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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

February 9, 2015

**To: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Participants in EB-2014-0134**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
2015 to 2020 Demand Side Management Framework for Natural Gas
Distributors
Board File No.: EB-2014-0134**

Background

On April 10, 2014, the Board issued a letter initiating a consultation process to review the current Demand Side Management (“DSM”) Guidelines and develop a new DSM framework to be used for the development of the next generation of DSM plans.

In letters issued on April 10, 2014 and September 15, 2014, the Board stated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to their participation in the development of the new DSM framework.

In its April 10, 2014 letter, the Board determined that the following persons would be eligible for an award of costs:

- Consumers Council of Canada;
- Environmental Defence;
- Industrial Gas Users Association;
- Low Income Energy Network;
- Ontario Sustainable Energy Association; and
- School Energy Coalition.

The Board's September 15, 2014 letter confirmed cost eligibility for the following persons:

- Association of Power Producers of Ontario;
- Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters;
- Energy Probe Research Foundation;
- Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario;
- Green Energy Coalition;
- Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers; and
- London Property Management Association.

In the April 10, 2014 and September 15, 2014 letters, the Board communicated the maximum number of hours for activities eligible for cost awards and that the cost awards would be recovered from all rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenue. The maximum number of hours and eligible activities for the consultation are repeated in Appendix A of this Notice.

Other Cost Eligibility Requests

In its September 15, 2014 letter, the Board indicated that other persons may file with the Board a request for an award of costs. The Board received requests for cost eligibility from the Building Owners and Managers Association of Greater Toronto and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition.

Natural gas distributors were given an opportunity to file any objections they might have in relation to the eligibility of the above-noted participants for an award of costs. The Board did not receive any objections from natural gas distributors.

Based on the criteria set out in section 3 of the Board's *Practice and Direction on Cost Awards*, the Board has determined that the Building Owners and Managers Association of Greater Toronto and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition are eligible for an award of costs.

Notice of Hearing

The Board is initiating this hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards that will be made in accordance with section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board*

Act, 1998 in relation to eligible consultation activities that have occurred since April 10, 2014.

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. Eligible persons shall submit their cost claims by **February 24, 2015**. 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 Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.
2. Natural gas distributors will have until **March 3, 2015** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the Board and one copy must be served on the eligible person against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. An eligible person whose cost claim was objected to will have until **March 10, 2015** 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 natural gas 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.

The Board will use the process set out in section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards. Therefore, the Board will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process. For more information on this process, please see the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* and the October 27, 2005 letter regarding the rationale for the Board acting as a clearing house for the cost award payments. These documents can be found on the Board's website at www.ontarioenergyboard.ca on the "Rules, Guidelines and Forms" webpage.

Parties must file two paper copies and one electronic copy of their filings 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 <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. Persons that do not have internet access should provide a CD containing their filing in PDF format.

All filings must quote file number **EB-2014-0134** and include your name, address telephone number and, where available, your e-mail address and fax number.

All filings in this hearing (i.e., cost claims, objections, or replies), will form part of the public record. Copies of the filings will be available for inspection at the Board's office during normal business hours and the filings may be placed on the Board's website. 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 may be available for viewing at the Board's offices and will be placed on the Board's website.

If you do not file a letter objecting to a written hearing or do not participate in the hearing by filing written materials 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

Appendix A: Consultation Activities for Which Cost Claims may be Filed and Maximum Number of Hours

Activity Eligible for Cost Awards	Maximum Number of Hours
Preparation for, attendance at, and reporting on the working group sessions held on April 25, 2014, June 18, 2014, and July 25, 2014	Actual Meeting Time multiplied by 1.5
Written comments on the draft DSM framework and draft DSM guidelines	24 hours