



EB-2008-0313

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 relation to the provision of comments on
proposed amendments to the Gas Distribution Access Rule
to provide a standardized regulatory framework for the
collection and administration of security deposits.

BEFORE: Cynthia Chaplin
Presiding Member

Ken Quesnelle
Board Member

DECISION ON COST ELIGIBILITY

On October 8, 2008, the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) issued a Notice of Proposal to Amend a Rule (the “Notice”) under section 45 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* giving notice of proposed amendments to the Gas Distribution Access Rule (“GDAR”) to provide a standardized regulatory framework for the collection and administration of security deposits.

The Notice provided that cost awards would be available to eligible persons in relation to the provision of comments on the proposed amendments to the GDAR to a maximum of 20 hours, and that any costs awarded would be recovered from all rate-regulated gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

The Board received requests for cost eligibility from the following interested parties:

- Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (“CME”);
- Industrial Gas Users Association (“IGUA”);
- School Energy Coalition (“SEC”); and
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (“VECC”).

Gas distributors were provided with an opportunity to object to any of the requests for cost award eligibility. The Board did not receive any objections from distributors.

Based on the criteria set out in section 3 of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*, the Board has determined that CME, IGUA, SEC and VECC are eligible for an award of costs in this process.

DATED at Toronto, November 12, 2008.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary