims for eligible activities in the consultation for the VASH project.

The OEB received cost claims from eight eligible participants. No objections to the cost claims were received from any licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors.

This Decision and Order on Cost Awards is issued by delegated authority under sections 6 and 30 of the OEB Act.

FINDINGS

The OEB has reviewed the claims filed to ensure that they are compliant with the Practice Direction.

All participants that filed cost claims are eligible for cost awards as found in the Decision on Cost Award Eligibility issued July 18, 2024 (as amended on July 19, 2024).

The Notice establishes a maximum number of hours that could be claimed for participation in and preparation for VASH meetings and review of the reports. The OEB must assess whether the hours claimed are reasonable, having regard to the maximum hours set out for each eligible activity in the Notice.

In reviewing the claims, the OEB has considered the actual duration of stakeholder meetings relative to the time scheduled. The OEB finds that, in certain instances, the hours claimed exceed what is reasonable based on the meeting runtimes and the maximum eligible hours previously communicated to participants. As a result, the OEB has made reductions to the claims of Pollution Probe, Consumers Council of Canada, and School Energy Coalition.

The OEB finds that the cost claims of the remaining eligible participants are reasonable.

The OEB approves cost awards for the eligible participants as follows:

Eligible Participant	Filed Amount	Awarded Amount
Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario	$8,925	$8,925
Building Owners and Managers Association	$7,505	$7,505
Coalition of Concerned Manufacturers and Businesses of Canada	$3,854	$3,854
Consumers Council of Canada	$8,560	$8,474
Energy Probe Research Foundation	$3,854	$3,854
Pollution Probe	$11,257	$10,345
School Energy Coalition	$7,875	$7,789
Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition	$3,731	$3,731

Additionally, the OEB also approves the amount of $469,435 for recovery from licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors associated with the OEB's costs of and incidental to this proceeding. This cost is related to the work conducted by Guidehouse Canada Limited in developing the VASH Framework and Toolkit, including the vulnerability assessment methodology, integration of value of lost load methodology, and benefit-cost analysis methodology applicable to licensed electricity distributors.

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 on Cost Awards. 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 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 ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Each licensed electricity distributor in Schedule A to this Decision and Order on Cost Awards 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 July 3, 2026

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Kevin Mancherjee
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Date: 2026.07.03 11:48:42 -04'00'

