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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

March 22, 2016

**To: All Rate-regulated Electricity Distributors
Low Income Energy Network
Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
OESP Implementation
Board File No.: EB-2015-0148**

Background

On May 26, 2015, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a letter (the “Letter”) regarding the consultation to implement the Ontario Electricity Support Program. The Letter stated that cost awards would be available in relation to participation in eligible activities forming part of the consultation to implement the Ontario Electricity Support Program. The Letter also stated any costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated electricity distributors and will be apportioned based on distribution revenues.

September 3, 2015, the OEB issued a Decision granting cost award eligibility to the following organizations (collectively, the “eligible participants”):

- Low Income Energy Network (LIEN); and
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC).

Cost awards are available in relation to preparation for, attendance at, and reporting on meetings of the Financial Assistance Working Group that took place between May 28, 2015 and February 11, 2016. The OEB held preliminary meetings with the Financial Assistance Working Group on April 8 and May 7, 2016, before the consultation to

implement OESP was formally launched. LIEN and VECC may claim costs in relation to these two meetings as well.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB 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 to implement the OESP. The file number for this hearing is **EB-2015-0148**.

The OEB intends to proceed by way of written hearing unless a party can satisfy the OEB 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 OEB no later than **7 days** after the date of this Notice.

If the OEB 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 **April 6, 2016**. A copy of the cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be served on each rate-regulated electricity distributor. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB'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 will have until **April 20, 2016** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. A copy of the objection must be filed with the OEB and one copy must be served on the eligible participant against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. An eligible participant whose cost claim was objected to will have until **May 4, 2016** 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 OEB and one copy is to be served on the objecting distributor.

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 OEB's office and the submissions may be published on the OEB'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 OEB 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 OEB's web portal at <https://www.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/>. A user ID is required to submit documents through the OEB's web portal. If you do not have a user ID, please visit the "e-filings services" webpage on the OEB'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 OEB'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-2015-0148** 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 OEB 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