



BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

May 14, 2020

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Other Interested Parties**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Connections Review
OEB File No.: EB-2019-0207**

This notice of cost awards is in relation to DER Connections Review activities from August 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

Background

On August 13, 2019, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a [letter](#) commencing an initiative to review its requirements in regard to the connection of distributed energy resources (DERs) by licensed electricity distributors (DER Connections Review). The letter indicated that cost awards would be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, and the OEB has determined that the licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors will pay the costs.

The OEB has issued Decisions on September 10, 2019, September 13, 2019, September 23, 2019 and January 13, 2020 that determined the following participants in this consultation process were eligible for cost awards¹:

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario
- Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters
- Consumers Council of Canada
- Energy Probe Research Foundation
- Environmental Defence
- London Property Management Association
- Pollution Probe
- School Energy Coalition
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Ontario Chamber of Commerce

¹ Decisions on Cost Eligibility are available on the OEB website at [Distributed Energy Resources \(DER\) Connections Review](#)

The decisions noted that cost awards would be available in relation to comments to staff letter and in relation to participation in the Working Group. The decisions also reminded parties that participants with similar viewpoints are requested to coordinate their activities in order to reduce costs. This effort will be taken into account during the decision on award of costs.

The maximum number of cost eligible hours per participant to prepare for, attend and report on Working Group Meetings was limited up to 1.5 times the meeting time. The maximum number of hours and eligible activities are outlined in Appendix A of this Notice.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards to eligible participants in the DER Connections Review consultation activities from August 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. 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 **June 5, 2020**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be served on each licensed 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 B to this Notice.

2. Licensed electricity distributors will have until **June 12, 2020** 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 **June 19, 2020** 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.

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.

All materials filed with the OEB must quote the file number, **EB-2019-0207** be made in a searchable/unrestricted PDF format and sent electronically through the OEB's web

portal at <https://pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice>. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address and telephone 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.

NOTE: The OEB is temporarily waiving the paper copy filing requirement until further notice. 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.

Questions about the DER Connections Review should be directed to Catherine Ethier at Catherine.Ethier@oeb.ca.

If you do not participate in the hearing by filing 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.

ADDRESS

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

Email: boardsec@oeb.ca
Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)

Dated at Toronto, **May 14, 2020**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

Attachments – Appendix A and Appendix B

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards - Dated May 14, 2020

**Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Connections Review
(EB-2019-0207)**

**Appendix A: Consultation Activities for Which Cost Claims may be Filed and
Maximum Number of Hours**

Activity Eligible for Cost Awards		Date of Request or Meeting	Eligible	Maximum Number of Hours
1	Comments to Staff letter		5.00	5.00
2	Working Group Meeting #1	December 4, 2019	Meeting Time x 1.5	7.5
3	Working Group Meeting #2	December 16, 2019	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
4	Working Group Meeting #3	March 25, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	7.5
5	Technical Subgroup Meeting #1	January 14, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	5.25
6	Technical Subgroup Meeting #2	January 28, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
7	Technical Subgroup Meeting #3	February 21, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
8	Process Subgroup Meeting #1	January 14, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
9	Process Subgroup Meeting #2	January 28, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
10	Process Subgroup Meeting #3	February 21, 2020	Meeting Time X 1.5	4.5
11	Combined Subgroup Meeting	March 4, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	10.5

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**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-2019-0207 NOH Appendix B Cost Claim form – Consultations 20200514"