

**Ontario Energy
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**Commission de l'énergie
de l'Ontario**

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BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

April 7, 2015

**To: All Natural Gas Distributors
All Participants in the Consultation Process EB-2014-0134
Other Stakeholders**

**Re: Natural Gas Conservation Potential Study EB-2015-0117
Consultation Process**

This letter outlines the approach the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will use to coordinate and oversee the Natural Gas Conservation Potential Study, and requests the nomination of DSM experts to participate in the formation of a DSM Technical Working Group.

Background

The March 2014 directive to the OEB from the Minister of Energy (Conservation Directive), among other things, requires an achievable potential study for natural gas efficiency in Ontario to be conducted every three years. The first study is to be completed by June 1, 2016 to inform natural gas efficiency planning and programs. The Conservation Directive further stated that the achievable potential study should, as far as is appropriate and reasonable, be coordinated with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO). A similar directive was provided to the IESO to conduct an electricity efficiency achievable potential study every three years.

On February 4, 2015 the OEB received a letter from the Minister of Energy requesting that the OEB consider as part of this study how potential Demand-Side Management (DSM) benefits such as carbon reduction and natural gas price suppression may be used to screen prospective DSM programs and inform future budgets.

Study Consultation Process

OEB staff will oversee the conservation potential study with support from a Coordination Committee and a DSM Technical Working Group, and with the assistance of a consultant.

The Coordination Committee will be comprised of staff from OEB and IESO and will ensure that both the natural gas and electricity conservation potential studies are developed using consistent methodologies, data, forecasts, input assumptions and conservation scenarios where possible. The Committee will identify collaboration opportunities throughout the study period in these and other areas.

The DSM Technical Working Group will provide input and advice as required and will be comprised of:

- Four to five experts with demonstrated experience and expertise in the areas of conservation potential studies, natural gas energy efficiency technologies, evaluation of DSM technologies and programs, energy modeling and /or market research:
 - Three of the experts will be selected by the OEB from candidates nominated by non-industry stakeholders based on their technical expertise and ability to represent stakeholders
 - One or two additional experts will be appointed by the OEB
- Representatives from the IESO's Methodology and Data sub-working groups for the electricity conservation potential study
- Representatives from each natural gas utility
- Representatives from the Ministry of Energy (MOE) and the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO), who will participate as observers

Once the DSM Technical Working Group is formed, meetings will be held at regular intervals as required. Other stakeholders will be provided an opportunity to comment before results are finalized.

All materials related to the Natural Gas Potential Study will be made available on the OEB's website. The final study results will be available by June 2016.

Nominations

To launch the study, the OEB requests nominations for DSM experts to represent non-industry stakeholders in the DSM Technical Working Group. Nominations should include the following:

1. The names, contact information, and resumes of potential expert candidates to represent non-industry stakeholders. Each candidate's resume should also include a statement describing relevant experience and qualifications and the non-industry stakeholder groups supporting his or her nomination.
2. The names and contact information of representatives from the IESO Methodology and Data sub-working groups for the electricity potential study, natural gas utilities, MOE, and ECO.

The nominations shall be submitted by email to boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca or through the OEB's web portal, RESS, www.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice quoting file EB-2015-0117 by April 20, 2015.

Cost Awards

Cost awards will be available under Section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* to eligible persons in relation to their participation in the DSM Technical Working Group or other consultations during the course of the conservation potential study. Details will be provided at the appropriate time. Costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

If you have any questions regarding this consultation process, please contact Takis Plagiannakos at Takis.Plagiannakos@ontarioenergyboard.ca or at 416-440-7680.

The OEB's toll free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary