



Ontario
Energy
Board | Commission
de l'énergie
de l'Ontario

BY E-MAIL

February 16, 2023

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All participants in EB-2018-0278
All Other Interested Parties**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Activity and Program-based Benchmarking Initiative
Ontario Energy Board File Number: EB-2018-0278**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is giving notice that eligible participants are invited to submit cost claims for eligible activities in relation to the Activity and Program-based Benchmarking (APB) Initiative (EB-2018-0278).

Background

On November 3, 2022, the OEB issued a [letter](#) indicating that further steps would be taken to enhance Activity and Program-based Benchmarking. In this letter, electricity distributors and other interested stakeholders were invited to a virtual meeting on November 30, 2022 to provide input on proposed enhancements to the Vegetation Management Operations & Maintenance (O&M) and Meters Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) programs. Stakeholders were also invited to share feedback through surveys posted on the [APB Engage with Us page](#).

The November 3, 2022 letter indicated that cost awards would be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, and that costs would be recovered from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors, apportioned based on their respective customer numbers.

The OEB issued a [Decision on Cost Eligibility](#) on December 7, 2022 that determined the following parties were eligible for cost awards:

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Consumers Council of Canada
- London Property Management Association
- School Energy Coalition
- Pollution Probe

- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition
- Environmental Defence

The November 3, 2022 letter advised that cost awards would be available in relation to participation in the stakeholder meeting plus time for preparation and reporting. The letter also requested that groups representing the same interests or class of persons should make every effort to communicate and coordinate their participation in the process. The maximum numbers of hours and eligible activities are outlined below.

Eligible Activities

The eligible activities are as follows:

No.	Activity Eligible for Cost Awards	Maximum Number of Hours
1	Meeting Preparation and Reporting	4
2	Attendance and participation in the November 30, 2022 Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	3

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion to determine the cost awards to eligible participants in the ABP Initiatives activities. The decision on costs will be made by 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 **March 1, 2023**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards. Any cost claims will be available for review by licensed electricity distributors through the OEB's website under file number EB-2022-0278.
2. Licensed electricity distributors will have until **March 6, 2023** 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 10, 2023** 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

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-2018-0278** 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 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

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

Yours truly,

Nancy Marconi
Registrar