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March 2, 2023

TO: All Participants in Consultation Process EB-2023-0003
All Other Interested Parties

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

Today the OEB has released a draft report, *Resilience in the Electricity Distribution Sector and Related Policy Questions* (Report), prepared by London Economics International (LEI). The Report defines resilience within the context of climate change and assesses best practices and related policy questions as they apply to electricity distributors in Ontario. The Report is available at the OEB's [Engage with Us project page](#).

On January 25, 2023, the OEB issued a letter that initiated engagement with stakeholders to consider ways of improving distribution sector resilience, responsiveness and cost efficiency in response to the [Minister's Letter of Direction](#). As indicated in its letter, the OEB will hold a virtual meeting of stakeholders to discuss the issue of resilience relating to electricity distribution. The meeting will feature a presentation of the Report by LEI, including opportunities to ask questions regarding the Report. Considerable time during the meeting will be allocated to open discussion.

To support stakeholders in preparing for this meeting, the OEB encourages participants to consider the following questions in their review of the Report and in anticipation of the issues to be discussed:

- What does resilience mean in the context of electricity distribution?
- Which principles should guide the development of resilience expectations for Ontario distributors in ways that ensure continued focus on distributor performance, efficiency and responsiveness?
- How should distributors' responsibilities regarding resilience be defined and distinguished from those of customers, municipalities or other parties?
- What steps should the OEB follow in order to develop resilience expectations?

- What tools should the OEB develop in order to best assist distributors in meeting resilience expectations while continuing to drive efficiencies?
- Which approaches to rate-setting and incentives present good opportunities for efficient investment in resilience?
- Which practices in other jurisdictions, including those beyond what is canvassed in the report, should the OEB consider in its approach to the regulatory treatment of resilience of electricity distribution systems?

The stakeholder meeting will take place on March 20, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

After having considered resilience issues in the upcoming meeting, the OEB will host a subsequent meeting to examine the options to increase distributors' capacity to meet expectations, improve cost efficiency and enhance responsiveness, topics also reflected in the scope of Minister's request for advice and proposals from the OEB. This second stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for April 25, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost awards will be available to eligible participants for participation in this meeting to a maximum of six hours for preparation and attendance.

The Letter of Direction requires that the OEB provide its advice and proposals to the Minister by June 30, 2023.

Both stakeholder meetings will be virtual events. Information on how to participate will be provided to registered participants in advance.

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Marconi
Registrar