



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 September 18, 2013, the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") announced the launch of an initiative to establish specific performance standards for the Board's existing system reliability measures and to develop and implement new customer specific reliability measures.

To assist in the achievement of the objectives of this initiative, the Board is reconvening the working group that met in February and March 2012, and provided advice leading to the June 2013 amendments to the system reliability provisions in the Board's Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements. Energy Probe Research Foundation is an original member of this working group. In recognition of the expanded interests of consumers in this initiative, the Board also invited the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario to join the working group, as the key representative of large power users in the province. As well, the Board invited the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition to participate in recognition of the interests of the stakeholder's they represent, and the experience of their consultant with both distributor operations, and the Board's other renewed regulatory framework initiatives.

The Board has determined that all three organizations are eligible for an award of costs, and in the circumstances has waived the process for objections which would otherwise have applied in accordance with the Board's cost awards process.

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 five full-day meetings, to a **maximum of 50 hours**.

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, October 02, 2013

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary