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## **BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING**

March 22, 2016

**To: All Rate-regulated Electricity Distributors  
All Rate-regulated Electricity Transmitters  
Consumers Council of Canada  
Energy Probe Research Foundation  
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  
OESP Implementation  
Board File No.: EB-2008-0150**

### **Background**

In 2008 the OEB initiated consultations about how to assist low-income energy customers and in 2011 the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program Emergency Financial Assistance program (LEAP EFA) was launched. In 2014, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) undertook a review of the LEAP EFA. The OEB issued the results of its review in a [letter](#) dated October 19, 2015.

On July 30, 2010, the OEB issued a letter regarding eligibility for cost awards in relation to participation in meetings of the Financial Assistance Working Group. In the letter, the OEB determined that the participants identified in the OEB's June 17, 2009 Decision on Cost Eligibility were 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 17, 2009 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 (together, the “eligible participants”).

The Financial Assistance Working Group reconvened on August 12, 2014 to provide feedback about the LEAP EFA program and advice as to how it could be improved. During this time the Financial Assistance Working Group also reconvened to provide advice about the design of the Ontario Electricity Support Program. Following these consultations the OEB held a written hearing on cost awards. It was recently brought to the OEB’s attention that eligible participants were given the opportunity to claim costs for the working group meetings related to the Ontario Electricity Support Program but, inadvertently, were not given an opportunity to claim costs for the meeting held in relation to the OEB’s review of the LEAP EFA program. The OEB is now providing an opportunity to claim costs associated with the August 12, 2014 meeting.

All costs awarded will be recovered from rate-regulated electricity and natural gas distributors, as has been the case for all meetings of the Financial Assistance Working Group in relation to the LEAP EFA program.

### **Notice of Hearing**

The OEB 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 the review of the LEAP EFA program. The file number for this hearing is **EB-2008-0150**.

The OEB intends to proceed by way of written hearing unless a party can satisfy the OEB 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 OEB no later than **7 days** after the date of this Notice.

If the OEB does not receive any objections to a written hearing, the hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. Eligible participants shall submit their cost claims by **April 6, 2016**. A copy of the cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be served on each rate-regulated electricity and natural gas distributor. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB’s *Practice Direction on*

*Cost Awards.* As contemplated in the *Practice Direction*, the cost claim form has been customized for this consultation. Eligible participants must use the customized form that is attached as Attachment A to this Notice.

2. Electricity and natural gas distributors will have until **April 20, 2016** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. A copy of the objection must be filed with the OEB and one copy must be served on the Eligible Participant against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. An eligible participant whose cost claim was objected to will have until **May 4, 2016** 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 OEB and one copy is to be served on the objecting distributor or transmitter.
4. The OEB will then issue its decision on cost awards. The OEB'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 OEB's office and the submissions may be published on the OEB'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 OEB 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 OEB's web portal at <https://www.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/>. A user ID is required to submit documents through the OEB's web portal. If you do not have a user ID, please visit the "e-filings services" webpage on the OEB's website at [www.ontarioenergyboard.ca](http://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 OEB's web portal is not available, electronic copies of filings may be filed by e-mail at [boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca](mailto: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 OEB 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 A: Form for Cost Claim