

**Ontario Energy
Board**

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

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BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

March 10, 2016

**To: All Rate-regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Participants in the Demand Side Management Technical Working
Group EB-2015-0117
Other Stakeholders**

**Re: Natural Gas Conservation Potential Study EB-2015-0117
Eligible Activities for Cost Awards for the Demand Side Management
Technical Working Group**

This letter provides direction related to cost awards and cost claims filing requirements for activities of the members of the Demand Side Management Technical Working Group (DSM TWG) eligible for cost awards.

Background

On April 7, 2015, the OEB issued a letter initiating a nomination process for the formation of the DSM TWG to provide input and advice to the OEB staff overseeing the natural gas energy efficiency potential study.

In its June 29, 2015 letter, the OEB selected four non-utility experts to participate in the DSM TWG and indicated that these parties would be eligible for cost awards, under the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*, to a maximum equal to actual meeting time of the working group multiplied by 1.5 to account for meeting preparation and attendance.

The OEB further specified that participants will also be eligible to claim costs for other eligible activities that may arise as part of this process and that details would be provided at the appropriate time.

Cost Awards for Additional Eligible Activities

The DSM TWG members have provided valuable input and advice to date. Over the next few months, DSM TWG members will be asked to review and provide comments on draft sections of the conservation potential study report generated by the consultant outside the regular DSM TWG meetings. The OEB recognizes that the time invested by DSM TWG members that are eligible for cost awards may exceed the maximum set out in its June 29, 2015 letter. As a follow up to that letter, the OEB approves eligible DSM TWG members to claim additional time of up to 24 hours for work performed from March 2016 until the completion of the study. When filing cost claims, parties are asked to indicate where this additional effort was spent. More details on the conservation potential study tasks and eligible cost awards activities are provided in Schedule A.

Travel Expenses

In order to facilitate meetings of DSM TWG, the OEB will authorize DSM TWG members outside Ontario to incur travel expenses to attend certain DSM TWG meetings in person if required.

Cost Claim Filing

Eligible DSM TWG members shall submit their cost claims after project completion in June 2016, in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. Gas utilities will have an opportunity to object to any aspect of the costs claimed, and eligible parties will have time to make a reply submission. The Board will then issue its decision on cost awards. The OEB's costs may also be addressed in the cost awards decision.

If you have any questions regarding cost awards, 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

Schedule A
Conservation Potential Study Details and Eligible Cost Awards Activities

Major Tasks (Sections) within the Conservation Potential Study

Tasks
<i>Task 1: Project Plan (not considered a major task with a separate section in the final report)</i>
Task 2: Review and Development of Measure Input Assumptions
Task 3: Review of Avoided Costs
Task 4: Carbon Reduction Benefits
Task 5: Natural Gas Price Suppression Effect
Task 6: Base Case
Task 7: Reference Case Forecast
Task 8: Technical Potential
Task 9: Economic Potential
Task 10: Achievable Potential
Task 11: Sensitivity Analysis
Task 12: Hourly Peak Demand Analysis
Task 13: Summary of Results and Recommendations

**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 and attendance of DSM Technical Working Group meetings	Actual Meeting Time multiplied by 1.5
Review Tasks (Sections) of the Conservation Potential Study listed above and provide of input and advice to OEB staff and consultant as required	24 hours