



**BY EMAIL**

June 3, 2021

**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**

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## **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
- 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. 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
- December 17, 2019 – EAC activities between October 1, 2018 to October 11, 2019

This notice of cost awards is in relation to EAC activities from October 12, 2019 to May 31, 2021. 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 12, 2019.

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 **June 17, 2021**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be sent by email to 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 **June 24, 2021** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the OEB and one copy must be sent by email to the eligible person against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. The eligible person whose cost claim was objected to will have until **July 2, 2021** to file with the OEB a reply submission as to why its cost claim should be allowed. One copy of the reply submission is to be sent by email to 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.

### How to File Materials

Stakeholders are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB **do not include personal information** (as that phrase is defined in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*), unless filed in accordance with rule 9A of the OEB's [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#).

Please quote file number, **EB-2015-0245** for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the OEB's web portal at <https://p-pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/PivotalUX/>.

- Filings should clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address.
- Please 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](http://www.oeb.ca/industry).
- Stakeholders are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet [set up an account](#), or require assistance using the web portal can contact [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca) for assistance.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar at the address below and be received by end of business, 4:45 p.m., on the required date. With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, stakeholders should include the Case Manager, Josh Wasyluk at [josh.wasyluk@oeb.ca](mailto:josh.wasyluk@oeb.ca) and OEB Counsel, Michael Millar at [michael.millar@oeb.ca](mailto:michael.millar@oeb.ca).

Email: [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca)

Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

Yours truly,

*Original Signed By*

Christine E. Long  
Registrar

Attachment

## Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated June 3, 2021

### 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	Date	Maximum Hours
1	EAC Call - 2018 AV: Draft Results - non-custom savings metrics	October 16, 2019	4.0
2	2017/18 CPSV/FR - Baseline and NTG Prep	October 18, 2019	3.0
3	EAC Call - CPSV Baseline Discussion	October 23, 2019	3.0
4	2019 CPSV Scope of Work - comment	November 8, 2019	1.0
5	2019 - Additional Evaluation Activities - comment	November 13, 2019	1.0
6	EAC Call - AV - Non-Savings Metrics (2018)	November 13, 2019	3.0
7	2018 Draft TRM Updates - comments	December 1, 2019	1.0
8	EAC Call - AV - DSMSI & LRAM Calculators (2018)	December 4, 2019	1.5
9	2017-2018 Draft CPSV Report - comment	January 16, 2020	4.0
10	2018 Draft Free Ridership Report - comment	January 16, 2020	4.0
11	Procurement Process - 2019 Custom Program Savings Verification - (Kesik-only)	January 20, 2020	4.0
12	EAC In-person Meeting - 2017 & 2018 Results and Reporting Discussion (including prep)	January 28, 2020	13.0
13	2017 & 2018 Annual Verification Report - comment	February 20, 2020	2.0
14	2017-2017 Custom Evaluation Executive Summary - comment	February 28, 2020	1.0
15	2017-2018 Final CPSV Report and 2018 Final Free Ridership Report - comment	February 28, 2020	3.0
16	EAC Call - Final 2017/2018 AV Reports Review & Discussion	March 4, 2020	4.5
17	EAC Call - 2019 Evaluation Options Discussion & Potential COVID-19 Impacts	April 9, 2020	2.0
18	EAC Call - 2017/2018 Evaluation Post-Mortem	April 22, 2020	2.5
19	EAC Call - 2020-21 EMV Activities Discussion	July 7, 2020	2.0
20	2019 AV Scope of Work - comment	July 7, 2020	1.5
21	2019 DSM Evaluation - CPSV Adjustments - comment	July 27, 2020	0.5
22	2019 TRM Workplan - comment	August 10, 2020	0.5
23	Evaluation Calculator - DSMSI, LRAMVA, Cost Effectiveness - comment	August 31, 2020	2.0
24	EAC Call - eTools Walkthrough	September 1, 2020	3.0
25	2019 Draft TRM Updates - comment	September 30, 2020	1.0
26	2020-2021 EM&V Plan Update - comments	October 12, 2020	2.5
27	2019 Annual Verification Report - comments	November 6, 2020	3.0
28	eTools Study Launch - comments	November 10, 2020	2.0
29	EAC Call - 2019 AV Results - Comments	November 16, 2020	3.0
30	IESO EM&V Protocols Update - comments	December 16, 2020	2.5
31	2019 AV Post Mortem Questionnaire - comment	January 11, 2021	1.0
32	eTools Study - Scope of Work	February 5, 2021	2.0
33	EAC Call - eTools Study Scope of Work Discussion	February 24, 2021	2.0
34	eTools Scope of Work Updates - comments	March 11, 2021	1.5
35	EAC Call - EAC Terms of Reference	April 12, 2021	2.0
36	EAC Meeting - eTools Billing Analysis Discussion	April 15, 2021	2.0
37	2020 AV Scope of Work - comment	May 7, 2021	3.0
38	EAC Meeting - eTools Calculator Discussion	May 27, 2021	4.0

**Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated June 3, 2021**

**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 June 2021” that is attached to this Notice of Hearing.