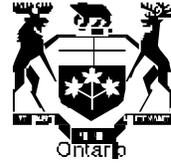


Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street
Suite 2700
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Telephone: 416- 481-1967
Facsimile: 416- 440-7656
Toll free: 1-888-632-6273

Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario
C.P. 2319
2300, rue Yonge
Suite 2700
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Téléphone: 416- 481-1967
Télécopieur: 416- 440-7656
Numéro sans frais: 1-888-632-6273



BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

February 04, 2015

**To: All Rate-regulated Electricity Distributors
All Rate-regulated Electricity Transmitters
Consumers Council of Canada
Energy Probe Research Foundation
Housing Help Association of Ontario
Low Income Energy Network
Salvation Army Centre of Hope
Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Low-Income Assistance Strategy Review
Board File No.: EB-2014-0227**

Background

On [October 23, 2014](#), the Board issued a letter (the “Letter”) regarding its Low-Income Assistance Strategy Review initiative. The Letter invited interested stakeholders to provide input on the development of an ongoing ratepayer-funded bill assistance program for low-income electricity customers, as one facet of a broader review of strategies that the Board might employ, directly or indirectly, to assist those consumers.

The Letter stated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to their participation in eligible activities forming part of the Board’s Low-Income Assistance Strategy Review initiative, and that any costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated electricity distributors and transmitters. In its October 31, 2014 [Decision on Cost Eligibility](#), the Board confirmed that costs awarded would be apportioned between distributors and transmitters as follows: (i) 75% will be apportioned to distributors and 25% will be apportioned to transmitters; and (ii) within each class, costs will be apportioned based on distribution or transmission revenues, as applicable.

In accordance with the Board's October 31, 2014 [Decision on Cost Eligibility](#) and its November 25, 2014 [Supplemental Decision on Cost Eligibility](#), the following are eligible for an award of costs in relation to this initiative: Consumers Council of Canada; Energy Probe Research Foundation; Housing Help Association of Ontario; Low Income Energy Network; Salvation Army Centre of Hope; and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (collectively, the "Eligible Participants").

In accordance with the Letter, cost awards are available for: (i) preparing written comments on Board staff's questions, up to a maximum of 10 hours; and (ii) preparation for, attendance at and reporting on the stakeholder forum held on November 6, 2014, to a maximum of 15 hours.

With the exception of the Salvation Army Centre of Hope, all of the Eligible Participants either provided written comments on Board staff's questions, participated in the stakeholder forum or both.

Notice of Hearing

The Board is initiating this hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards that may be made in accordance with section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to the consultation process on the Low-Income Assistance Strategy Review. The file number for this hearing is **EB-2014-0227**.

The Board intends to proceed by way of written hearing unless a party can satisfy the Board that there is a good reason for not holding a written hearing. If a party wants to object to a written hearing, the objection must be received by the Board no later than **7 days** after the date of this Notice.

If the Board does not receive any objections to a written hearing, the hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. Eligible Participants shall submit their cost claims by **February 18, 2015**. A copy of the cost claim must be filed with the Board and one copy is to be served on each rate-regulated electricity distributor and each rate-regulated electricity transmitter. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. As contemplated

in the *Practice Direction*, the cost claim form has been customized for this consultation. Eligible participants must use the customized form that is attached as Attachment A to this Notice.

2. Electricity distributors and transmitters will have until **March 2, 2015** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. A copy of the objection must be filed with the Board and one copy must be served on the Eligible Participant against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. The Eligible Participant whose cost claim was objected to will have until **March 9, 2015** to make a reply submission as to why its cost claim should be allowed. A copy of the reply submission must be filed with the Board and one copy is to be served on the objecting distributor or transmitter.
4. The Board will then issue its decision on cost awards. The Board's costs may also be addressed in the cost awards decision.

Service of cost claims, objections and reply submissions on other parties may be effected by courier, registered mail, facsimile or e-mail.

All submissions in this hearing (i.e., cost claims, objections, or replies) will form part of the public record. Copies of the submissions will be available for inspection at the Board's office and the submissions may be published on the Board's website.

Parties must file two paper copies and one electronic copy of their submissions with the Board Secretary by **4:45 pm** on the required dates. The Board requests that parties make every effort to provide electronic copies of their filings in searchable/unrestricted Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format, and to submit their filings through the Board's web portal at <https://www.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/>. A user ID is required to submit documents through the Board's web portal. If you do not have a user ID, please visit the "e-filings services" webpage on the Board's website at www.ontarioenergyboard.ca, and fill out a user ID password request. Additionally, parties are requested to follow the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the document entitled "RESS Document Preparation – A Quick Guide" also found on the e-filing services webpage. If the Board's web portal is not available, electronic copies of filings may be filed by e-mail at boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca. Those that do not have internet access should provide a CD containing their filing in PDF format.

All submissions must quote file number **EB-2014-0227** and include your name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, and fax number.

If you do not file a letter objecting to a written hearing or do not participate in the hearing by filing written submissions in accordance with this Notice, the Board may proceed without your participation and you will not be entitled to further notice in this proceeding.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

Attachment A: Form for Cost Claim

Attachment "A"

Form for Cost Claim

Ontario Energy Board
COST CLAIM FOR CONSULTATIONS
Statement of Fees Being Claimed



File # EB- 2014-0227

Process Low-Income Assistance Strategy Review

Party _____

HST Rate: _____

Individual Whose Fees are Being Claimed	Hourly rate	Written Comments on Board Staff's Questions	Nov 6, 2014 Stakeholder Forum	Subtotal	HST	Total
		Eligible Participant	Eligible Participant			
		<i>Up to 10 hours</i>	<i>Up to 15 hours</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals:				\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Total legal/consultant fees:		\$0.00