

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

May 5, 2010

**To: All Rate-regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Participants in Consultation Processes EB-2008-0346 and
EB-2008-0150**

**Re: Demand Side Management Guidelines for Natural Gas Distributors
(EB-2008-0346)
Review of Demand Side Management (DSM) Framework for Natural Gas
Distributors**

**Revisions to Consultation Process: Filing of Written Questions for
Consultants, Stakeholder Meeting on Consultant's Report and Extension of
Timelines**

On March 19, 2010, the Board issued for comment two reports (the "Reports") from consultants retained by the Board:

- a report entitled *Review of Demand Side Management (DSM) Framework for Natural Gas Distributors* prepared by Concentric Energy Advisors (the "Concentric Report"); and
- a report entitled *"Top Down" Estimation of DSM Program Impacts on Natural Gas Usage* prepared by Pacific Economics Group Research (the "PEG Report").

On April 29, 2010, the Board hosted a stakeholder meeting to allow an opportunity for participants to gain a better understanding of the Reports through an interactive exchange with the Board's consultants. The level of interest in the Concentric Report was such that the entirety of the stakeholder meeting was devoted to that Report. During the stakeholder meeting, it was therefore noted that the discussion on the PEG Report would need to be rescheduled. Stakeholders at the meeting also requested that they be provided with an opportunity to submit written questions to the consultants for written response prior to the filing of stakeholder comments on the two Reports.

This letter is to confirm the revisions that are being made in relation to this consultation process.

Webinar with Pacific Economics Group

The Board will host a webinar with representatives of Pacific Economics Group (“PEG”) to allow participants to engage them in an interactive exchange regarding the content of the PEG Report. The webinar will be held on **May 13, 2010**. It will commence at **9:00 a.m.** and is expected to conclude at 10:30 a.m. For the purposes of cost awards, eligible participants should consider participation in the webinar to be a continuation of the stakeholder meeting and therefore an eligible activity as stipulated in Appendix A to the Board’s March 19, 2010 letter.

Participants wishing to participate in the webinar should **register in advance** by e-mail to GasDSM@oeb.gov.on.ca no later than **May 11, 2010**. Please include your name, organization, telephone number and e-mail address. Detailed instructions on how to participate in the webinar will be sent by e-mail to all participants.

Written Questions on the Reports

Participants will be allowed an opportunity to submit written questions for written response by Concentric Energy Advisors and Pacific Economics Group on their respective Reports. Written questions on the Concentric Report must be filed with the Board by **May 10, 2010**, and written questions on the PEG Report must be filed with the Board by **May 18, 2010**, in accordance with the filing instructions set out in the Board’s March 19, 2010 letter. A copy of each filing should also be sent by e-mail to GasDSM@oeb.gov.on.ca.

Participants should ensure that their questions meet the following two criteria:

- i. The questions should focus on assisting participants to gain a better understanding of the content of a Report. It is not the intention for this question and answer process to be used to expand the scope of a Report, nor to require that the consultant conduct further research or analysis.
- ii. The questions should not address matters that were adequately covered during the stakeholder meeting (in the case of the Concentric Report) or the webinar (in the case of the PEG Report).

Only questions that meet both criteria will be answered by the consultants.

Participants representing the same interests or class of persons are encouraged to communicate amongst themselves and coordinate the preparation of their questions as much as possible.

Board staff will work with the consultants to prepare a generic format for the presentation of the questions and responses. To avoid duplication of effort for all concerned, where questions have been received from two or more stakeholders that address the same or substantially the same issue, these will be consolidated into one generic question. Responses are expected from Concentric Energy Advisors by **May 17, 2010** and from Pacific Economics Group by **May 25, 2010**, and will be posted on the Board's website.

Extension of Deadline for Filing Written Comments on the Reports

In light of the above, the deadline for the filing of written comments on the Reports is being extended from May 13, 2010 to **June 7, 2010**.

All materials relating to this consultation will be available for public inspection on the Board's website at www.oeb.gov.on.ca and at the office of the Board during normal business hours.

Any questions relating to this consultation should be directed to Alexandre Ruest at 416-440-8129 or by e-mail to GasDSM@oeb.gov.on.ca. The Board's toll free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

Original Signed By

John Pickernell
Assistant Board Secretary