Kevin Mancherjee
Vice President,
Electricity Networks

Schedule A

Decision and Order on Cost Awards

EB-2024-0199

Schedule A

Decision and Order on Cost Awards

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Electricity Distribution System Operator	Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario	Building Owners & Managers Association	Coalition of Concerned Manufacturers and Businesses of Canada	Consumers Council of Canada	Energy Probe Research Foundation	Pollution Probe	School Energy Coalition	Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition	Cost Awards	OEB Cost	Total
Alectra Utilities Corporation	$1,759.46	$1,479.55	$759.77	$1,670.63	$759.77	$2,039.38	$1,535.63	$735.63	$10,739.82	$92,546.35	$103,286.17
Algoma Power Inc.	$20.26	$17.04	$8.75	$19.24	$8.75	$23.49	$17.69	$8.47	$123.69	$1,065.90	$1,189.59
Atikokan Hydro Inc.	$2.62	$2.21	$1.13	$2.49	$1.13	$3.04	$2.29	$1.10	$16.01	$138.03	$154.04
Attawapiskat Power Corp.	$0.86	$0.73	$0.37	$0.82	$0.37	$1.00	$0.75	$0.36	$5.26	$45.41	$50.67
Bluewater Power Distribution Corporation	$60.59	$50.95	$26.16	$57.53	$26.16	$70.23	$52.88	$25.33	$369.83	$3,186.96	$3,556.79
Burlington Hydro Inc.	$112.68	$94.75	$48.66	$106.99	$48.66	$130.61	$98.34	$47.11	$687.80	$5,926.86	$6,614.66
Canadian Niagara Power Inc.	$50.09	$42.12	$21.63	$47.56	$21.63	$58.05	$43.71	$20.94	$305.73	$2,634.50	$2,940.23
Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd.	$12.23	$10.29	$5.28	$11.62	$5.28	$14.18	$10.68	$5.12	$74.68	$643.54	$718.22
Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.	$4.38	$3.68	$1.89	$4.16	$1.89	$5.08	$3.82	$1.83	$26.73	$230.48	$257.21
E.L.K. Energy Inc.	$20.64	$17.36	$8.91	$19.60	$8.91	$23.92	$18.01	$8.63	$125.98	$1,085.67	$1,211.65
Elexicon Energy Inc.	$289.98	$243.85	$125.22	$275.34	$125.22	$336.12	$253.09	$121.24	$1,770.06	$15,252.92	$17,022.98
Enova Power Corp.	$264.70	$222.59	$114.30	$251.34	$114.30	$306.81	$231.03	$110.67	$1,615.74	$13,923.06	$15,538.80
Entegrus Powerlines Inc.	$102.83	$86.47	$44.41	$97.64	$44.41	$119.19	$89.75	$43.00	$627.70	$5,408.99	$6,036.69
Enwin Utilities Ltd.	$149.03	$125.32	$64.36	$141.51	$64.36	$172.74	$130.07	$62.31	$909.70	$7,839.09	$8,748.79
EPCOR Electricity Distribution Ontario Inc.	$30.86	$25.95	$13.33	$29.30	$13.33	$35.77	$26.94	$12.90	$188.38	$1,623.30	$1,811.68
ERTH Power Corporation	$40.43	$34.00	$17.46	$38.39	$17.46	$46.86	$35.29	$16.90	$246.79	$2,126.52	$2,373.31
Essex Powerlines Corporation	$51.10	$42.97	$22.06	$48.52	$22.06	$59.22	$44.60	$21.36	$311.89	$2,687.58	$2,999.47
Festival Hydro Inc.	$36.58	$30.76	$15.80	$34.73	$15.80	$42.40	$31.92	$15.29	$223.28	$1,923.99	$2,147.27
Fort Albany Power Corporation	$0.56	$0.47	$0.24	$0.53	$0.24	$0.64	$0.48	$0.23	$3.39	$29.22	$32.61
Fort Frances Power Corporation	$6.07	$5.10	$2.62	$5.76	$2.62	$7.03	$5.29	$2.54	$37.03	$319.09	$356.12
GrandBridge Energy Inc.	$186.80	$157.08	$80.66	$177.37	$80.66	$216.52	$163.04	$78.10	$1,140.23	$9,825.61	$10,965.84
Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.	$78.13	$65.70	$33.74	$74.18	$33.74	$90.56	$68.19	$32.66	$476.90	$4,109.38	$4,586.28
Grimsby Power Incorporated	$19.35	$16.27	$8.36	$18.37	$8.36	$22.43	$16.89	$8.09	$118.12	$1,017.76	$1,135.88
Halton Hills Hydro Inc.	$37.46	$31.50	$16.18	$35.57	$16.18	$43.42	$32.70	$15.66	$228.67	$1,970.59	$2,199.26
Hearst Power Distribution Company Limited	$4.34	$3.65	$1.87	$4.12	$1.87	$5.03	$3.79	$1.82	$26.49	$228.35	$254.84
Hydro 2000 Inc.	$2.07	$1.74	$0.90	$1.97	$0.90	$2.40	$1.81	$0.87	$12.66	$109.06	$121.72
Hydro Hawkesbury Inc.	$9.16	$7.70	$3.96	$8.70	$3.96	$10.62	$8.00	$3.83	$55.93	$481.91	$537.84
Hydro One Networks Inc.	$2,393.30	$2,012.54	$1,033.47	$2,272.46	$1,033.47	$2,774.04	$2,088.83	$1,000.64	$14,608.75	$125,885.39	$140,494.14
Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.	$8.46	$7.11	$3.65	$8.03	$3.65	$9.80	$7.38	$3.54	$51.62	$444.76	$496.38
Hydro Ottawa Limited	$602.18	$506.38	$260.03	$571.78	$260.03	$697.99	$525.58	$251.77	$3,675.74	$31,674.41	$35,350.15
Innpower Corporation	$38.08	$32.02	$16.44	$36.15	$16.44	$44.13	$33.23	$15.92	$232.41	$2,002.71	$2,235.12
Kashechewan Power Corporation	$0.74	$0.62	$0.32	$0.70	$0.32	$0.86	$0.64	$0.31	$4.51	$38.85	$43.36

