

**Ontario Energy Board**  
P.O. Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street  
27<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>e</sup> 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**

November 21, 2018

**To: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Distributors  
All Participants in EB-2017-0129**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards  
Board File No.: EB-2017-0129**

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### **Background**

On October 25, 2018, the OEB issued its Report of the [Ontario Energy Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans](#) (Final Report). The issuance of the Final Report marks the end of the consultation to develop a Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans ("Framework").

To assist staff in developing the Framework the OEB established a Technical Working Group to provide input to staff. The OEB determined that cost awards would be available to eligible members of the Technical Working Group for the provision of technical input to staff and written comments on any report issued by the OEB for comment. The OEB determined the following 5 members of the Technical Working Group were eligible for cost awards:

- **Consumers Council of Canada;**
- **Industrial Gas Users Association;**
- **School Energy Coalition;**
- **Federation of Rental-Housing Providers of Ontario;**
- **Canadian Biogas Association**

On April 12, 2018, the OEB issued for written comment its [Draft Report of the Ontario Energy Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans](#) (Draft Report). In the cover letter to the Draft Report, the OEB requested comments from stakeholders and indicated that interested parties could request a cost award to a maximum of 10 hours for providing written comments. The OEB received one request for cost award eligibility from **London Property Management Association**.

No objections were received to the above request for cost eligibility and the OEB determined that the above listed participant was eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards for this consultation.

### **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 December 5, 2018. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be served on each rate regulated natural gas utility. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

#### **Eligible persons must use the customized Cost Claim Form attached as Appendix A to this Notice.**

2. Rate regulated natural gas utilities will have until December 12, 2018 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 December 19, 2018 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.oeb.ca](http://www.oeb.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://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 <https://www.oeb.ca/industry>, 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 to [boardsec@oeb.ca](mailto:boardsec@oeb.ca). Persons that do not have internet access should provide a USB flash drive containing their filing in searchable PDF format.

All filings must quote file number **EB-2017-0129** 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.**

**Dated** at Toronto, November 21, 2018

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original Signed By*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary

Attachment – Appendix A

**Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated November 8, 2018**

**Report of the Ontario Energy Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor  
Gas Supply Plans**

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

The forms that eligible persons must complete are provided in a separate MS Excel Workbook named, "Cost Claim form – Consultations EB 2017 0129".