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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

February 18, 2010

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

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Demand Side Management (DSM)
Guidelines for Natural Gas Distributors - Board File No.: EB-2008-0346**

Background

On October 31, 2008, the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") began a consultation process to develop guidelines for demand side management ("DSM") ("DSM Guidelines") to be used by natural gas distributors in developing their next generation DSM plans.

In its October 31, 2008 letter, the Board stated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the "Act") in relation to their participation in this consultation, and that any costs awarded would be recovered from all rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

Appendix A to the October 31, 2008 letter contained important information regarding cost awards for this consultation, including in relation to eligibility requests and objections.

In accordance with the Board's November 28, 2008 Decision on Cost Eligibility, the following participants were found to be eligible for an award of costs: Building Owners and Managers Association of the Greater Toronto Area; Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters; Consumers Council of Canada; Energy Probe; Green Energy Coalition; Industrial Gas Users Association; London Property Management Association; Low-Income Energy Network; Pollution Probe; School Energy Coalition; and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition.

As noted in the Board's October 31, 2008 letter, cost awards were made available for preparing for, attending at and reporting on the stakeholder meetings that were held in late November, 2008, to a maximum of 20 hours. Cost awards were also to be available for providing written comments on the Board staff draft DSM Guidelines and the consultant's report on DSM technologies and input assumptions.

By letter dated January 26, 2009, the Board advised that cost awards would 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 October 31, 2008 letter of the Board.

Notice of Hearing

The Board is initiating this hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards that will be made in accordance with section 30 of the Act. The file number for this hearing is EB-2008-0346.

The Board intends to proceed by way of written hearing unless a party satisfies 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. The Board will consider such objections prior to proceeding.

In the event that the Board proceeds with a written hearing, the hearing will follow the process set out below:

1. The eligible parties shall submit their cost claims by **March 11, 2010**. A copy of the cost claim must be filed with the Board and one copy is to be served on each rate-regulated natural gas distributor. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.
2. Distributors will have until **April 1, 2010** 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 party against whose cost claim the objection is being made.
3. The party whose cost claim was objected to will have until **April 13, 2010** to make a reply submission as to why the 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 will then issue its decision on the cost awards. The Board's costs may also be addressed in the cost awards decision.

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, and 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 a paper copy and one electronic copy of their submissions. The electronic copy should be in searchable Adobe Acrobat (PDF) or Word, and be filed through the Board's web portal at www.errr.oeb.gov.on.ca. If the Board's web portal is not available, electronic copies of submissions may be filed by e-mail to boardsec@oeb.gov.on.ca, or on CD or diskette. All submissions must quote file number **EB-2008-0346**, include your name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, and fax number and be received by the Board Secretary by **4:45 pm** on the required date.

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