



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

DECISION ON COST ELIGIBILITY

EB-2015-0043

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

cost award eligibility for interested parties and stakeholders
participating in the consultation on commercial and industrial rate
design

BEFORE: **Cathy Spoel**
Presiding Member

Christine Long
Member

January 7, 2016

In its May 28, 2015 [Letter regarding consultation and cost eligibility](#), the OEB announced its intention to initiate development of new distribution rates for commercial and industrial customers. At the same time, the OEB invited parties to express interest in participating in the consultation process.

The letter stated that costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated electricity distributors apportioned amongst these entities on a pro-rata basis relative to their contributions to the OEB's annual cost assessment.

On November 2, 2015, the OEB received a late request for cost eligibility from the following:

- [Energy Storage Ontario Inc.](#)

The OEB has accepted the request despite the late filing. Electricity distributors were given an opportunity to file any objection they might have in relation to the eligibility of the above-noted participant for an award of costs. The OEB did not receive any objections from electricity distributors.

Energy Storage Ontario Inc. is acting as an association of entities with a commercial interest and would not usually be eligible for an award of costs. However, the OEB has a mandate to promote both demand management and the use of energy from renewable energy sources in a manner consistent with the policies of the Government of Ontario. The OEB finds, therefore, that under section 3.04 of the Practice Direction, Energy Storage Ontario Inc. serves an interest that is relevant to the Board's mandate and to the context of this initiative.

The OEB has therefore determined that Energy Storage Ontario Inc. is eligible for cost awards in relation to their participation in any future eligible activities in relation to the consultation.

The OEB reminds all participants that cost awards will be available in relation to participation in eligible activities. This cost eligibility decision will apply to any further eligible activities in this process. Eligible activities will be announced as the project progresses.

DATED at Toronto January 7, 2016

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary