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BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

June 29, 2015

**To: All Natural Gas Distributors
All Participants in the Consultation Process EB-2014-0134
Other Stakeholders**

**Re: Natural Gas Conservation Potential Study EB-2015-0117
Formation of the Demand Side Management Technical Working Group**

This letter establishes the composition of the Demand Side Management Technical Working Group (DSM TWG) that will support the completion of the natural gas efficiency potential study.

Background

On April 7, 2015, the OEB issued a [letter](#) initiating a nomination process for the formation of the DSM TWG. The DSM TWG will provide input and advice to the OEB staff overseeing the natural gas energy efficiency potential study.

In its April 7, 2015 letter, the OEB requested nominations from non-utility stakeholders for three experts with demonstrated experience and expertise in the areas of conservation potential studies, natural gas energy efficiency technologies, evaluation of DSM technologies and programs, energy modeling and /or market research to participate in the DSM TWG.

The OEB also requested nominations for representatives from the natural gas utilities, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), the Ministry of Energy (MOE), and the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO). The OEB also indicated that it would appoint one or two additional independent experts to the DSM TWG.

Formation of the DSM TWG

The OEB received four nominations from non-utility stakeholders. The OEB has selected all four expert candidates proposed by non-utility stakeholders and one independent expert to participate in the DSM TWG. In selecting the candidates proposed by non-utility stakeholders, the OEB considered the diversity of their expertise, their participation in similar OEB proceedings and working groups and their experience with the Ontario natural gas sector. Another important factor in the selection was the ability to represent stakeholders. The selected candidates are expected to provide input and advice based on their experience and technical expertise and not to advocate positions of parties they have represented before the OEB in various proceedings. The selected candidates are:

- Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group
- Ian Jarvis, Enerlife Consulting
- Jay Shepherd, Jay Shepherd Professional Corporation
- Marion Fraser, Fraser & Company

The OEB has also appointed Dan York, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) as an independent expert. The OEB may engage the services of other consultants during the course of the study as required.

In addition, the following representatives were nominated by their respective organizations to participate in the DSM TWG:

- Andy Armitage, Thunder Bay Hydro Electric Distribution
- Bronwen Smith, IESO
- Mike Parkes, ECO
- Musab Qureshi, MOE
- Suzette Mills, Enbridge Gas
- Tracey Brooks, Union Gas

Meetings

The DSM TWG meetings may include both in-person meetings and webinars, and will occur around key study milestones, such as development of the scope of the work, review of the consultant's proposed methodology, review of efficient technologies included in the study, and review of draft and final reports. Participants will be notified of the meetings in advance. Meetings will begin in July 2015.

Communications

Agendas and meeting minutes will be posted on the OEB's website.

Other stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment before the study is finalized. The study will be completed by June 2016.

Cost Awards

Cost awards will be available under Section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* to eligible persons in relation to their participation in the DSM TWG or other consultations during the course of the energy efficiency potential study. Details will be provided at the appropriate time. Costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

Schedule A contains information regarding cost awards for this initiative, including eligibility requests and objections. In order to facilitate a timely decision on cost eligibility, the deadlines for filing cost eligibility requests and objections will be strictly enforced.

If you have any questions regarding this consultation process, please contact Takis Plagiannakos at Takis.Plagiannakos@ontarioenergyboard.ca or at 416-440-7680.

The OEB's toll free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

Cost Award Eligibility

The OEB will determine eligibility for costs in accordance with its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. Any person intending to request an award of costs must file with the OEB a written submission to that effect by **July 17, 2015** identifying the grounds on which the person believes that it is eligible for an award of costs (addressing the OEB's cost eligibility criteria as set out in section 3 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*). An explanation of any other funding to which the person has access must also be provided, as should the name and credentials of any lawyer, analyst or consultant that the person intends to retain, if known. All requests for cost eligibility will be posted on the OEB's website.

If a rate-regulated natural gas distributor has any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections must be filed with the OEB by **July 31, 2015**. All objections will be posted on the OEB's website. The OEB will then make a final determination on the cost eligibility requests.

The OEB has invited a number of stakeholders to participate on the DSM TWG. The OEB considers it appropriate in the circumstances to waive the following in relation to all of the DSM TWG participants: (a) the requirement to submit a request for cost award eligibility; and (b) the process for objections which would otherwise have applied in accordance with the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. All of the DSM TWG participants are eligible for an award of costs under the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

Eligible Activities

Cost awards will be available in relation to participation on the DSM TWG, to a maximum equal to actual meeting time of the working group multiplied by 1.5 to account for preparation and reporting. Participants will also be eligible to claim costs for other eligible activities that may arise as part of this process. Details will be provided at the appropriate time.

Cost Awards

When determining the amount of the cost awards, the OEB will apply the principles set out in section 5 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. The maximum hourly rates set out in the OEB's Cost Awards Tariff will also be applied. The OEB expects that groups

representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and co-ordinate their participation in this process.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards. Therefore, the OEB will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process.