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**Commission de l'énergie  
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## **BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING**

May 4, 2010

**To:** All Licensed Rate-regulated Electricity Distributors  
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters  
London Property Management Association  
School Energy Coalition  
Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards  
Consultation Process Regarding the Alignment of the Rate Year with the  
Fiscal Year for Electricity Distributors  
Board File: EB-2009-0423**

### **Background**

On January 21, 2010, the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) issued a letter initiating a consultative process to review the need for and the implications of a potential alignment of the rate year with the fiscal year for electricity distributors.

The Board’s letter also notified interested parties that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the “Act”) in relation to the provision of written comments on the issues set out in the letter, to a maximum of 20 hours. The letter also stated that any costs awarded would be recovered from all rate-regulated licensed electricity distributors based on their respective distribution revenues. The rates of licensed distributors Cornwall Street Lighting and Power Company and Dubreuil Forest Products are not currently fixed or approved by the Board, and the letter confirmed that cost awards would not be recovered from these two distributors.

In accordance with the Board's April 27, 2010 Decision on Cost Eligibility, the following participants were found to be eligible for an award of costs in relation to their participation in this consultation, subject to any objections that may be filed by rate-regulated licensed electricity distributors:

- Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters;
- London Property Management Association;
- School Energy Coalition; and
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition

(collectively, the "eligible participants").

No objections were received from licensed electricity distributors by the deadline specified for that purpose in the Board's Decision on Cost Eligibility.

This consultation was completed with the issuance of a letter dated April 15, 2010 providing the Board's guidance on the subject.

### **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 Act in relation to the consultation on a potential alignment of the rate year with the fiscal year for electricity distributors. The file number for this hearing is EB-2009-0423.

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. Eligible participants shall submit their cost claims by **May 14, 2010**. Two copies of the cost claim must be filed with the Board and one copy is to be served on each licensed rate-regulated electricity distributor. The cost claims must be

completed in accordance with section 10 of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

2. Licensed electricity distributors will have until **May 21, 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 eligible participant against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. The eligible participant whose cost claim was objected to will have until **May 28, 2010** 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 will then issue its decision on 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, 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 two paper copies 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-2009-0423** 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