



EB-2012-0246

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF cost awards in relation to a Policy
Review of Micro-Embedded Generation Connection Issues.

BEFORE Marika Hare
Presiding Member

Cathy Spoel
Member

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS
September 4, 2013

Background

On May 15, 2012 the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) issued a [letter](#) (the “May Letter”) initiating a consultation process to improve the connection process for micro-embedded generation.

In the May Letter, the Board indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to their participation in the consultation activities described above, and that costs to be awarded will be recovered from all licensed electricity distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

In accordance with the [Decision on Cost Eligibility](#) issued by the Board on July 27, 2012, the following stakeholders (collectively, the “Eligible Participants”) have been determined to be eligible for an award of costs in relation to this initiative:

- Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (“CME”);
- Green Energy Coalition and ecoPerth;

- Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce (“NOACC”);
- Pollution Probe; and
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (“VECC”).

The activity for which cost awards are available in this consultation is the provision of written comments on the December 20, 2012 Board Staff Discussion Paper (the “Discussion Paper”) as set out in the [letter](#) accompanying the Discussion Paper, up to a maximum of 20 hours.

On July 3, 2013 the Board issued a [Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards](#) (“the Notice”) for the consultation activities. [CME](#), [NOACC](#), and [VECC](#) submitted cost claims. No objections to the filed cost claims were received.

Green Energy Coalition and ecoPerth and Pollution Probe neither submitted cost claims nor comments on the Discussion Paper.

Board Findings

The Board has reviewed the cost claims and finds that the claims filed by the following participants are within the approved overall limits set by the Board: CME, NOACC, and VECC. The Board therefore finds that these participants are entitled to 100% of their reasonably incurred costs of participating in this consultation process.

Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amount payable by each distributor in relation to costs awarded to each eligible participant is listed in Appendix A to this Decision and Order. However, the amounts will **not** be paid directly by the distributor to the participant.

The Board will use the process set out in section 12 of the Board’s *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 relating to this consultation process. Invoices will be issued to distributors at the same time as the invoices for cost assessments are made under section 26 of the Act. The practice of the Board is to issue to each licensed distributor one invoice that covers all cost awards payable by the distributor for the relevant period. As a result, the invoice may cover cost awards payable in relation to a number of consultations, including this one.

THE BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:

1. The amounts to be paid by each individual licensed distributor in relation to the costs awarded to each eligible participant are as set out in **Appendix A** to this Decision and Order. These amounts are NOT to be paid directly by the distributor to the participant.
2. The distributors listed in **Appendix A** to this Decision and Order shall pay the Board's costs of, and incidental to, this consultation.
3. The payment of cost awards referred to in paragraph 2 and of the Board's costs referred to in paragraph 3 shall be made to the Ontario Energy Board in accordance with the invoice issued to each distributor, and shall be due at the same time as cost assessments under section 26 of the Act are due.

DATED at Toronto, September 4, 2013

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary