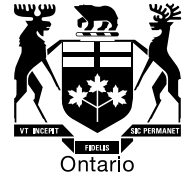


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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

October 4, 2016

TO: All Rate Regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Participants in Consultation EB-2015-0238
All Other Interested Parties

RE: **Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Distributor Gas Supply Planning (Board File No. EB-2015-0238)**

Background

Pursuant to the [staff report cover letter](#) for the Natural Gas Market Review 2014, the OEB initiated a consultation dealing with [Distributor Gas Supply Planning](#) which included cost awards for eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for participation in certain activities.

The letter dated [October 20, 2015](#) notified stakeholders 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 eligible activities as set out in Appendix A of the letter. The letter also indicated that any costs awarded will be recovered from all rate regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

With the issuance of the forum that was held at the OEB offices on March 22, 2016 the OEB concluded this consultation and the cost-eligible activities as set out in Appendix A of this Notice.

A list of registered participants in this consultation is attached as Appendix A. The Board received requests for cost award eligibility from the following participants:

- Association of Power Producers of Ontario
- Building Owners and Managers Association Toronto
- Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters

- Consumers Council of Canada
- Energy Probe Research Foundation
- Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario
- Industrial Gas User's Association
- London Property Management Association
- School Energy Coalition
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition

The OEB grants all of these parties eligibility to apply for an award of costs.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards to parties identified above that are eligible for costs.

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 **October 18, 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 B to this Notice

2. Rate regulated natural gas distributors will have until **October 28, 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 **November 4, 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.

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-2015-0238** 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, October 4, 2016

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

**Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated October 4, 2016
Distributor Gas Supply Planning (EB-2015-0238)**

Appendix A

**Consultation Activities and Maximum Number of Hours
for Which Cost Claims may be Filed**

Cost awards will be available in relation to participation in the Stakeholder Conference; and in relation to the submission of written comments on the issues explored at the Stakeholder Conference.

The maximum number of cost eligible hours per participant for these activities are:

- prepare for, attend and report on Stakeholder Conference 11 hours
- written comments on Stakeholder Conference issues 11 hours

The maximum number of cost eligible hours for an expert retained to prepare a separate expert submission for the Stakeholder Conference depends on whether eligible participants are collaborating for this purpose, as follows:

- separate expert submission:

For one eligible participant 20 hours

For each additional eligible participant 10 hours

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated October 4, 2016

Distributor Gas Supply Planning (EB-2015-0238)

APPENDIX B

**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-2015-0238 NOH Appendix B Cost Claim Form.xls".