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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

December 19, 2013

**To: Consumers Council of Canada
Housing Help Association of Ontario
Low Income Energy Network
Salvation Army Centre of Hope
Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Consultation Process on Energy Issues Relating to Low Income Consumers
Board File No.: EB-2008-0150**

Background

On July 30, 2010, the Board issued a letter (the "Letter") regarding eligibility for cost awards in relation to participation in meetings of the Financial Assistance Working Group. The Letter indicated that the Board determined that the participants identified in the Board's June 17, 2009 Decision on Cost Eligibility (the "June Decision") were considered eligible for costs in relation to participation in meetings of the Financial Assistance Working Group and were not required to submit a further request for cost eligibility.

Members of the Financial Assistance Working Group that were identified in the June Decision are: Consumers Council of Canada, Housing Help Association of Ontario, Low Income Energy Network, Salvation Army Centre of Hope and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (altogether, the "eligible parties").

The Financial Assistance Working Group reconvened on November 14, 2013 and Board staff presented their current thinking on new rate design options for residential customers, for discussion by the FAWG. The Board will provide cost awards for eligible parties for participation in the November 14, 2013 meeting to a maximum of actual meeting time, which was 2.5 hours.

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 on the Financial Assistance Working Group as part of the consultation process on energy issues relating to low income consumers. The file number for this hearing is **EB-2008-0150**.

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 January 9, 2014. A copy of the cost claim must be filed with the Board and one copy is to be served on each licensed electricity and 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 completed copy of the Cost Claim for Consultations: Affidavit and Summary of Fees and Disbursements Form attached to this Notice.
2. Licensed electricity and natural gas distributors will have until January 23, 2014 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 eligible party whose cost claim was objected to will have until February 6, 2014 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 **4:45 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.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/. 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-2008-0150** 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