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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

October 19, 2016

To: All Rate-regulated Licensed Electricity Distributors
Cost Eligible Parties
All Other Interested Parties

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Distribution Rate Design for Commercial and Industrial Electricity
Customers
OEB File Number: EB-2015-0043**

Background

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) initiated a process to update the distribution rates for commercial and industrial electricity customers(C/I Rate Design).

In its [May 28, 2015 letter](#), the OEB indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (Act) related to their participation in C/I Rate Design activities. In that letter, the OEB stated that cost awards will be recovered from all rate regulated distributors apportioned on a pro-rata basis relative to their contributions to the OEB's annual cost assessment. Those contributions are now collected based on customer numbers.

As identified in the OEB's July 16, 2015, [Decision on Cost Eligibility](#) and two subsequent decisions related to cost eligibility requests ([Decision regarding Energy Storage Ontario](#) and [Decision regarding Ontario Federation of Agriculture](#)) the following participants are eligible for cost awards (collectively, eligible parties):

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario
- Association of Power Producers of Ontario
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Canadian Federation of Independent Business
- Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters
- CanSIA
- Energy Probe
- Energy Storage Ontario
- Environmental Defence
- London Property Management Association
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- School Energy Coalition

In its May 28, 2015 letter, the OEB indicated that cost award eligibility would be allowed for actual time spent in each meeting, plus up to a maximum of 50% of the meeting time for preparation and reporting.

OEB staff held small group meetings with stakeholders for which a cost claim may now be filed:

- August 4, 2015 (9:30AM – 12:00PM)
- August 18, 2015 (9:30AM – 12:00PM)
- August 26, 2015 (9:30AM – 11:30AM)

On March 31, 2016, the OEB released a Staff Discussion Paper. In the cover letter to that paper, the OEB stated that review of that paper and filing of comments was an eligible activity to a maximum of 20 hours and that meetings of stakeholders with staff would be an eligible activity to a maximum of 1.5 times the actual meeting time. Staff met with CME on June 2nd for 2 hours.

This Notice of Hearing addresses cost awards associated with C/I Rate Design activities from May 2015 to the end of July 2016. The work of the C/I Rate Design will be ongoing. The OEB will therefore address cost awards related to future work periodically.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating this hearing on its own motion to determine the cost awards that will be made in accordance with section 30 of the Act related to the eligible activities described above. 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 of Hearing.

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

1. Eligible parties shall submit their cost claims by **November 2, 2016**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be served on each rate-regulated licensed electricity distributor and each rate-regulated licensed electricity transmitter. 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 parties must use the customized form that is attached as Attachment A to this Notice.

2. Electricity distributors will have until **November 9, 2016** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the OEB and one copy must be served on the eligible party against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. An eligible party whose cost claim was objected to will have until **November 16, 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 electricity distributor.
4. The OEB will then issue its decision on cost awards. The OEB's costs may also be addressed in the cost awards decision.

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

Parties must file two paper copies and one electronic copy of their filings 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, interested 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. Persons that do not have internet access should provide a CD or diskette containing their filing in PDF format.

All filings must quote file numbers **EB-2015-0043** and include your name, address telephone number and, where available, your e-mail address and fax number.

All filings in this hearing (i.e., cost claims, objections, or replies), will form part of the public record. Copies of the filings will be available for inspection at the OEB's office during normal business hours and the filings may be placed on the OEB's website.

If the filing is from a private citizen (i.e., not a lawyer representing a client, not a consultant representing a client or organization, not an individual in an organization that represents the interests of consumers or other groups, and not an individual from a regulated entity), before making the filing available for viewing at the OEB's offices or placing the filing on the OEB's website, the OEB will remove any personal (i.e., not business) contact information from the filing (i.e., the address, fax number, phone number, and e-mail address of the individual). However, the name of the individual and the content of the filing may be available for viewing at the OEB's offices and will be placed on the OEB's website.

If you do not file a letter objecting to a written hearing or do not participate in the hearing by filing written materials 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

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Board File No: EB-2015-0043
ATTACHMENT A
Ontario Energy Board Cost Claim Form for Consultations:
Affidavit and Summary of Fees and Disbursements

The forms that eligible parties must complete are provided in a separate MS Excel Workbook named, "EB-2015-0043 Cost Claim Form for Consultation.xls".

