

**Ontario Energy
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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

March 7, 2012

To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
The School Energy Coalition

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Board File No.: EB-2011-0428**

Background

The Ontario Energy Board invited comments on a revised *Accounting Procedures Handbook for Electricity Distributors* ("APH") in a letter dated December 21, 2011. Comments were to be filed by January 13, 2012, a date that was later extended to January 30, 2012.

In its letter of December 21, 2011, the Board indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons for their participation in the comment process, up to a maximum of sixteen hours. The Board affirmed the eligibility for cost awards in this comment process of those parties found eligible for costs in the Board's Decision on Cost Eligibility dated January 28, 2009 for the initial phase of the EB-2008-0048 consultation. The only party that sought cost eligibility in the APH comment process was the School Energy Coalition ("SEC"), which is a party eligible for a cost award.

The Board also indicated that the costs of eligible parties would be collected from rate-regulated electricity distributors, and apportioned among the distributors on the basis of distribution revenue. The Board stated that it would use the process set out in section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards.

Notice of Hearing

The Board is initiating this hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost award that will be made in accordance with section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for the APH comment process. The file number for this hearing is EB-2008-0428.

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. SEC shall file its cost claim with the Board by **March 9, 2012**. The cost claim will be posted on the Board's website. The cost claim must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.
2. Electricity distributors will have until **March 16, 2012** 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 SEC.
3. If there are any objections, SEC will have until **March 23, 2012** 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.

All submissions in this hearing (i.e., cost claim, 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 will be published on the Board's website.

In accordance with the filing instructions set out below, parties must file two paper copies, and an electronic copy of their submissions with the Board Secretary by **4:45 pm** on the required dates.

Instructions on Filing Material with the Board

All filings in relation to this written hearing must quote file number **EB-2008-0428** and include the filer's name, address, telephone number and, where available, an e-mail address and fax number. Three paper copies and one electronic copy of each filing must be provided. Paper copies are to be addressed to the Board Secretary at the Board's mailing address set out above. The electronic copy must be in searchable/unrestricted PDF format, be submitted through the Board's web portal at www.errr.ontarioenergyboard.ca and conform to the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS e-Filing Guides (available on the Board's website at www.ontarioenergyboard.ca on the e-Filing Services web page). A user ID is required for filings through the web portal. If you do not have a user ID, please visit the Board's web site on the e-Filings Services web page and fill out a user ID password request. If the web portal is not available, the electronic copy may be submitted by e-mail to BoardSec@ontarioenergyboard.ca.

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

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