

BY E-MAIL

April 6, 2023

**To: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Participants in EB-2015-0245**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Natural Gas Demand Side Management Evaluation Advisory Committee
Board File No.: EB-2015-0245**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is giving Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards to consider cost claims from eligible members in the Natural Gas Demand Side Management Evaluation Advisory Committee. Eligible members are invited to submit cost claims for eligible activities for the period January 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023. Further details regarding the hearing are outlined below.

Background

On August 21, 2015 the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued [a letter](#) establishing the process to evaluate the results of Natural Gas Demand Side Management (DSM). As part of the OEB's evaluation process, an Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC), made up of experts representing both utility and non-utility stakeholders was formed. In the August 21, 2015 letter, the OEB stated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) in relation to their participation in the EAC.

In the August 21, 2015 letter, the OEB also determined that the following persons are eligible for an award of costs:

- Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group
- Jay Shepherd, Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation
- Robert M. Wirtshafter, Wirtshafter Associates, Inc.
- Dr. Ted Kesik, University of Toronto

The August 21, 2015 letter indicated that costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues. This apportionment was consistent with the methodology that was in place at the time for allocating costs for cost assessment purposes under section 26 of the OEB Act.

Decision on cost awards for participation in the EAC have been issued on the following dates:

- September 29, 2016 - EAC activities between August 21, 2015 to July 7, 2016
- June 5, 2017 - EAC activities between July 8, 2016 and March 31, 2017
- March 5, 2018 - EAC activities between April 1, 2017 to October 31, 2017
- December 10, 2018 - EAC activities between April 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018
- December 17, 2019 – EAC activities between October 1, 2018 to October 11, 2019
- July 26, 2021 – EAC activities between October 12, 2019 to May 31, 2021, and
- March 22, 2022 – EAC activities between June 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

This notice of cost awards is in relation to EAC activities from January 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023. The maximum number of hours and eligible activities are outlined in Appendix A of this Notice.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating this hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards that will be made in accordance with section 30 of the OEB Act in relation to eligible DSM evaluation consultation activities that have occurred from January 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023.

The OEB intends to proceed by way of written hearing unless a party can satisfy the OEB that there is a good reason for not holding a written hearing. If a party wants to object to a written hearing, the objection must be received by the OEB on or before Friday, April 14, 2023.

Assuming that the OEB does not receive any objections to a written hearing, the hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. Eligible persons shall submit their cost claims by **Friday, April 21, 2023**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be sent by email to both Enbridge Gas Inc. and EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).
2. Enbridge Gas Inc. and EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership will have until **Friday, April 28, 2023** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the OEB and one copy must be sent by email to the eligible person against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. The eligible person whose cost claim was objected to will have until **Friday, May 5, 2023** to file with the OEB a reply submission as to why its cost claim should be allowed. One copy of the reply submission is to be sent by email to the objecting natural gas distributor.
4. The OEB will then issue its decision on cost awards. The OEB's costs may also be addressed in the cost awards decision.

How to File Materials

Participants 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-2015-0245** 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.

- Participants 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 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 should be directed to the attention of the Registrar at the address below and received by 5:00 p.m., on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Josh Wasyluk at josh.wasyluk@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

DATED at Toronto, April 6, 2023

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar

Attachment – Appendix A

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated April 6, 2023

Natural Gas Demand Side Management – Evaluation Advisory Committee (EB-2015-0245)

Appendix A: Natural Gas DSM Evaluation Advisory Committee Consultation Activities for Which Cost Claims may be Filed and Maximum Number of Hours

	Activity Eligible for Cost Awards (January 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023)	Date of Request or Meeting	Maximum Number of Hours
1	EAC Meeting - eTools Phase 2 Discussion	January 10, 2022	1.5
2	eTRM+ Beta v1.0 - review	February 10, 2022	1
3	2022 TRM Update - Mid-cycle Review - comments	April 12, 2022	1
4	EAC Meeting - eTools Phase 2 Update	May 2, 2022	2.25
5	2021 AV Scope of Work - comments	May 4, 2022	1.5
6	eTools Study - Enbridge DSA Report - review	May 4, 2022	2
7	2022 TRM Update - Mid-cycle Review - review	May 16, 2022	0.5
8	EAC Meeting - eTools Phase 2 Update	June 28, 2022	2.25
9	eTools Report - Draft Phase 2 - comments	July 5, 2022	2.5
10	EGI's Custom Industrial Process Evaluation – SoW - comments	July 6, 2022	1
11	2022 TRM Update - Draft Work plan - comments	July 8, 2022	1
12	2022 TRM Update - Final work plan - review	July 29, 2022	0.5
13	Annual Verification Draft Calculator to EAC	August 1, 2022	0.5
14	EAC Meeting - eTools Phase 2 Report Discussion	August 11, 2022	1.5
15	eTools Report - Final Phase 2 - review	August 18, 2022	1
16	2021 AV - Draft DSMSI, LRAM and Cost-effectiveness results - comment	September 1, 2022	2
17	2021 AV - Draft Report	September 19, 2022	2.5
18	EAC Meeting - eTools Study - Final Report Comments	September 29, 2022	1.5
19	2022 TRM Update - Proposed Changes - comments	October 12, 2022	2
20	eTools Study Update - Impact of CPSV Adjustments - review	October 13, 2022	0.5
21	eTools - Updated Stage 2 Report - comments	December 23, 2022	2
22	EAC Meeting - eTools Study - Impact of CPSV Adjustments	January 11, 2023	2.25
23	eTools Report - Updated Phase 2 - comments	January 23, 2023	1.5