

**Ontario Energy  
Board**  
P.O. Box 2319  
27th. Floor  
2300 Yonge Street  
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  
27e étage  
2300, rue Yonge  
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**

March 1, 2017

**To:** All Rate-regulated Licensed Electricity Distributors  
All Rate-regulated Licensed Electricity Transmitters  
Association of Power Producers of Ontario  
Mr. Iain Angus  
Mr. Ray Quinn  
All Other Interested Parties

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards  
Regional Planning Process Advisory Group  
OEB File Number: EB-2011-0043**

### **Background**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) established a Regional Planning Process Advisory Group (RPPAG) (formerly the Regional Planning Standing Committee) to provide the OEB with on-going assistance related to the review and maintenance of the regional infrastructure planning process.

In its [August 18, 2014 letter](#), the OEB indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (Act) related to their participation in RPPAG activities. In its May 5, 2015 [Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards and Decision on Apportionment of Cost Award Recovery](#), the OEB determined that costs awarded would be recovered from rate-regulated licensed electricity distributors and transmitters, with the apportionment within each class being based on 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 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. While apportionment within the transmitter class will continue to be based on revenues, it is now based on the most recent three year average from their audited financial statements or similar documentation rather than the most recent year. As a result of those changes, costs awarded and any OEB costs will be recovered as follows:

- (a) 60% from rate-regulated licensed electricity distributors and apportioned amongst them based on the most recent three year average of their respective total numbers of customers; and

- (b) 40% from rate-regulated licensed electricity transmitters and apportioned amongst them based on the most recent three year average of their respective transmission revenues.

As identified in the OEB's January 22, 2015 [Decision on Cost Eligibility](#), the following participants are eligible for cost awards (collectively, eligible parties):

- [Association of Power Producers of Ontario \(APPrO\)](#)
- [Iain Angus](#)
- [Ray Quinn](#)

As noted in that Decision, cost award eligibility for Mr. Angus and Mr. Quinn is limited to a recovery of expenses incurred to either:

- a) attend meetings (including airfare, overnight accommodation and meals); or
- b) participate in meetings remotely by telecommunication facility.

In its August 18, 2014 letter, the OEB indicated that cost award eligibility would be allowed for actual time spent in each meeting, plus up to a maximum of three hours for preparation and reporting. In accordance with the January 22, 2015 Decision on Cost Eligibility, APPrO may submit a cost claim on that basis, while Mr. Angus and Mr. Quinn may submit a cost claim related to expenses only.

The OEB has already addressed cost awards related to RPPAG activities to the end of April 2016. Since then, three meetings have been held, for which a cost claim may now be filed:

- September 13, 2016 (10:00AM – 3:00PM)
- December 2, 2016 (10:00AM – 3:00PM)
- February 10, 2017 (10:00AM – 3:00PM)

This Notice of Hearing therefore addresses cost awards associated with RPPAG activities from September 2016 to the end of February 2017. The work of the RPPAG will be ongoing. The OEB will therefore address cost awards related to future work periodically.

### **Notice of Hearing**

The OEB is initiating this hearing on its own motion to determine the cost awards that will be made in accordance with section 30 of the Act related to the eligible activities described 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 of Hearing.

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

1. Eligible parties shall submit their cost claims by **March 8, 2017**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be served on each rate-regulated licensed electricity distributor and each rate-regulated licensed electricity transmitter. 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 parties must use the customized form that is attached as Attachment A to this Notice.
2. Electricity distributors and electricity transmitters will have until **March 15, 2017** 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 party against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. An eligible party whose cost claim was objected to will have until **March 22, 2017** 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 electricity distributor or electricity 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 made 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](http://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](mailto:BoardSec@ontarioenergyboard.ca). Persons that do not have internet access should provide a CD or diskette containing their filing in PDF format.

All filings must quote file numbers **EB-2011-0043** and include your name, address telephone number and, where available, your e-mail address 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 during normal business hours and the filings may be placed on the OEB's website.

If the filing is from a private citizen (i.e., not a lawyer representing a client, not a consultant representing a client or organization, not an individual in an organization that represents the interests of consumers or other groups, and not an individual from a regulated entity), before making the filing available for viewing at the OEB's offices or placing the filing on the OEB's website, the OEB will remove any personal (i.e., not business) contact information from the filing (i.e., the address, fax number, phone number, and e-mail address of the individual). However, the name of the individual and the content of the filing may be available for viewing at the OEB's offices and will be placed 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.**

Yours truly,

*Original signed by*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary

Attachment A: Form for Cost Claim

**Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards**  
**Board File No: EB-2011-0043**  
**ATTACHMENT A**  
**Ontario Energy Board Cost Claim Form for Consultations:**  
**Affidavit and Summary of Fees and Disbursements**

The forms that eligible parties must complete are provided in a separate MS Excel Workbook named, "EB-2011-0043 Cost Claim Form for Consultation.xls".