



Ontario  
Energy  
Board | Commission  
de l'énergie  
de l'Ontario

Reference #: **EB-2019-0109**

**BY E-MAIL ONLY**

March 14, 2019

To: **All Members of the Original Pole Attachment Working Group**  
**All Rate-Regulated Electricity Distributors**  
**All Interested Parties**

Re: **EB-2019-0109 Nominations to Establish a Wireline Pole Attachment Data Collection Working Group**

On March 22, 2018, following a consultation process with distributors, ratepayers, and telecommunications and cable carriers, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued its [Report on Wireline Pole Attachment Charges<sup>1</sup> \(Report\)](#), updating the province-wide wireline pole attachment charge.

The Report determined that the OEB would establish an approach to the collection of pole attachment data in order to maintain the accuracy of the charge going forward. The OEB accepted the recommendation made by distributors to establish a data-working group.

The purpose of this letter is to invite participation in the working group. It is anticipated that the working group will meet several times during 2019. Representatives of electricity distributors, carriers and ratepayers are encouraged to submit nominations. On the distributor side, joint-use field experience and accounting/financial expertise with respect to utility pole construction and maintenance practices would be an asset.

The OEB intends to collect data from a representative sample of distributors from across the province. The OEB will determine which distributors will be required to collect data at a future time. The primary objective of the working group will be to create a draft data-collection methodology in supporting the maintenance of a generic provincial wide charge based on inputs from a representative cross section of distributors. The OEB will

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<sup>1</sup> EB-2015-0304.

consider the manner it receives comments on this draft data-collection methodology, once it has completed receiving input from the working group.

Based on nominations received, the OEB will select members of the working group to represent a cross section of interested parties across Ontario.

Those interested in nominating themselves or a third party to participate in the working group should submit a letter addressed to the Board Secretary at the OEB's mailing address above or by e-mail to [boardsec@oeb.ca](mailto:boardsec@oeb.ca) by March 28, 2019. The letter must reference file number EB-2019-0109, and include the following:

- The name of the nominee and the interest or constituency represented
- A short statement identifying the nominee's relevant utility and pole attachment-related experience and qualifications

### **Cost Awards**

Cost awards related to working group activities will be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* to a maximum equal to actual meeting time of the working group multiplied by 1.5 to account for preparation, participation and reporting. In addition, a maximum of five hours is available for eligible party preparation and submission of written comments on the draft guideline and reporting requirements. The costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated electricity distributors based on their respective customer numbers. Cost eligibility for any parties not participating on the working group will be addressed at a later date.

The OEB will determine eligibility for costs in accordance with its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. Anyone intending to request an award of costs must state this in their nomination letter and identify the grounds on which they believe that they are 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*). All requests for cost eligibility will be posted on the OEB's website.

If a rate-regulated electricity distributor has any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility from a nominated party, such objections must be filed with the OEB by April 4, 2019. Any objections will be posted on the OEB's website. The OEB will then make a final determination on the composition of the working group followed by the cost eligibility of any working group participants, as applicable.

Any questions regarding this letter, may be forwarded to Michael Lesychyn at [Michael.Lesychyn@oeb.ca](mailto:Michael.Lesychyn@oeb.ca) or at 416-440-7632. The OEB's toll free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

*Original Signed By*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary