



ECRC ~ SIMEC

JUSTIFICATION DOCUMENT

**AMENDED MEMBERSHIP FEES 2024
REGISTRATION FEES & BULK OIL CARGO FEES**

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This document details the manner in which the amended fees were established and provides supporting financial information.

1.0 MEMBERSHIP FEES

The membership fees for ECRC are shown below.

1.1 Registration Fee

The Registration Fees have been amended and are shown below for information purposes only.

APPLICABLE TO	Current Fee in effect until Mar. 31, 2024	New Fee Effective April 1, 2024	COVERAGE AREA
Member - Oil Handling Facility (OHF)	\$450 per OHF	\$775 per OHF	Within the Geographic Area of Response of Eastern Canada Response Corporation (All regional areas)
Member - Ship Bulk Oil and Ship Non-Bulk Oil	\$450 per Ship	\$775 per Ship	Applicable to a ship that navigates or engages in a marine activity within a 500-kilometer radius from its home port and within ECRC's GAR.
Member - Ship Bulk Oil and Ship Non-Bulk Oil	\$750 per Ship	\$1050 per Ship	Applicable to a ship that navigates or engages in a marine activity: (a) Beyond a 500-kilometer radius from its home port, and within ECRC's GAR, ALERT's GAR or PTM's GAR or; (b) From a port not within ECRC's GAR and within ECRC's GAR, ALERT's GAR or PTM's GAR.

1.2 Bulk Oil Cargo Fee Rate (BOCFR) Great Lakes Region, Quebec/Maritimes Region and Newfoundland Region

The amended BOCFRs for the Great Lakes, the Quebec/Maritimes and the Newfoundland Regions are provided below;

APPLICABLE REGION	PRODUCT/S	CURRENT APPROVED BOCF RATES	AMENDED BOCF RATES January 1, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024	NEW BOCF RATES Effective January 1, 2025
Great Lakes Region	Oil other than Asphalt	78.00 ¢ per tonne	57.00 ¢ per tonne	78.00 ¢ per tonne
	Asphalt	39.00 ¢ per tonne	28.50 ¢ per tonne	39.00 ¢ per tonne
Quebec/ Maritime Region	Oil other than Asphalt	32.60 ¢ per tonne	28.00 ¢ per tonne	34.70 ¢ per tonne
	Asphalt	16.30 ¢ per tonne	14.00 ¢ per tonne	17.40 ¢ per tonne
Newfoundland Region	Oil other than Asphalt	11.20 ¢ per tonne	12.16 ¢ per tonne	11.90 ¢ per tonne
	Asphalt	5.60 ¢ per tonne	6.08 ¢ per tonne	5.90 ¢ per tonne

2.0 BASIS FOR CALCULATION OF MEMBERSHIP FEES

The basis for establishing the Registration Fee and the Bulk Oil Cargo Fee is shown below.

2.1 Registration Fee

- A fixed annual fee.
- Applicable to all members of ECRC
- Represent approximately 10% to 15% of total preparedness cost of ECRC.

2.2 Bulk Oil Cargo Fee (BOCF)

- Cost per tonne.
- A Bulk Oil Cargo Fee Rate (BOCFR) has been established for each of three regional areas within ECRC. The regional areas are Great Lakes Region, Quebec/Maritimes Region and the Newfoundland Region.
- The BOCF for each regional area is calculated by multiplying the regional Bulk Oil Cargo Fee Rate (BOCFR) by the applicable quantity of bulk oil cargo loaded or unloaded within the regional area.
- The BOCFR for the regional area is calculated by dividing the forecast annual *Net Expense*¹ of the regional area by the forecast *Annual Volume*² of bulk oil cargo to be loaded or unloaded within the regional area.
- *Net Expense* = Debt servicing + operating costs including depreciation + return on equity less revenue from forecasted registration fees plus/minus excess/shortfall in bulk oil cargo fees advances collected in the previous year.
- *Annual Volume* = Total volume of bulk oil unloaded + total volume of bulk oil loaded for international destinations and North of 60 within the regional area.
- The above formula for the BOCFR was endorsed by the participants at the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Meeting held in Toronto, June 1 – 5, 1998
- The BOCFR calculated by the above formula is applicable to all products except asphalt. The BOCFR for asphalt is 50% of the rate for other products.

3.0 SUPPORTING FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Review of 2023 results;

- Total net revenues (other than BOCF) were 32% or \$861,000 higher than forecasted in the company's 2023 fee application;
 - Total net revenues for Great Lakes region, were \$248,000 higher –
 - Arrangement Fees were \$7,700 higher, Service Revenues – Net was \$4,500 higher and Interest on Deposits was \$235,800 higher.
 - Total net revenues for Quebec/Maritimes region were \$613,000 higher –
 - Arrangement Fees were \$97,000 higher, Service Revenues – Net was \$208,000 higher and Interest on Deposits \$308,000 higher.

