



EB-2012-0397

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 encouragement of electricity distributor efficiency.

BEFORE: Marika Hare
Presiding Member

Cathy Spoel
Member

SUPPLEMENTAL DECISION ON COST ELIGIBILITY

On February 11, 2013, the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") issued a letter (the "February Letter") giving notice of an initiative to assess how the Board's approach to the regulation of electricity distributors may affect their ability to realize operational or organizational efficiencies that benefit customers. In the February Letter, the Board also indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the "Act") in relation to preparing for and attendance at a stakeholder meeting, to a maximum of 10 hours, and further stated that costs awarded would be recovered from all licensed electricity distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

Although this initiative has not yet been completed, the Board determined it expedient to address cost eligibility for this consultation, as well as cost awards in relation to participation in the earlier stages of this consultation. To that end, the Board issued a Decision on Cost Eligibility and Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards on March 14, 2013. On March 15, 2013, the School Energy Coalition ("SEC") submitted a late request to be

granted cost eligibility. SEC apologized for the late filing and stated that, as they had participated in the Board's consultant survey, they mistakenly believed that their cost eligibility would be deemed.

Electricity distributors were given an opportunity to file any objections they might have in relation to the eligibility of SEC for an award of costs. No objections were filed.

Based on the criteria set out in section 3 of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*, the Board has determined that SEC is eligible for an award of costs in this consultation process. The Board is also adding SEC as a party to the cost awards hearing initiated by the Board's March 14, 2013 Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards. The Board understands that SEC has filed a cost claim within the timeline established for that purpose in that Notice of Hearing.

ISSUED at Toronto, April 3, 2013

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kristen Walli
Board Secretary