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BY E-MAIL AND WEBPOSTING

February 22, 2022

To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Intervenor in Electricity Distribution Rate Proceedings for 2022 and 2023
Rates

Re: Consultation on Updates to Filing Requirements for Electricity Distribution Cost of
Service Applications
Ontario Energy Board File No.: EB-2022-0096

The OEB will establish a working group to review filing requirements for large distributors for 2024 rates and beyond that will consist of representatives from electricity distributors, intervenors and OEB staff.

As part of its path to modernization and its work on finding process improvements to increase value for Ontario's energy consumers, the OEB launched an initiative on [April 15, 2021](#), to find efficiencies in the rate application process for smaller rate-regulated electricity distributors. That effort resulted in the OEB issuing updated filing requirements for small electricity distributors on [December 16, 2021](#).

The purpose of this letter is to make stakeholders aware of the continuation of this effort for all other rate-regulated electricity distributors and to invite participation in a new working group.

Working Group to Review Filing Requirements for 2024

The OEB anticipates that many of the improvements to the filing requirements made for small distributors will be applicable to larger distributors. The OEB will therefore move forward to issue updated filing requirements for larger distributors for 2023 rates based on these previous updates. Details are outlined further below.

There are a number of areas the OEB plans to explore for larger distributors for 2024 rate applications. The OEB is open to feedback from all stakeholders on the scope of the working group, but initially anticipates that the working group will review the details of the following, including but not limited to:

- Customer engagement
- Innovation and Grid Optimization
- Use of Benchmarking
- Excel Models
- Issues unique to distributors with 30,000 customers or more

Those interested in participating are requested to indicate their interest by filing a letter with the OEB indicating who they represent, and where applicable, a request for cost eligibility, to the attention of the Registrar quoting EB-2022-0096 at registrar@oeb.ca, by 4:45 p.m. on March 11, 2022.

Based on the nominations, the OEB expects to select a representative group of stakeholders. The size of the working group must be such that it can work effectively. Groups representing the same interests or constituency are encouraged to make every effort to co-ordinate their nominations for participation in the working group.

Cost Awards

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants in the working group. Cost awards will cover preparation, attendance and reporting time in relation to each working group meeting. The number of hours per participant will be determined prior to the first meeting. The OEB will apply the principles set out in section 5 of its [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#) when awarding costs. The hourly rates set out in the OEB's Cost Award Tariff will be applied.

Update on Filing Requirements for 2023 Rates

The OEB's update to the filing requirements for 2023 rate applications for large distributors will be issued in the spring of this year. This update will include the typical annual updates as well as many of the amendments from the small utility filing requirements. The OEB will consider the stakeholder feedback from the OEB's December 7, 2021 webinar and the Adjudicative Modernization Committee. This is being done with the annual update to expeditiously reduce the filing burden for the two large distributors filing for rates effective May 1, 2023.

Any questions relating to this letter should be directed to [Kevin Mancherjee](#).

Yours truly,

Nancy Marconi
Registrar