- Total operating expenses before interest and taxes were \$549,000 below amounts forecasted in our fee application (Great Lakes \$176,000, Quebec/Maritimes \$280,000, Newfoundland and Labrador \$93,000).
- Annual volume levels used to set the 2023 BOCFR were based on 2022 actuals combined with estimates provided, where applicable, by stakeholders at the beginning of the reporting period. Variance of actuals over estimates for each region were as follows;
 - Great Lakes region - volumes were 18.7% higher than forecasted (505,000 tonnes)
 - Quebec/Maritimes region - volumes were 9% higher than forecasted (2,086,000 tonnes)
 - Newfoundland region - volumes were 12% lower than forecasted (2,949,000 tonnes)

As prescribed by the fee setting formula excess/(shortfall) in BOCF advances collected in the previous year (2023) will be applied to the following year's (2024) estimate of fees. Therefore, for the 2024 fee application we will be applying the following amounts: Great Lakes region excess of \$734,000; Quebec/Maritimes region excess of \$1,290,000; Newfoundland and Labrador region shortfall of \$187,000.

2024

Financial forecast:

The financial information used in establishing the "2024" and "2025" BOCFR is shown in Appendix 1. These notes are in reference to the financial information shown in Appendix 1.

Note 1 – Service revenue net

This category includes all project revenue earned through the provision of marine oil spill response services and training services and is net of all direct costs incurred to earn the revenue. These costs include a provision for accelerated depreciation on equipment used for the project when applicable. Given the nature of this source of revenue it is company policy to be conservative when forecasting future revenue streams (inherent limitations in attempting to forecast emergencies). Therefore, the forecast for this revenue stream was established without considering the potential for major spills occurring during the year. All revenues earned in this category are accounted for in the year earned.

Note 2 – Interest

This category includes forecasted interest earned on short term investments. Excess cash is invested in interest bearing accounts.

Note 3 – Other

This category includes all other types of revenue.

Note 4 – Employee cost

This category includes wages & salaries, statutory benefits (EI, CPP), non-statutory benefits (23% of salaries), as well as any direct employee expense such as training, memberships, etc. The company's forecast is for 52 full time employees.

Note 5 – Travel & living

This category includes expenses incurred while employees are travelling outside their normal place of business. Expenses are those that correspond to the company's preparedness mandate. All travel expenses resulting from the provision of spill response services or associated services are charged directly to the applicable project. All travel expenses are subject to company policies and procedures.

Note 6 – Administration

This category includes all computer, communications, facilities, office rent (excluding rent on warehouse space) and general office expenses.

Note 7 – Professional fees

This category includes legal, audit and consulting fees.

Note 8 – Training & exercise

This category includes two main elements; the cost of training contractors and advisors and the cost of delivering the exercise program included in the company's certification response plan.

Training – The Company maintains a complement of approximately 466 contractors and 156 advisors trained annually;

- Great Lakes – Approximately 70 contractors and 33 regional advisors
- Quebec/Maritimes - Approximately 321 contractors and 63 regional advisors
- Newfoundland - Approximately 75 contractors and 42 regional advisors
- Approximately 18 advisors at the National level

Exercises – The Company will conduct 20 mandatory operational and table top exercises and 36 notification exercises in 2024, all as required under its response plan submitted to Transport Canada for certification purposes.

Please refer to the Training and Exercise section of ECRC's web site at www.ecrc-simec.ca for further details on our training and exercise programs.

Note 9 – Operations

This category includes costs related to the operation and maintenance of the company's marine equipment, vehicles and other spill equipment. The company maintains in excess of \$95,000,000 of spill response equipment (refer to equipment specifications provided on ECRC's web site at www.ecrc-simec.ca). Comprehensive preventative maintenance programs have been developed to ensure adequate equipment readiness.

Note 10 – Building & warehouse

This category includes all direct costs related to the operation and maintenance of its warehouse facilities. The company operates facilities in the following locations;

- Corunna, Ontario – 19,446 square feet
- Verchères Québec – 21,850 square feet
- Québec, Québec – 30,880 square feet
- Sept Iles, Québec – 24,660 square feet
- Dartmouth, Nova Scotia – 25,000 square feet
- St John's Newfoundland and Labrador – 36,000 square feet

Note 11 – Depreciation and Amortization

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided for over the estimated useful service lives of capital assets, using the straight-line method.

Note 12 – Non-Operating

This category includes those expenses not directly linked to the company's day to day operations and is of a one-time nature.

Note 13 – Non recurring – operations

Certain items of equipment have been in use for an extended period of time and require periodic or major maintenance. Expenditures such as painting of barges and rewiring of sea trucks do not fall into the Capital category or in regular annual operating budget.

Note 14 – Overhead

This category includes the region's portion of the corporate office expense. A centralized corporate management approach has been taken to realize cost efficiencies through the sharing of resources, providing a single point of contact for client servicing and facilitating spill management coordination. The activities of the corporate office include; general management, coordination of the Health and Safety program, client contact and contracting, administration of the active data-base of 2500 members, spill management coordination, development and maintenance of a Spill Management System (ICS) and centralized accounting and administration as well as Federal and Provincial government relationships.

