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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

August 18, 2011

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

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Demand Side Management Guidelines for Natural Gas Utilities
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”) 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.

The Board's Decision and Order on Cost Awards dated June 9, 2010 provided the Board's findings with regards to cost award requests for all eligible activities that occurred between October 31, 2008 and January 6, 2010.

As noted in the Board's January 21, 2011 letter, cost awards were made available for preparing written comments on the staff discussion paper and on the Guidelines up to a maximum of 20 hours.

By letter dated March 29, 2011, 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 January 21, 2011 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 may be made in accordance with section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to participation of the consultation process on developing DSM guidelines. The file number for this hearing is **EB-2008-0346**.

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 **September 6, 2011**. 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 section 10 of the Practice Direction. In addition to the required documentation as set out in the Practice Direction, to

expedite the review of cost claims the Board asks eligible parties to submit a cost claim summary as illustrated in Attachment A.

2. Distributors will have until **September 20, 2011** 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 party whose cost claim was objected to will have until **September 27, 2011** 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.ontarioenergyboard.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.ontarioenergyboard.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@ontarioenergyboard.ca. Those that do not have internet access should provide a CD containing their filing in PDF format.

All submissions must quote file number **EB-2008-0346** 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

Attachment A:

Form for Cost Claim Summary for DSM Guidelines

EB-2008-0346 Cost Claim Summary for Eligible Consultation Activities

Eligible Organization:

Individual(s) Making Claim	Hourly Rate (\$)	Claim						
		Provision of written comments on the Staff Discussion Paper and on the revised draft DSM Guidelines	Further written comments on the March 29, 2010 Board Letter	Total (Hours)	Sub-Total (\$)	Disbursements (\$)	HST (\$)	Total (\$)
		<i>Up to 20 hours</i>	<i>Up to 10 hours</i>	<i>Up to 30 hours</i>				
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