

BY E-MAIL

October 25, 2019

To: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Participants in EB-2015-0245

Re: **Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards**
Natural Gas Demand Side Management Evaluation Advisory Committee
Board File No.: EB-2015-0245

Background

On August 21, 2015 the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued [a letter](#) establishing the process to evaluate the results of Natural Gas Demand Side Management (DSM) programs from 2015 to 2020.

As part of the OEB's evaluation process, an Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) made up of experts representing both utility and non-utility stakeholders was formed.

In the August 21, 2015 letter, the OEB stated 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 the EAC.

Based on the criteria set out in section 3 of the OEB's *Practice and Direction on Cost Awards*, the OEB determined that the following persons are eligible for an award of costs:

- Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group
- Jay Shepherd, Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation
- Marion Fraser, Marion Fraser Enterprises Inc.
- Robert M. Wirtshafter, Wirtshafter Associates, Inc.
- Dr. Ted Kesik, University of Toronto

The August 21, 2015 letter indicated that costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues. This 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 OEB 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 distribution revenues. The OEB considers it appropriate to apportion cost awards for this initiative in a manner consistent with the revised Cost Assessment Model, and has therefore determined that costs awarded will be apportioned within the distributor class based on customer numbers rather than revenues.

Decision on cost awards for participation in the EAC have been issued on the following dates:

- September 29, 2016 - EAC activities between August 21, 2015 to July 7, 2016
- June 5, 2017 - EAC activities between July 8, 2016 and March 31, 2017
- March 5, 2018 - EAC activities between April 1, 2017 to October 31, 2017
- December 10, 2018 - EAC activities between April 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018

This notice of cost awards is in relation to EAC activities from October 1, 2018 to October 11, 2019. The maximum number of hours and eligible activities are outlined in Appendix A of this Notice.

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 DSM evaluation consultation activities that have occurred since October 1, 2018.

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 persons shall submit their cost claims by **November 8, 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*.

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

2. Natural gas distributors will have until **November 15, 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 **November 22, 2019** 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.

All materials filed with the OEB must quote the proceeding number EB-2015-0245, be made in a searchable/unrestricted PDF format and sent 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 email address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at <https://www.oeb.ca/industry>. 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 paper copies.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar at the address below, and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date. With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Josh Wasylyk at josh.wasylyk@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Michael Millar at michael.millar@oeb.ca.

ADDRESS

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Attention: Board Secretary

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

Christine E. Long
Registrar and Board Secretary

Attachment

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated October 25, 2019

Natural Gas Demand Side Management – Evaluation Advisory Committee (EB-2015-0245)

Appendix A: Natural Gas DSM Evaluation Advisory Committee Consultation Activities for Which Cost Claims may be Filed and Maximum Number of Hours

