

**Ontario Energy
Board**
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street
27th Floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Telephone: 416-481-1967
Facsimile: 416-440-7656
Toll free: 1-888-632-6273

**Commission de l'énergie
de l'Ontario**
C.P. 2319
2300, rue Yonge
27^e étage
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Téléphone: 416-481-1967
Télécopieur: 416-440-7656
Numéro sans frais: 1-888-632-6273



BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

July 27, 2016

**To: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Distributors
Technical Working Group Members Eligible for Cost Awards**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Natural Gas Conservation Potential Study
Board File No.: EB-2015-0117**

Background

On June 29, 2015, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a [letter](#) announcing the formation of a Demand Side Management Technical Working Group (DSM TWG) to provide input and advice throughout the development of the natural gas conservation potential study.

In the letter, the OEB 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 working group. The letter stated that cost awards would be available to a maximum equal to the actual working group meeting time multiplied by 1.5 to account for preparation and reporting. The letter also stated that costs awarded would be recovered from all rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

In a [letter](#) issued on March 10, 2016, the OEB approved cost-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.

As stated above, in its June 29, 2015 letter, the OEB stated that costs awarded would be recovered from rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues. That apportionment was consistent with the methodology that was in place at the time for allocating costs for cost assessment purposes under section

26 of the OEB Act. On February 9, 2016, the OEB issued a [letter](#) giving notice of changes to its Cost Assessment Model. Specifically, under the revised Cost Assessment Model cost assessments for distributors are now based on customer numbers rather than revenues. The OEB considers it appropriate to apportion cost awards for this initiative in a manner consistent with the revised Cost Assessment Model, and has therefore determined that costs awarded will be apportioned within the distributor class based on customer numbers rather than revenues.

Cost Award Eligible Participants

The following persons are eligible for an award of costs:

- Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group
- Ian Jarvis, Enerlife Consulting
- Jay Shepherd, Jay Shepherd Professional Corporation
- Marion Fraser, Fraser & Company

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards for the persons identified above.

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. Assuming that 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 **August 10, 2016**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB 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 OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

Eligible Participants must use the customized Cost Claim Form attached as Appendix A to this Notice

2. Rate regulated natural gas distributors will have until **August 23, 2016** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. 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. The eligible participant whose cost claim was objected to will have until **August 30, 2016** to file with the OEB a reply submission as to why its cost claim should be allowed. One copy of the reply submission is to be served on the objecting party.
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.

The OEB 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 OEB will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process. For more information on this process, please see the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* and the October 27, 2005 letter regarding the rationale for the OEB acting as a clearing house for the cost award payments. These documents can be found on the OEB'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 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, 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 OEB'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-2015-0117** and include your name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, 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 OEB's office and the filings may be published on the OEB'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 OEB may

proceed without your participation and you will not be entitled to further notice in this proceeding.

Dated at Toronto, July 27, 2016

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

**Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated July 27, 2016
Natural Gas Conservation Potential Study (EB-2015-0117)**

APPENDIX A

**Ontario Energy Board Cost Claim for Consultations:
Affidavit and Summary of Fees and Disbursements**

The forms that Eligible Participants must complete are provided in a separate MS Excel Workbook named, "EB-2015-0117 NOH Appendix A Cost Claim Form".