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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

September 6, 2019

**To: All Rate-Regulated Electricity Distributors
All Participants in EB-2015-0043**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Rate Design for Commercial & Industrial Customers
OEB File No.: EB-2015-0043**

Background

On February 21, 2019, the OEB issued a Staff Report to the Board ([Staff Report](#)) that provided staff's recommendations for new rate designs for electricity commercial and industrial rate classes as a step in the EB-2015-0043 policy consultation. The [Cover Letter](#) for the Staff Report made provision for the following cost eligible activities: participation in a stakeholder conference (to a maximum of 6 hours) and in relation to written comments on the Staff Report (to a maximum of 15 hours).

The OEB has issued¹ Decisions on March 20, 2019 and April 5, 2019, that determined the following participants in this consultation process were eligible for cost awards:

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario
- Association of Power Producers of Ontario (APPRO)
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Canadian Biogas Association
- Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters
- Canadian Solar Industries Association (CanSIA)
- Energy Storage Canada Inc.
- Environmental Defence
- London Property Management Association

¹ Available on the OEB website at [Rate Design for Commercial and Industrial Customers | Ontario Energy Board](#)

- Ontario CHP Consortium
- Ontario Sustainable Energy Association
- School Energy Coalition

In the Cover Letter, the OEB identified that costs would be recovered from all rate-regulated electricity distributors with costs awarded to be apportioned based on respective customer numbers.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards to participants in this consultation identified above that are eligible for costs. The decision on costs will be made by a delegated authority under section 6 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. The hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. Eligible participants shall submit their cost claims by **September 20, 2019**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be served on each rate-regulated electricity 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 electricity distributors will have until **September 27, 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 participant against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. The eligible participant whose cost claim was objected to will have until **October 4, 2019** to file a reply submission with the OEB 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.

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. The OEB will therefore act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process.

Parties must provide 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.oeb.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.oeb.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 to boardsec@oeb.ca. Persons that do not have internet access should provide a USB containing their filing in a searchable PDF format.

All filings must quote file number **EB-2015-0043** and include your name, address telephone number and, where available, your e-mail address and fax number.

If you 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, **September 6, 2019**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

Attachment: Appendix A

Appendix A

EB-2015-0043

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards

Regional Planning and Cost Responsibility Review

Dated September 3, 2019

**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 Consultation EB-2015-0043 20190906](#)"