



EB-2010-0249

IN THE MATTER OF the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O., 1998, c. 15, Schedule B;*

AND IN THE MATTER OF cost award eligibility for interested parties in the consultation process regarding the development of electricity distribution system reliability standards.

BEFORE: Marika Hare
Presiding Member

Cathy Spoel
Board Member

DECISION ON COST ELIGIBILITY

On August 23, 2010, the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") issued a letter to interested parties introducing a consultation process the Board intends to follow to implement a system reliability standards regime for licensed Ontario electricity distributors.

On October 1, 2010, the Board issued its Decision on Cost Eligibility for the first phase of this initiative and found that the following participants were eligible for an award of costs: the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario; the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters; Energy Probe Research Foundation ("EP"); the London Property Management Association; the School Energy Coalition; and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (collectively, the "eligible participants").

On November 23, 2011, Board staff issued a letter (the “November 23rd letter”) to the participants in consultation EB-2010-0249, that announced Phase Two of the initiative, which involves the formation of a Reliability Data Working Group (the “Working Group”), that will meet to discuss issues related to improving the quality of the reliability data that distributors monitor and report to the Board. The November 23rd letter stated that cost awards for participating in the Working Group would be considered once the membership of the group was determined.

On January 25, 2012, Board staff issued a letter that set out the membership of the Working Group. Among the members of the Working Group is EP. As EP has already been found to be eligible for an award of costs in Phase One of this project, the Board finds that EP remains eligible for costs in Phase 2 of this initiative. None of the other eligible participants from the first phase are participating in the Working Group in Phase Two.

Cost awards will be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for the preparation and attendance at the Working Group meetings (currently proposed to be three meetings of a duration of one half day each) including any written submissions that may be requested, to **a maximum of 30 hours**. Costs will not be awarded for case management activities.

Costs awarded will be recovered from all licensed electricity distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

When determining the amount of the cost awards, the Board will apply the principles set out in section 5 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* and the maximum hourly rates set out in the Board’s Cost Awards Tariff will be applied.

The Board will use the process set out in section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards. Therefore, the Board will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process. For more information on this process, please see the Board’s *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* and the October 27, 2005 letter regarding the rationale for the Board acting as a clearing house for the cost award payments. These documents can be found on the Board’s website at www.ontarioenergyboard.ca on the “Rules, Guidelines and Forms” webpage.

All materials related to this consultation will be available for public viewing on the Board's web site at www.ontarioenergyboard.ca and at the office of the Board during normal business hours.

ISSUED AT Toronto, February 3, 2012

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary