



BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

March 2, 2021

**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 Hearing for cost awards is in relation to DER Connections Review activities from April 1, 2020 to March 1, 2021.

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 a Decision on Cost Eligibility on September 10, 2019, September 13, 2019, September 23, 2019 and January 13, 2020 (collectively “the Decisions”) that determined the following participants in this consultation process were eligible for cost awards¹:

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

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 participation in the Working Group. In the Decisions, the OEB requested that participants with similar viewpoints coordinate their activities in order to reduce costs, and that this effort will be taken into account during the decision on awards of costs.

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

Hearing on Cost Awards

The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion to determine the cost awards to eligible participants in the DER Connections Review consultation activities from April 1, 2020 to March 1, 2021. The decision on costs will be made by an OEB staff member with 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 **March 16, 2021**. 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](#) (Practice Direction).

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

2. Licensed electricity distributors will have until **March 23, 2021** 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 **March 30, 2021** to file its reply submission, if any, with the OEB, with a copy of the reply submission 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 the Practice Direction 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**, and be submitted in a searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the OEB's web portal at <https://p-pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/PivotalUX/>. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the [Regulatory Electronic Submission System \(RESS\) Document Guidelines](#) found at www.oeb.ca/industry. Parties are encouraged to use; however,

parties who have not yet [set up an account](#), may email their documents to registrar@oeb.ca.

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.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)

Fax: 416-440-7656

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.

DATED at Toronto on March 2, 2021

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 March 2, 2021

**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**

No.	Activity Eligible for Cost Awards	Date of Request or Meeting	Eligible	Maximum Number of Hours
1	Working Group Meeting #3	March 25, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	7.5
2	Working Group Meeting #4	May 26, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
3	Joint Subgroup Meeting #1	April 28, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
4	Joint Subgroup Meeting #2	May 13, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.0
5	Technical Subgroup Meeting #1	June 16, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.75
6	Process Subgroup Meeting #1	June 16, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.75
7	Technical Subgroup Meeting #2	July 8, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.0
8	Process Subgroup Meeting #2	July 8, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
9	Technical Subgroup Meeting #3	August 6, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
10	Process Subgroup Meeting #3	August 6, 2020	Meeting Time X 1.5	4.5
11	Technical Subgroup Meeting #4	September 3, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.0
12	Process Subgroup Meeting #4	September 3, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
13	Technical Subgroup Meeting #5	September 25, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.75
14	Process Subgroup Meeting #5	September 25, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
15	Technical Subgroup Meeting #6	October 14, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
16	Process Subgroup Meeting #6	October 14, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5

No.	Activity Eligible for Cost Awards	Date of Request or Meeting	Eligible	Maximum Number of Hours
17	Technical Subgroup Meeting #7	November 5, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.75
18	Process Subgroup Meeting #7	November 5, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
19	Process Subgroup Meeting #8	November 17, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
20	Technical Subgroup Meeting #8	November 17, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.75
21	Working Group Meeting #5	December 8, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
22	Technical Subgroup Meeting #9	December 10, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5
23	Process Subgroup Meeting #9	December 10, 2020	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.0
24	Technical Subgroup Meeting #10	January 14, 2021	Meeting Time x 1.5	2.25
25	Process Subgroup Meeting #10	January 14, 2021	Meeting Time x 1.5	2.25
26	Joint Subgroup Meeting #3	January 26, 2021	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.75
27	Working Group Meeting #6	February 16, 2021	Meeting Time x 1.5	4.5

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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 20210302"