

BY E-MAIL

February 10, 2022

**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**

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
- July 26, 2021 – EAC activities between October 12, 2019 to May 31, 2021

This notice of cost awards is in relation to EAC activities from June 1, 2021 to December 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 June 1, 2021.

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 **February 18, 2022**. 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](#).
2. Natural gas distributors will have until **February 25, 2022** 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 **March 4, 2022** 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 online filing portal](#).

- Filings should clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone 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 the [File documents online page](#) on the OEB's website.
- Stakeholders are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet [set up an account](#), or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact registrar@oeb.ca for assistance.
- Cost claims are now filed through the OEB's online filing portal. Please visit the [File documents online page](#) of the OEB's website for more information. All participants shall download a copy of their submitted cost claim and serve it on all required parties as per the [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

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, February 10, 2022

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Acting Registrar

Attachment – Appendix A

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated February 10, 2022**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	2020 TRM Draft Workplan - comments	June 29, 2021	1.0
2	EGI - Commercial Midstream Process Evaluation RFP - comments	August 11, 2021	1.0
3	GIS Data Discussion (Wirtsafter-only)	August 25, 2021	0.5
4	2020 AV - Draft Live Calculator - review and comment	August 30, 2021	2.0
5	EAC Call - eTools - Preliminary Results	September 3, 2021	2.0
6	2020 AV - 2020 Metrics Achievement PPT - review and comment	September 17, 2021	1.0
7	EAC Call - 2020 AV Metric Achievement	September 21, 2021	1.5
8	2020 AV - Draft DSMSI, LRAMVA, Cost Effectiveness Results	September 27, 2021	2.0
9	2020 TRM - Draft Updated Subdocs	September 28, 2021	3.0
10	eTools - Stage 1 Draft Report	October 6, 2021	2.0
11	2020 AV - Draft Report	October 18, 2021	2.5
12	EAC Call - 2020 AV Report	November 8, 2021	1.5
13	EAC Call - eTools - Phase 1 Discussion	November 22, 2021	1.5
14	eTools - Updated Stage 1 Draft Report	December 21, 2021	1.5