



**BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING**

February 11, 2022

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors  
All Cost Eligible Stakeholders  
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 EB-209-0207 activities from March 2, 2021 to February 2, 2022.

### **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 Decisions 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 awards<sup>1</sup>:

- 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

---

<sup>1</sup> Decisions on Cost Eligibility are available on the OEB website at [Distributed Energy Resources \(DER\) Connections Review](#)

The Decisions noted that activities and hours eligible for costs would be determined by the OEB during the course of the process. In its letter establishing a Working Group for the purpose of developing advice regarding DER connection's issues, the OEB indicated costs would be available for those eligible stakeholders that participated in the Working Group. The OEB also confirmed that participation in any sub-groups established by the Working Group are eligible activities.

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.

In the Decisions, the OEB states the expectation 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.

### **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 March 2, 2021 to February 2, 2022. 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 **February 25, 2022**. 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).
2. Licensed electricity distributors will have until **March 4, 2022** 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 11, 2022** 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.

### **How to File Materials**

Parties 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-2019-0207** 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.
- Parties 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.
- 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](#).

All communications regarding cost award matters should be directed to the attention of the Registrar and be received at the address below by end of business, 4:45 pm, on the required date.

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

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

Questions about the DER Connections Review should be directed to Catherine Ethier at [Catherine.Ethier@oeb.ca](mailto: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 February 11, 2022

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original Signed By*

Brian Hewson  
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

Attachments – Appendix A

**Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards - Dated February 11, 2022**

**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**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Activity Eligible for Cost Awards</b>	<b>Date of Request or Meeting</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Maximum Number of Hours</b>
1	Working Group Meeting #1 (Tranche 2)	May 26, 2021	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.0
2	Working Group Meeting #1 (Tranche 3)	August 16, 2021	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.75
3	Working Group Meeting #2 (Tranche 3)	September 28, 2021	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.75
5	Technical Subgroup Meeting #1	November 3, 2021	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.75
6	Process Subgroup Meeting #1	November 3, 2021	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.75
7	Process Subgroup Meeting #2	December 9, 2021	Meeting Time x 1.5	4:50