



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

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## **DECISION AND ORDER**

**EB-2020-0163**

**EB-2020-0186**

**AMENDING THE INDEPENDENT ELECTRICITY SYSTEM  
OPERATOR'S LICENCE TO REQUIRE IT TO ASSIST WITH  
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COVID-19 ENERGY  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE COVID-19 ENERGY  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – SMALL BUSINESS**

**BY DELEGATION, BEFORE:** **Brian Hewson**  
Vice President,  
Consumer Protection & Industry  
Performance

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**Issued: March 3, 2021**  
**Revised: March 4, 2021**

## INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB), of its own motion, is amending the licence of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to reflect amendments that were recently made to the licences of licensed electricity distributors and licensed unit sub-meter providers (collectively Utilities) in regard to the implementation of the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) and the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program – Small Business (CEAP-SB). Specifically, the OEB is amending the IESO’s licence to allow it to reimburse Utilities for credits provided under the CEAP program from their funding allocation for the CEAP-SB program and for credits provided by Utilities under the CEAP-SB program from their funding allocation for the CEAP program.

This Decision and Order is being issued by Delegated Authority without a hearing pursuant to section 6(4) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act).

## BACKGROUND AND DECISION

Based on guidance provided through a number of letters from the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and the Associate Minister of Energy, the OEB made a number of amendments to the Utilities’ licences that require them to administer the CEAP and CEAP-SB programs. The OEB also issued licence amendments requiring the IESO to assist with the implementation of CEAP (on [June 18, 2020](#)) and CEAP-SB (on [August 10, 2020](#)). Additional CEAP and CEAP-SB related licence amendments were issued for Utilities on [January 14, 2021](#), and for the IESO on [January 18, 2021](#).

On March 3, 2021 the OEB issued additional amendments to the licences of the Utilities with respect to CEAP and CEAP-SB, further to a letter received from the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines on March 1, 2021. These amendments allow Utilities to effectively “pool” any remaining funds allocated to them for CEAP and CEAP-SB and to use that pool of funds to provide credits for eligible customers under either program once their funding allocation under one of the programs has been depleted. The OEB is therefore making consequential amendments to the IESO’s licence to reflect this pooling approach and to ensure that funding can be distributed to Utilities accordingly.

The new IESO licence conditions are effective immediately. All other licence conditions in the IESO’s licence relating to CEAP and CEAP-SB remain unchanged.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. Sections 23 and 24 of the IESO's licence are amended and a new Section 25 is added to reflect the changes described in this Decision and Order as set out in Attachment A.

**DATED** at Toronto March 4, 2021

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original Signed By*

Brian Hewson  
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**IESO LICENCE AMENDMENT**  
**EB-2020-0163 & EB-2020-0186**

## IESO Licence

- 23.2 Subject to paragraph 25.1, the Licensee shall distribute to Utilities the funds it receives from the Government of Ontario for the purposes of CEAP in accordance with paragraphs 23.3 to 23.6.
- 23.6 The Licensee shall not reimburse a Utility an amount greater than the total aggregated amount of CEAP and CEAP-SB funding that has been allocated to that Utility by the Board.
- 24.2 Subject to paragraph 25.1, the Licensee shall distribute to Utilities the funds it receives from the Government of Ontario for the purposes of CEAP-SB in accordance with paragraphs 24.3 to 24.6.
- 24.6 The Licensee shall not reimburse a Utility an amount greater than the total aggregated amount of CEAP-SB and CEAP funding that has been allocated to that Utility by the Board.

## **25 Settlement of CEAP and CEAP-SB from Pooled Funds**

- 25.1 Subject to paragraphs 23.6 and 24.6, further to a claim by a Utility the Licensee shall reimburse the Utility:
- (a) for credits provided by the Utility under CEAP from funds the Licensee receives from the Government for the purposes of CEAP-SB; and
  - (b) for credits provided by the Utility under CEAP-SB from funds the Licensee receives from the Government for the purposes of CEAP.

Defined terms used in this paragraph have the meanings given to them in paragraphs 23.1 and 24.1.