



BY EMAIL and WEB POSTING

January 18, 2021

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Licensed Electricity Transmitters
Independent Electricity System Operator
All Other Interested Stakeholders**

Re: Regional Planning Process Review (EB-2020-0176)

The OEB is pleased to share with stakeholders further information about the newly constituted Regional Planning Process Advisory Group (RPPAG), its membership, scope of work and to address matters related to cost eligibility.

On December 10, 2020, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a [letter](#) (December 10th letter) that initiated a consultation to undertake a review of the regional planning process that applies to Ontario's electricity sector. The December 10th letter indicated that the first step in this consultation involved re-establishing the RPPAG to assist the OEB in this review and that the initial RPPAG meeting would be held in February 2021.

Scope

The objective for the RPPAG is to provide a set of recommendations related to potential changes to the regional planning process for consideration by the OEB which may result in both proposed changes to the current regional planning process and/or amendments to one or more of the OEB's applicable regulatory instruments, including the Distribution System Code, the Transmission System Code, the IESO's licence and utility application filing requirements.

The initial focus of the RPPAG will be to further assess certain recommendations resulting from the review undertaken by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) of the regional planning process; specifically, those set out in the [IESO's Straw Man document](#) (IESO Straw Man) that the OEB will lead.

While the primary focus in the near term will be the IESO's recommendations, the OEB does not plan to limit the scope of the RPPAG's work to those recommendations. There may be other areas where process efficiencies can be realized, as the OEB's ultimate goal is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the current regional planning process. However, to be clear, those recommendations that have been identified as

being spearheaded by the IESO are not within the scope of this review and will therefore not be a focus of discussion at the RPPAG meetings.

RPPAG Membership

The OEB acknowledges all the organizations that responded to the December 10th letter expressing an interest in participating as a member of the RPPAG. The membership of the RPPAG reflects the qualifications set out in the December 10th letter. Regional diversity was also taken into consideration. All stakeholders that indicated an interest have been accepted for membership and form the newly constituted RPPAG asset out in Attachment A. OEB staff will be communicating directly with the RPPAG members regarding the date and a proposed agenda for the first meeting of the RPPAG.

Cost Eligibility

The December 10th letter indicated that cost awards will be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, and will be recovered from licensed electricity distributors and licensed electricity transmitters. Three stakeholders applied for cost eligibility.

The OEB has determined that the following stakeholders meet the criteria set out in the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#) (Practice Direction) and are therefore eligible for cost awards in this consultation:

- School Energy Coalition (Mark Rubenstein)
- Pollution Probe (Michael Brophy)
- Common Voice Northwest (Iain Angus)

For further information regarding cost awards in this consultation, please see Attachment C to the December 10th letter.

Questions about the Regional Planning Process Review initiative should be directed to Chris Cincar at Chris.Cincar@oeb.ca.

Yours truly,

Original Signed By

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

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Attachment A

Regional Planning Process Advisory Group (RPPAG) Members

Name	Organization	Type of Representative
Mark Rubenstein	School Energy Coalition	Consumer
Iain Angus	Common Voice Northwest	Consumer
Jac Vanderbaan	London Hydro	Distributor
Riaz Shaikh-	Alectra Utilities	Distributor
Matthew Higgins	Toronto Hydro	Distributor
Faisal Habibullah	Elexicon Energy	Distributor
Robert Reinmuller	Hydro One	Transmitter
Jie Han	Canadian Niagara Power Inc., Algoma Power Inc., Cornwall Electric	Distributor and Transmitter
Charles Conrad	Association of Power Producers of Ontario	Generator
Amber Crawford	Association of Municipalities of Ontario	Municipalities
Michael Brophy	Pollution Probe, Clean Air Council (CAC), Clean Air Partnership (CAP)	Municipalities
Travis Lusney	Energy Storage Canada (ESC) and Advanced Energy Management Alliance (AEMA), together referred to as Non-Wires Solution Group (NWSG)	Non-Wires (i.e., DER)
Chris Codd	Versorium Energy	DER
Ahmed Maria Devon Huber	Independent Electricity System Operator	System Operator