

January 7, 2021

To: Registrar, Ontario Energy Board and Chris Cincar, Senior Policy Advisory Ontario Energy Board

From: Travis Lusney, Manager of Procurement & Power Systems, Power Advisory LLC

RE: EB-2020 Potential Member of the RPPAG

Hello,

I, Travis Lusney, am writing to request to participate as a member in the Regional Planning Process Advisory Group (RPPAG). I have acted as a consulting resource for many stakeholders interested in regional planning including distributors, transmitters, generators, distributed energy resources (DERs) and other demand-side resources (e.g., energy efficiency and demand response). For the RPPAG I will be representing Energy Storage Canada (ESC)¹ and Advanced Energy Management Alliance (AEMA)², together referred to as Non-Wires Solution Group (NWSG). I have been an active stakeholder in regional planning activities including specific regional planning undertakings and the broader Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) regional planning process review. Prior to joining Power Advisory LLC (Power Advisory), I was a power system planner within the Ontario Power Authority (merged with the IESO in 2015) and was part of regional planning efforts prior to the formalized regional planning process adopted by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) in 2013. Since joining Power Advisory over a decade ago, I have performed power system assessments and analysis across Canada and throughout the Northeast US. I am a Professional Engineer and have a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree in Electricity Engineering from Queen's University. Over the past few years, I have specifically assessed the impact of DERs on power system planning, design, operation, and investment requirements. I have presented analysis on the impacts of DERs on bulk and regional power systems at the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) as part of their Distribution System Inquiry (DSI)³ and at the Ontario Energy Board as part of the Responding to DERs/Utility Remuneration.⁴ I have a long-term interest in the regional planning process for my clients and

¹ ESC is the voice of the energy storage industry in Canada and participates throughout the electricity industry to advocate for fair access for energy storage in electricity markets and the regulatory sector.

² AEMA advocates for policies that empower and compensate customers appropriately--to contribute energy or energy-related services or to manage their energy usage--in a manner which contributes to a more efficient, cost-effective, resilient, reliable, and environmentally sustainable grid.

³ https://www2.auc.ab.ca/Proceeding24116/ProceedingDocuments/24116_X0159_AUC-DSIEnergyStorageCanadaSubmission-Jul_0170.pdf

⁴ https://www.oeb.ca/sites/default/files/stakeholder-presentations-Energy%20Storage%20Canada_Day%202.pdf

for my professional career that would be beneficial for the expected RPPAG commitment of time and effort.

Background

On December 10, 2020, the OEB announced an initiative to review the regional planning process. To accomplish this the OEB will re-establish the RPPAG⁵ to assist in reviewing the IESO regional planning recommendations published in the Straw Man Design document⁶. In addition to the IESO recommendations listed below, the RPPAG will be able to explore other areas where process efficiencies can be realized. IESO Regional Planning Process Recommendations include:

- Improve process efficiency and flexibility
- Better address end-of-life asset replacement in regional planning process
- Improve process coordination

Qualifications to Participate as a Member of the RPPAG

The OEB outlined five high-level qualifications that should be met to be considered a member of the RPPAG. Each are listed below with qualifications provided.

1. Must represent a stakeholder interest (e.g., distributor, transmitter, municipality, generator, Distributed Energy Resource)
 - I will be representing the NWSG who represent a wide variety of distributed-connected resource in Ontario
2. Demonstrated participation in regional planning activities
 - I have attended numerous regional planning engagement activities and been active in asking questions and providing comments during the engagement sessions.
 - I have supported a wide range of clients in analyzing and submitting commentary to regional planning processes across Ontario.
 - I have participated in the IESO's regional planning process review and supported clients in preparing responses to the IESO on draft recommendations and findings.
 - I have engaged the IESO through many related stakeholder engagement consultations on the links to regional planning process and the impact on electricity sector efficiencies and investments.

⁵ The RPPAG was put on hold in 2017 while the IESO was undertaking their regional planning process review to avoid two separate groups reviewing and recommending changes to the process at the same time, as stated by the OEB.

⁶ <http://www.ieso.ca/-/media/Files/IESO/Document-Library/engage/rpr/rppr-StrawManDesign-20200228.pdf?la=en>

3. Demonstrated relevance of the individual's role within their organization to regional planning activities.
 - I am the manager of procurement and power systems at Power Advisory and am responsible for tracking, analyzing, and preparing commentary on regional planning initiatives for clients and interested stakeholders.
4. Other qualifications including responsibility and/or participation in community engagement activities, technical certifications or qualifications as relevant to electricity system planning
 - I am a Professional Engineer and have a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree in Electricity Engineering from Queen's University.
 - Prior to Power Advisory I was a power system planner at the Ontario Power Authority within the transmission integration group.
5. Other experience that may assist the Advisory Group in meeting its objectives
 - I have presented analysis on the impacts of DERs on bulk and regional power systems at the AUC DSI and at the OEB Responding to DERs/Utility Remuneration consultations. Both are important consultations assessing the potential changes required in the electricity sector to manage the growing adoption of DERs.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to joining the RPPAG and supporting the evolution of Ontario's regional planning process.

Sincerely,

Travis Lusney, MSc, P. Eng.



Manager, Procurement and Power Systems

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cc:

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Sarah Griffiths (AEMA)