Note 15 – Inter region costs

This category includes shared costs paid by one region on behalf of another, as prescribed, by the agreement endorsed by the participants of the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Meeting held in Toronto, June 1-5, 1998.

Note 16 – Interest on long term debt

This category includes all interest paid on debt owed to third parties. Long term debt is used to finance significant equipment purchases. The level and term of the debt financing is set proportionately with the company's ability to repay debt through annual depreciation charges as this is the only non-cash item available for this purpose. The outstanding long-term debt as at January 01 2024 - \$17.3 million.

Note 17 – Return on equity

This category includes the cost of providing the shareholders with a preset rate of return on actual capital invested of \$9,525,000. The rate of return on capital invested approved by the Board of Directors for 2024 is 7.88% after tax. For forecasting purposes, the 2024 rate of return was also used for the 2025 fee application. The after-tax rate of return on common equity calculated by the Canada Energy Regulator is used by Management as a guide for establishing the rate of return on equity.

Note 18 – Provision for taxes

This category includes the provision for taxes payable as determined in accordance with the recommendations of the Accounting Standards Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, Section 3465 - Income Taxes. An effective tax rate of 28% was used as a guide to calculate the provision for taxes.

Note 19 – Deferred from prior years

Consistent with agreed upon principles, this category represents the items brought forward from previous years that impact on the current year fees. For the 2024 fee application, the excess / shortfall in bulk oil cargo fees advances collected in 2023 have been brought forward and applied against the 2024 bulk oil cargo fee requirement.

4.0 CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information with respect to this document can be obtained by contacting Tanya Alvaro, President at 613 230-7369.

**APPENDIX 1
SUPPORTING FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

		2024			2025		
		Great Lakes Region	Quebec/ Maritimes Region	Nfld Region	Great Lakes Region	Quebec/ Maritimes Region	Nfld Region
Revenue (other than BOCF)							
Arrangement fees		\$ 375,000	1,250,000		\$ 460,000	1,540,000	
Services revenue - net	Note 1	100,000	200,000		100,000	200,000	
Interest	Note 2	100,000	125,000		60,000	80,000	
Other	Note 3	210,000	630,000		210,000	630,000	
Total Revenue		\$ 785,000	\$2,205,000	\$0	\$ 830,000	\$2,450,000	\$0
Expenses							
Employee costs	Note 4	\$ 786,000	2,626,000	739,000	\$ 810,000	2,704,000	761,000
Travel & living	Note 5	36,000	121,000	38,000	37,000	125,000	39,000
Administration	Note 6	196,000	465,000	137,000	201,000	478,000	141,000
Professional fees	Note 7	36,000	51,000	18,000	37,000	53,000	18,000
Training & exercise	Note 8	263,000	895,000	279,000	271,000	922,000	287,000
Operations	Note 9	265,000	1,011,000	172,000	273,000	1,041,000	178,000
Building & warehouse	Note 10	318,000	1,664,000	431,000	327,000	1,714,000	444,000
Depreciation & amortization	Note 11	323,000	972,000	324,000	375,000	975,000	325,000
Non operating	Note 12						
Non recurring - operations	Note 13	50,000	150,000	50,000	50,000	150,000	50,000
Overhead allocation	Note 14	406,000	1,217,000	406,000	418,000	1,253,000	418,000
Inter region cost	Note 15	(22,000)	(58,000)		(290,000)	210,000	
Total Expenses		\$ 2,657,000	\$9,114,000	\$2,594,000	\$2,509,000	\$9,625,000	\$2,661,000
Cost of Capital							
Interest on long term debt	Note 16	182,000	485,000	180,000	231,000	617,000	228,000
Return on equity (after tax)	Note 17	179,000	428,000	143,000	179,000	428,000	143,000
Total Cost of Capital		\$ 361,000	\$ 913,000	\$ 323,000	\$ 410,000	\$1,045,000	\$ 371,000
Provision for Tax	Note 18	\$ 69,500	\$ 166,000	\$ 56,000	\$ 69,500	\$ 166,000	\$ 56,000
BOCF Revenue Required		\$ 2,302,500	\$7,988,000	\$2,973,000	\$2,158,500	\$8,386,000	\$3,088,000
Deferred from prior years	Note 19	\$ 734,000	\$1,290,000	\$ (187,000)			
BOCF Revenue Required Under Current Fee Application		\$ 1,568,500	\$6,698,000	\$3,160,000	\$2,158,500	\$8,386,000	\$3,088,000
Tonnes under current fee application							
- Oil other than asphalt		2,600,000	23,810,000	25,960,000	2,600,000	24,000,000	26,000,000
- Asphalt		300,000	270,000	45,000	335,000	270,000	65,000
BOCF Rate per tonne							
- Oil other than asphalt		0.570	0.280	0.1216	0.780	0.347	0.119
- Asphalt		0.285	0.140	0.0608	0.390	0.174	0.059