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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

January 26, 2009

**To: All Rate-regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Participants in Consultation Process EB-2008-0346**

Re: Draft Demand Side Management Guidelines for Natural Gas Distributors

The Board has issued today for comment its draft "Demand Side Management Guidelines for Natural Gas Distributors" (the "Guidelines"). A Board Staff Discussion Paper and a copy of the Guidelines are attached.

The Navigant Consulting Inc. report updating the DSM technologies (measures) and input assumptions will be issued for comment in the near future.

The letter of October 31, 2008, indicated that following the posting of the draft Guidelines and the DSM Inputs and Assumptions Report, staff would hold a meeting with stakeholders to discuss these reports. The Board is of the view that the staff Discussion Paper provides sufficient explanation of the changes that have been included in the draft Guidelines and believes that there is no need for a stakeholders meeting. Staff is looking forward to written comments from stakeholders.

Following receipt and consideration of stakeholder comments on the draft Guidelines, the Guidelines will be finalized and issued by the Board.

Invitation to Comment

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on the draft Guidelines, in accordance with the filing instructions set out below.

Cost Awards

As noted in the Board's October 31, 2008 letter, cost awards will be made available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for their participation in this initiative.

Eligibility

Participants that have been determined to be eligible for an award of costs in this consultation process in the Board's November 28, 2008 Decision on Cost Eligibility, are eligible for an award of costs in relation to the provision of comments on the draft Guidelines and the consultant's report on DSM technologies and input assumptions.

Maximum Cost Awards

Cost awards will be available in relation to the provision of comments up to a maximum of 10 hours in addition to the 20 hours provided in the December 31, 2008 letter of the Board.

Instructions for Filing Comments with the Board

Participants who wish to provide written comments on the Guidelines must do so by **February 20, 2009**. All filings to the Board in relation to this consultation must quote file number **EB-2008-0346** and include your name, postal address and telephone number and, if available, email address and fax number. Three paper copies of each filing must be provided. The Board asks that participants make every effort to provide an electronic copy of their filings in searchable/unrestricted Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format and to submit their filings through the Board's web portal at www.errr.oeb.gov.on.ca. If you do not have a user ID, please visit the "e-filing services" webpage on the Board's website at www.oeb.gov.on.ca, and fill out a user ID password request. Additionally, participants 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@oeb.gov.on.ca. Those who do not have internet access should submit the electronic copy of their filing on CD or diskette.

Filings must be received by **4:45 pm** on the required date.

All materials related to this consultation will be posted on the "OEB Key Initiatives" portion of the Board's web site at www.oeb.gov.on.ca. The material will also be available for public inspection at the Board's office during normal business hours.

Any questions relating to this consultation should be directed to Beverley Jaffray at 416-440-8101, or e-mail Beverley.Jaffray@oeb.gov.on.ca. The Board's toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273, and the Market Operations Hotline is 416-440-7604.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

John Pickernell
Assistant Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Board Staff Discussion Paper - Draft Demand Side Management Guidelines for Natural Gas Distributors (EB-2008-0346)
2. Appendix A - Draft Demand Side Management Guidelines for Natural Gas Distributors (EB-2008-0346)