



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

---

# DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

## EB-2023-0135

**Low-income Energy Assistance Program – Emergency  
Financial Assistance Review**

**By Delegation Before:** **Brian Hewson**  
Vice President, Consumer Protection &  
Industry Performance

---

**October 24, 2024**

## OVERVIEW

On July 19, 2023, a [letter](#) issued by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) initiated a review of the Low-income Energy Assistance Program - Emergency Financial Assistance (LEAP EFA) and invited members of the Financial Assistance Working Group (FAWG) to participate.<sup>1</sup> FAWG members that were deemed eligible for cost awards in previous OEB consultations were deemed eligible for the current consultation. The letter indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible participants under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) and that costs awarded would be recovered from rate-regulated licensed electricity distributors and rate-regulated natural gas distributors (collectively, rate-regulated distributors). The OEB also noted that FAWG members deemed eligible for cost awards in previous OEB consultations would be allowed up to 8 hours for their preparation and participation in a virtual meeting scheduled for August 16, 2023.

On November 21, 2023, the OEB Staff Report on the LEAP EFA Review (Report) was issued together with a [letter](#) inviting comment on the Report. The letter also noted that cost awards would be available to eligible participants in respect of the review and submission of written comments on the Report for up to 5 hours per participant.

On August 29, 2024, the OEB issued its Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards (Notice). The Notice also set out, among other matters, the process for submitting cost claims along with the eligible activities and the maximum number of hours for which costs can be claimed as detailed in the letters referenced above.

The OEB received cost claims from CCC and LIEN. No objections to the cost claims were received from any of the rate-regulated distributors.

### Findings

The OEB has reviewed the cost claims filed to ensure they are compliant with the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* (Practice Direction). The OEB finds that the cost claims are reasonable and within the maximum number of hours eligible for cost awards.

The OEB approves cost awards for the eligible participants as follows:

- |        |            |
|--------|------------|
| • CCC  | \$2,050.95 |
| • LIEN | \$1,819.30 |

### Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amounts payable by each rate-regulated distributor in relation to costs awarded to each eligible participant are listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order. However, the amounts will not be paid directly by the rate-regulated distributors to the eligible participants.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of the Practice Direction to implement the payment of the approved cost awards whereby the OEB will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards. Consistent with this process, each rate-

---

<sup>1</sup> The FAWG is made up of distributors, lead and intake agencies, staff from the Ministry of Energy and Electrification and low-income advocacy and consumer groups and was established to advise on the initial design and implementation of LEAP EFA.

regulated distributor is issued one invoice that covers all cost awards payable for the relevant period. As a result, the invoice may cover cost awards payable in relation to a number of proceedings and consultations, including this proceeding.

The invoice will be sent out at the same time as the invoices for cost assessments under section 26 of the OEB Act are sent out, and payment will be due at the same time that cost assessments are due. The OEB makes payment to each eligible participant once 80% of the costs have been recovered by the OEB.

**THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:**

1. Each rate-regulated distributor in Schedule A to this Decision and Order shall make a payment to the OEB in accordance with the amounts set out in Schedule A, upon receiving an invoice from the OEB.

**DATED** at Toronto October 24, 2024

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Brian Hewson  
Vice President  
Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

**Schedule A**  
**Decision and Order on Cost Awards**  
**EB-2023-0135**

<b>Gas Distributor, Transmitter, Storage Company</b>	<b>Consumers Council of Canada</b>	<b>Low Income Energy Network</b>	<b>Cost Awards</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Enbridge Gas Inc	\$1,025.48	\$909.65	\$1,935.13	\$1,935.13

<b>Gas Distribution Total (50%)</b>	<b>\$1,025.48</b>	<b>\$909.65</b>	<b>\$1,935.13</b>	<b>\$1,935.13</b>
---	-------------------	-----------------	-------------------	-------------------

<b>Electricity Distribution System Owner/Operator</b>	<b>Consumers Council of Canada</b>	<b>Low Income Energy Network</b>	<b>Cost Awards</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Alectra Utilities Corporation	\$248.30	\$220.26	\$ 468.56	\$468.56
Elexicon Energy Inc.	\$40.17	\$35.63	\$ 75.80	\$75.80
Enova Power Corp.	\$37.02	\$32.84	\$ 69.86	\$69.86
Enwin Utilities Ltd.	\$21.02	\$18.64	\$ 39.66	\$39.66
GrandBridge Energy Inc.	\$25.61	\$22.72	\$ 48.33	\$48.33
Hydro One Networks Inc.	\$332.44	\$294.89	\$627.33	\$627.33
Hydro Ottawa Limited	\$82.78	\$73.43	\$156.21	\$156.21
London Hydro Inc.	\$38.30	\$33.97	\$72.27	\$72.27
Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.	\$17.50	\$15.53	\$33.03	\$33.03
Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited	\$182.33	\$161.74	\$344.07	\$344.07

<b>Electricity Distribution Total (50%)</b>	<b>\$1,025.47</b>	<b>\$909.65</b>	<b>\$1,935.12</b>	<b>\$1,935.12</b>
---	-------------------	-----------------	-------------------	-------------------

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,050.95</b>	<b>\$ 1,819.30</b>	<b>\$3,870.25</b>	<b>\$3,870.25</b>
--------------------	-------------------	--------------------	-------------------	-------------------

Note: Total intervenor costs of \$351.55 were reallocated to the companies listed in Schedule A to eliminate charges below the \$25 materiality threshold adopted by the OEB in Sec. 26 of the *Cost Assessment Model* and in section 12.02 of the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* .

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership	\$7.13
Algoma Power Inc.	\$4.41
Atikokan Hydro Inc.	\$0.58
Attawapiskat Power Corp.	\$0.19
Bluewater Power Distribution Corporation	\$13.36
Burlington Hydro Inc.	\$24.64
Canadian Niagara Power Inc.	\$10.89
Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd.	\$2.66
Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.	\$0.92
E.L.K. Energy Inc.	\$4.45
Entegrus Powerlines Inc.	\$22.34
EPCOR Electricity Distribution Ontario Inc.	\$6.70
ERTH Power Corporation	\$8.72
Essex Powerlines Corporation	\$11.14
Festival Hydro Inc.	\$7.95
Fort Albany Power Corporation	\$0.11
Fort Frances Power Corporation	\$1.34
Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.	\$17.16
Grimsby Power Incorporated	\$4.25
Halton Hills Hydro Inc.	\$8.19
Hearst Power Distribution Company Limited	\$0.98
Hydro 2000 Inc.	\$0.45
Hydro Hawkesbury Inc.	\$2.02
Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.	\$1.57
Innpower Corporation	\$7.34
Kashechewan Power Corporation	\$0.15
Kingston Hydro Corporation	\$10.02
Lakefront Utilities Inc.	\$3.87
Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.	\$5.13
Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.	\$15.25
Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.	\$16.02
Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc.	\$20.83
Niagara-on-the-lake Hydro Inc.	\$3.51
North Bay Hydro Distribution Limited	\$9.90
Northern Ontario Wires Inc.	\$2.13
Orangeville Hydro Limited	\$4.60
Oshawa PUC Networks Inc.	\$21.76
Ottawa River Power Corporation	\$4.17
PUC Distribution Inc.	\$12.14
Renfrew Hydro Inc.	\$1.57
Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.	\$2.14
Sioux Lookout Hydro Inc.	\$1.04
Synergy North Corporation	\$20.42
Tillsonburg Hydro Inc.	\$2.93
Wasaga Distribution Inc.	\$5.32
Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.	\$8.97
Wellington North Power Inc.	\$1.45
Westario Power Inc.	\$8.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 351.55</b>