	Activity Eligible for Cost Awards	Date of Request or Meeting	Maximum Number of Hours (Meeting Time x 1.5 for prep)
1	2016 TRM Update - Review and Comment	October 5, 2018	1.00
2	EAC Call - 2016 AV	October 10, 2018	3.00
3	2017/2018 CPSV FR - RFP Scope of Work - review and comment	November 8, 2018	2.00
4	EAC Call - 2017/18 CPSV FR SOW	November 13, 2018	3.00
5	EAC - sub-committee boiler baseline and whole home review	November 14, 2018	1.50
6	EAC Call - 2017/18 CPSV FR SOW pt.2	November 21, 2018	3.00
7	Ad hoc - APS Measure Review (Chis Neme ONLY)	multiple dates	30.00
8	C&I Prescriptive: Draft Measure-specific verification reports - review and comment	January 4, 2019	2.00
9	EAC Call - C&I Prescriptive GRR reports	January 14, 2019	3.00
10	2017/2018 CPSV - Proposal Review (Bob Wirtshafter ONLY)	January 15, 2019	8.00
11	Draft C&I Prescriptive Net Savings Report - review and comment	January 25, 2019	2.00
12	2018 EC - Proposal Review (Bob Wirtshafter ONLY)	February 7, 2019	8.00
13	2017/2018 CPSV FR Work Plan - review and comment	February 22, 2019	1.50
14	EAC Meeting - 2017/2018 CSPV Kick-off	February 28, 2019	5.25
15	2017/2018 CPSV FR: Gross Sample Design - review and comment	March 22, 2019	2.00
16	EAC Call - C&I Prescriptive NTG Results	March 28, 2019	3.00
17	2017/2018 CPSV FR: FR Sample Design - review and comment	April 5, 2019	2.00
18	EAC Call - FR Sample Design Memo	April 9, 2019	3.00
19	2017/2018 CPSV FR: FR Interview Guide & Methodology - review and comment	April 12, 2019	2.00
20	EAC Call - FR Interview Guide and Methodology	April 18, 2019	3.00
21	C&I Prescriptive: Net Savings Report - review and comment	April 26, 2019	2.00
22	EAC Call - C&I Prescriptive Draft NTG Report	May 10, 2019	3.00
23	EAC Call - Vendor Survey/Methodology	May 22, 2019	3.00
24	2017/2018 CPSV FR - Final Participant IDI Probe Guide - Review and Comment	May 24, 2019	0.50
25	2017 AV - Memo	June 28, 2019	0.25
26	2017/2018 CPSV FR: Batch 1 Site Reports (15) - review and comment	July 12, 2019	3.75
27	EAC Call - Site Reports Batch 1	July 17, 2019	3.00
28	2017/2018 CPSV FR: Batch 2 Site Reports (13) - review and comment	July 26, 2019	3.25
29	EAC Call - Site Reports Batch 2	July 31, 2019	3.00
30	2017/2018 CPSV FR: Batch 3 Site Reports (15) - review and comment	August 9, 2019	3.75
31	EAC Call - Site Reports Batch 3	August 14, 2019	3.00
32	2017 AV: Draft Results - Non-Savings Metrics - review and comment	August 16, 2019	1.50
33	EAC Call - 2017 AV: Draft Results - Non-Savings Metrics	August 21, 2019	3.00
34	2017/2018 CPSV FR: Batch 4 Site Reports (11) - review and comment	August 23, 2019	2.75
35	EAC Call - Site Reports Batch 4	August 28, 2019	3.00
36	2017 AV: Draft Results - Non-Custom Savings Metrics	September 6, 2019	1.50
37	2017/2018 CPSV FR: Batch 5 Site Reports - review and comment	September 6, 2019	2.50
38	2017 TRM - Draft Updated TRM Measures	September 6, 2019	1.00
39	EAC Call - Site Reports Batch 5	September 11, 2019	3.00
40	EAC Call - 2017 AV: Draft Results - Non-Custom Savings Metrics	September 12, 2019	3.00
41	2017/2018 CPSV FR: FR SOW review	September 13, 2019	0.50
42	2018 Updated Free Ridership Application - comment	September 16, 2019	0.50
43	2017/2018 CPSV FR: Batch 6 Site Reports - review and comment	September 20, 2019	3.25
44	2017 TRM - Draft TRM Work Plan - Review & Comment	September 25, 2019	1.00
45	EAC Call - Site Reports Batch 6	September 25, 2019	3.00
46	2017 AV: Draft DSMSI and LRAM Calcs - review and comment	October 4, 2019	1.00
47	2017/2018 CPSV FR: Batch 7 Site Reports - review and comment	October 4, 2019	2.75
48	EAC Call - Site Reports Batch 7	October 9, 2019	3.00
49	EAC Call - 2017 AV: Draft DSMSI and LRAM Calcs	October 10, 2019	3.00
50	2018 AV: Draft Results - non-custom savings metrics - review and comment	October 11, 2019	1.50

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**Natural Gas Demand Side Management –
Evaluation Advisory Committee (EB-2015-0245)**

**Appendix B: 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, "EB-2015-0245 NOH Appendix B Cost Claim Form – EAC Oct 2019".