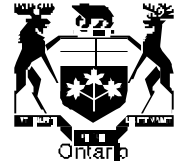


**Ontario Energy Board**  
P.O. Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street  
Suite 2700  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4  
Telephone: 416- 481-1967  
Facsimile: 416- 440-7656  
Toll free: 1-888-632-6273

**Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario**  
C.P. 2319  
2300, rue Yonge  
Suite 2700  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4  
Téléphone; 416- 481-1967  
Télécopieur: 416- 440-7656  
Numéro sans frais: 1-888-632-6273



**BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING**

October 1, 2009

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors  
All Licensed Natural Gas Distributors  
Salvation Army Centre of Hope;  
Consumers Council of Canada;  
Green Communities Canada;  
Green Energy Coalition;  
Housing Help Association of Ontario;  
Low Income Energy Network;  
Social Housing Services Corporation; and,  
Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition.**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards  
Consultation Process on Energy Issues Relating to Low Income  
Consumers  
Board File No.: EB-2008-0150**

### **Background**

On May 11, 2009 the Board issued a letter announcing the formation of two stakeholder working groups for the Board's consultation on energy issues relating to low income consumers. The letter indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons for their participation on the Financial Assistance and/or Conservation Working Group(s), as applicable.

On June 17, 2009, the Board issued a Decision (the "Decision") in which the Board ordered that the following parties be eligible for cost awards in relation to their participation on the Financial Assistance and/or Conservation Working Group(s), as applicable : Salvation Army Centre of Hope; Consumers Council of Canada; Green Communities Canada; Green Energy Coalition; Housing Help Association of Ontario;

Low Income Energy Network; Social Housing Services Corporation; and, Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (altogether, the “eligible parties”).

The Decision indicated that cost awards for participation on each of the working groups would be available for a maximum of 12 hours per meeting day, covering preparation, attendance and reporting time, and that the hourly limits apply to each eligible party, and not to each individual participant acting on behalf of the eligible party.

As set out in the Decision, parties are reminded that in accordance with section 6.05 of the Board’s Practice Direction on Cost Awards (the “Practice Direction”), a party will not be compensated for time spent by its employees or officers in preparing for or attending at Board processes.

### **Notice of Hearing**

The Board 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 participation on the Financial Assistance and/or Conservation Working Groups as part of the consultation process on energy issues relating to low income consumers. The file number for this hearing is **EB-2008-0150**.

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

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

1. The eligible parties shall submit their cost claims by **October 16, 2009**. A copy of the cost claim must be filed with the Board and one copy is to be served on each licensed electricity and natural gas distributor. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the Practice Direction. To expedite the review of cost claims, the Board asks eligible parties to submit a cost claim summary as illustrated in Attachments A (Conservation Working Group) and B (Financial Assistance Working Group). Eligible parties that participated on both working groups are asked to submit a

- separate cost claim summary for each of the working groups on which they participated.
2. Licensed electricity and natural gas distributors will have until **October 30, 2009** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. A copy of the objection must be filed with the Board and one copy must be served on the eligible party against whose claim the objection is being made.
  3. The eligible party whose cost claim was objected to will have until **November 6, 2009** 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 Board and one copy is to be served on the objecting distributor.
  4. The Board's costs will also be addressed in the cost awards decision.

The Board will then issue its decision on the cost awards.

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 Board's office and the submissions may be published on the Board's website.

Parties must file one paper copy and one electronic copy of their submissions with the Board Secretary by **4:30 pm** on the required dates. The Board 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 Board's web portal at [www.errr.oeb.gov.on.ca](http://www.errr.oeb.gov.on.ca). A user ID is required to submit documents through the Board's web portal. If you do not have a user ID, please visit the "e-filings services" webpage on the Board's website at [www.oeb.gov.on.ca](http://www.oeb.gov.on.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 Board's web portal is not available, electronic copies of filings may be filed by e-mail at [boardsec@oeb.gov.on.ca](mailto:boardsec@oeb.gov.on.ca). Those that do not have internet access should provide a CD or diskette containing their filing in PDF format.

All submissions must quote file number **EB-2008-0150** 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 Board 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



