



**BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING**

January 25, 2023

**TO: All licensed Electricity Distributors  
All Other Interested Parties**

**RE: Engagement on Distributor Resilience, Responsiveness and Cost Efficiency  
Ontario Energy Board File No. EB-2023-0003**

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The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will engage stakeholders to inform its preparation of a report to the Minister of Energy regarding proposals to improve distribution sector resiliency, responsiveness, and cost efficiency in response to the challenges posed by climate change. The work is outlined in the Minister's [letter of direction](#), which highlights the importance of the OEB's role in ensuring electricity distributors are prepared for extreme weather events.

As a first step in this work, the OEB has commissioned the preparation of a report which will review best practices regarding climate change resilience. Through review of available literature and approaches taken in other jurisdictions, it will discuss the definition and establishment of resilience expectations for electricity distributors. It will describe appropriate regulatory instruments in response to elevated service risks stemming from increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events. It will also discuss tools and methods for ensuring appropriate and cost-effective levels of investment and spending in the context of electrification, changing customer expectations and a dynamic public policy environment.

### **Stakeholder Meeting**

The OEB will host a meeting to solicit input from stakeholders regarding the identified best practices and to discuss those which may best suit the Ontario context.

The meeting will take place on **March 20, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** This session will include a presentation of the report, a question and answer session, and further discussion. The report will be made available on the OEB's Engage with Us [project page](#) in advance of the meeting.

Also planned is a second stakeholder meeting, which will focus on broader questions related to the scope of resilience, responsiveness and cost-efficiency issues to be addressed in the report. Stakeholders will be advised of the second meeting date in due course.

## **Participation**

Stakeholders who want to participate in the meeting are asked to email notice of their intention to [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca) by **February 2, 2023**. Emails should include 'EB-2023-0003 - Engagement on Distributor Resilience, Responsiveness and Cost Efficiency' in the subject line.

## **Cost Award Matters and Filing Instructions**

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants under section 30 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 for participation in the consultation. Costs awarded will be recovered from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors.

Important information regarding cost awards and instructions for filing materials with the OEB is included in Appendix A to this letter.

Any questions relating to this letter should be directed to Ashley Sanasie at [Ashley.Sanasie@oeb.ca](mailto:Ashley.Sanasie@oeb.ca). The Board's toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marconi  
Registrar

## **Appendix A**

### Cost Award Matters and Filing Instructions

#### **Cost Award Eligibility**

The OEB will determine eligibility for costs in accordance with its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. Any person intending to request an award of costs must file with the OEB a written submission to that effect by **February 2, 2023**. The submission must identify the grounds on which the person believes that it is eligible for an award of costs (addressing the OEB's cost eligibility criteria as set out in section 3 of the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*). An explanation of any other funding to which the person has access must also be provided, as should the name and credentials of any lawyer, analyst or consultant that the person intends to retain, if known. All requests for cost eligibility will be posted on the OEB's website. If a licensed rate-regulated electricity distributor has any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections must be filed with the OEB by **February 7, 2023**. Any objections will be posted on the OEB's website. The OEB will then make a final determination on the cost eligibility of the requesting participants.

#### **Eligible Activities**

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants for participation in the initial stakeholder meeting to a maximum of six hours for preparation and attendance. Details for the second meeting will be provided when the date is communicated to stakeholders.

#### **Cost Awards**

When determining the amount of the cost awards, the OEB will apply the principles set out in section 5 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. The maximum hourly rates set out in the Cost Awards Tariff will also be applied. The OEB expects that groups representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and co-ordinate their participation in this process. In accordance with section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* the OEB will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process. For more information on this process, please see the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

#### **How to File Materials**

All written materials sent to the OEB in response to this letter will be placed on the public record and posted on the OEB's website.

If the written materials are from a private citizen (i.e., not a lawyer representing a client, not a consultant representing a client or organization, not an individual in an organization that represents the interests of consumers or other groups, and not an individual from a regulated entity), the OEB will remove any personal (i.e.,

not business) contact information (e.g., address, phone number and e-mail address) before placing the materials on the public record and posting the materials on the OEB's website. However, your name and the entire content of your materials will be placed on the public record and posted on the OEB's website. If the written materials are from a person acting in a professional or business capacity, all information in the written materials will be publicly available.

Please quote file number, **EB-2023-0003** 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](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca) for assistance.
- Cost claims are 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 should be directed to the attention of the Registrar and be received by end of business, 4:45 p.m., on the required date.

Email: [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca)  
Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll-free)