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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

August 18, 2014

To: All Rate-regulated Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Rate-regulated Licensed Transmitters
The Independent Electricity System Operator
The Ontario Power Authority
All Participants in Consultation Process EB-2011-0043
All Other Interested Parties

RE: Regional Planning Standing Committee Cost Awards Matters
Board File Number: EB-2011-0043

In a letter issued on [July 25, 2013](#) (the “July Letter”) the Board announced its intention to establish a Regional Planning Standing Committee (the “Standing Committee”) to provide the Board with on-going assistance related to the implementation and maintenance of the regional planning process. To that end, the Board invited nominations for membership on the Standing Committee, noting that Standing Committee will incorporate a balanced representation of interested parties including generators, distributors, transmitters and other stakeholders.

The establishment and operation of the Standing Committee is a new initiative separate and apart from the Process Planning Working Group process that was used to develop the regional planning process. As such, the Board is issuing this letter to address the matter of cost awards in relation to participation on the Standing Committee.

Cost Awards

Cost awards will be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to their work as members of the Standing Committee. Costs awarded, as well any Board costs, will be recovered from all rate-regulated electricity distributors and all rate-regulated electricity transmitters. The costs will be apportioned amongst these entities in a manner to be determined by the Board at a later date.

Appendix A to this letter contains further details regarding cost awards for this matter, including in relation to eligibility requests and objections and eligible activities. In order to facilitate a timely decision on cost eligibility, the deadlines for filing cost eligibility requests and objections will be strictly enforced.

Filing Instructions

All filings, including filings to request cost award eligibility, must be made in accordance with the filing instructions set out in **Appendix B** to this letter. All material related to the work of the Standing Committee will be posted on the Board's website at www.ontarioenergyboard.ca and will also be available for public inspection at the Board's office during normal business hours.

Any questions regarding this Standing Committee process should be directed to Ashley Hayle, Advisor at Ashleydawn.Hayle@ontarioenergyboard.ca or at 416-440-7721. The Board's toll free number is 1-888-632-6273 ext. 721.

Yours truly,

Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

Appendices: Appendix A – Cost Awards
Appendix B – Filing Instructions

Appendix A

Regional Planning Standing Committee EB-2011-0043 Cost Awards

Cost Award Eligibility

The Board will determine eligibility for costs in accordance with its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. Any person intending to request an award of costs must file with the Board a written submission to that effect by **September 2, 2014** identifying the grounds on which the person believes that it is eligible for an award of costs (addressing the Board's cost eligibility criteria as set out in section 3 of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*). An explanation of any other funding to which the person has access must also be provided, as should the name and credentials of any lawyer, analyst or consultant that the person intends to retain, if known. All requests for cost eligibility will be posted on the Board's website.

If a rate-regulated electricity distributor or rate-regulated electricity transmitter has any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections must be filed with the Board by **September 9, 2014**. All objections will be posted on the Board's website. The Board will then make a final determination on the cost eligibility requests.

Eligible Activities

For each meeting of the Standing Committee, eligible members will be allowed to claim costs for actual time spent in the meeting, plus up to a maximum of three hours for preparation and reporting. The Board will address the issue of cost awards for any supplementary eligible activities at the appropriate time, as and when required.

Cost Awards

When determining the amount of the cost awards, the Board will apply the principles set out in section 5 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. The maximum hourly rates set out in the Board's Cost Awards Tariff will also be applied. The Board expects that groups representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and co-ordinate their participation in this process.

The Board may use the process set out in section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards. In that case, the Board will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this consultation.

Appendix B

Regional Planning Standing Committee EB-2011-0043

Filing Requirements

Three (3) paper copies of each filing must be provided, and should be sent to:

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700
Toronto Ontario M4P 1E4

The Board requests that interested 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 <https://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, interested 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.

Filings to the Board must be received by the Board Secretary by **4:45 p.m.** on the required date. They must quote file number **EB-2011-0043** and include your name, address, telephone number and, where available, your e-mail address and fax number. If the filing is from a private citizen (i.e., not a lawyer representing a client, not a consultant representing a client or organization, not an individual in an organization that represents the interests of consumers or other groups, and not an individual from a regulated entity), before making the filing available for viewing at the Board's offices or placing the filing on the Board's website, the Board will remove any personal (i.e., not business) contact information from the filing (i.e., the address, fax number, phone number, and e-mail address of the individual). However, the name of the individual and the content of the filing will be available for viewing at the Board's offices and will be placed on the Board's website.