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

February 7, 2019

**To: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Distributors  
All Participants in EB-2017-0127 and EB-2017-0128**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards  
Mid-Term Review of the Demand Side Management Framework for Natural  
Gas Distributors (2015-2020)  
OEB File No.: EB-2017-0127 and EB-2017-0128**

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### **Background**

The OEB initiated the Natural Gas Demand Side Management Framework Mid-Term Review policy consultation on June 20, 2017. The Mid-Term Review included two parts. In the first part, interested parties commented on two issues related to the relationship between DSM and the Cap and Trade program. Submissions from interested parties were due by September 1, 2017.

In the second part, Enbridge Gas Inc. (formerly Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. and Union Gas Limited) submitted the studies and reports set out in the DSM Decision.

On August 15, 2018, the OEB issued a letter inviting interested stakeholders to attend a Stakeholder Meeting on September 6, 2018.

Following the Stakeholder Meeting, all parties had the opportunity to provide written comments to the OEB by September 28, 2018.

In the June 20, 2017 letter the OEB communicated the maximum number of hours for activities eligible for cost awards and that the cost awards would be recovered from all

rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective customer numbers.

Subsequent to the June 20, 2017 letter the OEB extended the Stakeholder Meeting for an additional half day. Therefore, the OEB has adjusted the eligible hours per participant from 16 total hours to 20 total hours for the Stakeholder Meeting. The maximum number of hours and eligible activities for the consultation are repeated in Appendix A of this Notice.

ACTIVITY	TOTAL ELIGIBLE HOURS PER PARTICIPANT
Written comments on the two specific issues identified in Part 1 of the Review – September 1, 2017	Up to 8 hours
Preparation for, attendance at, a Stakeholder Meeting – September 6 & 7, 2018	Up to 20 hours
Written comments following Stakeholder Meeting – September 28, 2018	Up to 12 hours

### Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating this hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards that will be made in accordance with section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to eligible consultation activities that have occurred since September 1, 2017.

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 **seven (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 persons shall submit their cost claims by **February 22, 2019**. 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*.

2. Natural gas distributors will have until **March 8, 2019** 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 person against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. An eligible person whose cost claim was objected to will have until **March 22, 2015** 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 natural gas distributor.
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 parties may refer to 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 [Rules, Codes, Guidelines and Forms](#) webpage.

All filings to the OEB must quote the file numbers, EB-2017-0127 and EB-2017-0128, be made in searchable / unrestricted PDF format electronically through the OEB's web portal at <https://pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/>. Two paper copies must also be filed at the OEB's address provided below. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the [RESS Document Guideline](#) found on the OEB's [e-Filing services](#) webpage. If the web portal is not available parties may email their documents to the address below. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit all filings on a USB memory stick in PDF format, along with two paper copies. Those who do not have computer access are required to file seven (7) paper copies.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Board Secretary at the address below, and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date.

**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

## **Appendix A**

### **Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards**

#### **Mid-Term Review of the Demand Side Management Framework for Natural Gas Distributors (2015-2020)**

**EB-2017-0127 and EB-2017-0128**

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

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS</b>
Written comments on the two specific issues identified in Part 1 of the Review – September 1, 2017	Up to 8 hours
Preparation for, attendance at, a Stakeholder Meeting – September 6 & 7, 2018	Up to 20 hours
Written comments following Stakeholder Meeting – September 28, 2018	Up to 12 hours