Electricity Distribution System Operator	Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario	Building Owners & Managers Association	Coalition of Concerned Manufacturers and Businesses of Canada	Consumers Council of Canada	Energy Probe Research Foundation	Pollution Probe	School Energy Coalition	Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition	Cost Awards	OEB Cost	Total
Kingston Hydro Corporation	$46.04	$38.72	$19.88	$43.72	$19.88	$53.37	$40.18	$19.25	$281.04	$2,421.75	$2,702.79
Lakefront Utilities Inc.	$18.42	$15.49	$7.95	$17.49	$7.95	$21.35	$16.08	$7.70	$112.43	$968.85	$1,081.28
Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.	$23.93	$20.12	$10.33	$22.72	$10.33	$27.74	$20.89	$10.01	$146.07	$1,258.71	$1,404.78
London Hydro Inc.	$272.50	$229.15	$117.67	$258.74	$117.67	$315.85	$237.83	$113.93	$1,663.34	$14,333.32	$15,996.66
Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.	$71.38	$60.03	$30.82	$67.78	$30.82	$82.74	$62.30	$29.85	$435.72	$3,754.67	$4,190.39
Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.	$72.96	$61.35	$31.50	$69.27	$31.50	$84.56	$63.68	$30.50	$445.32	$3,837.49	$4,282.81
Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.	$95.84	$80.60	$41.39	$91.01	$41.39	$111.09	$83.65	$40.07	$585.04	$5,041.34	$5,626.38
Niagara-on-the-lake Hydro Inc.	$16.33	$13.73	$7.05	$15.51	$7.05	$18.93	$14.26	$6.83	$99.69	$859.11	$958.80
North Bay Hydro Distribution Limited	$45.12	$37.94	$19.48	$42.84	$19.48	$52.29	$39.38	$18.86	$275.39	$2,373.09	$2,648.48
Northern Ontario Wires Inc.	$9.64	$8.11	$4.16	$9.15	$4.16	$11.18	$8.41	$4.03	$58.84	$507.13	$565.97
Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.	$126.94	$106.75	$54.82	$120.54	$54.82	$147.14	$110.79	$53.08	$774.88	$6,677.16	$7,452.04
Orangeville Hydro Limited	$21.09	$17.74	$9.11	$20.03	$9.11	$24.45	$18.41	$8.82	$128.76	$1,109.44	$1,238.20
Oshawa PUC Networks Inc.	$101.86	$85.65	$43.98	$96.71	$43.98	$118.06	$88.90	$42.59	$621.73	$5,357.61	$5,979.34
Ottawa River Power Corporation	$19.07	$16.04	$8.24	$18.11	$8.24	$22.11	$16.65	$7.97	$116.43	$1,003.27	$1,119.70
PUC Distribution Inc.	$55.31	$46.51	$23.88	$52.51	$23.88	$64.10	$48.27	$23.12	$337.58	$2,909.03	$3,246.61
Renfrew Hydro Inc.	$7.16	$6.02	$3.09	$6.80	$3.09	$8.30	$6.25	$2.99	$43.70	$376.43	$420.13
Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.	$9.84	$8.27	$4.25	$9.34	$4.25	$11.40	$8.59	$4.11	$60.05	$517.53	$577.58
Sioux Lookout Hydro Inc.	$4.82	$4.05	$2.08	$4.57	$2.08	$5.58	$4.20	$2.01	$29.39	$253.31	$282.70
Synergy North Corporation	$92.94	$78.15	$40.13	$88.24	$40.13	$107.72	$81.11	$38.86	$567.28	$4,888.39	$5,455.67
Tillsonburg Hydro Inc.	$13.85	$11.65	$5.98	$13.16	$5.98	$16.06	$12.09	$5.79	$84.56	$728.75	$813.31
Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited	$1,288.45	$1,083.45	$556.39	$1,223.40	$556.39	$1,493.43	$1,124.54	$538.72	$7,864.77	$67,770.57	$75,635.34
Wasaga Distribution Inc.	$25.39	$21.35	$10.96	$24.11	$10.96	$29.43	$22.16	$10.62	$154.98	$1,335.57	$1,490.55
Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.	$42.53	$35.76	$18.36	$40.38	$18.36	$49.29	$37.12	$17.78	$259.58	$2,236.85	$2,496.43
Wellington North Power Inc.	$7.11	$5.98	$3.07	$6.75	$3.07	$8.24	$6.20	$2.97	$43.39	$373.87	$417.26
Westario Power Inc.	$40.22	$33.82	$17.37	$38.19	$17.37	$46.62	$35.10	$16.82	$245.51	$2,115.52	$2,361.03
Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator Total	**$8,924.76**	**$7,504.90**	**$3,853.87**	**$8,474.17**	**$3,853.87**	**$10,344.59**	**$7,789.38**	**$3,731.45**	**$54,476.99**	**$469,435.00**	**$523,911.99**
Grand Total	$8,924.76	$7,504.90	$3,853.87	$8,474.17	$3,853.87	$10,344.59	$7,789.38	$3,731.45	$54,476.99	$469,435.00	$523,911.99