



BY E-MAIL

May 31, 2023

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Licensed Electricity Transmitters
All Other Interested Parties
All Cost Eligible Working Group Members**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Reliability and Power Quality Review
File No.: [EB-2021-0307](#)**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is giving notice that eligible participants in the Reliability and Power Quality Review (RPQR) consultation, OEB file no. EB-2021-0307, are invited to submit cost claims for eligible activities as follows:

- a) Submissions on questions identified in the OEB's letter dated November 30, 2021, launching the RPQR consultation.
- b) Participation in the RPQR working group (RPQR WG) meetings for the period from August 3, 2022 to May 15, 2023.
- c) Participation in the Loss of Supply sub-working group meetings for the period of September 12, 2022 to February 13, 2023.

Background

On November 30, 2021, the OEB issued a [letter](#) launching a comprehensive review of reliability and power quality in the Ontario electricity sector. The OEB invited written comments from stakeholders to provide their views and address the questions identified by OEB staff in the letter. The letter indicated that cost awards would be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) to eligible participants. The OEB determined that eligible parties would be eligible for up to eight hours for commenting on the topics and questions identified in the November 30 letter. The OEB also determined that licensed electricity distributors and transmitters will pay the costs.

In a decision issued on December 17, 2021, the OEB granted cost awards eligibility for submissions on the questions identified in the November 30 letter to five organizations:

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Energy Probe Research Foundation
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition
- School Energy Coalition

In a supplemental decision issued on January 10, 2022, the OEB approved a late cost eligibility request from Anwaatin Inc.

On March 31, 2022, the OEB issued a follow-up [letter](#) that set out the OEB's plan for the RPQR consultation. The letter indicated that cost awards would be available under section 30 of the OEB Act to eligible participants who are selected for the RPQR WG.

In a [letter](#) issued on June 28, 2022, the OEB announced the newly established RPQR WG, its membership and scope of work. The OEB determined the following organizations were eligible for cost awards relating to their participation in the RPQR WG:

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario
- Anwaatin Inc.
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- School Energy Coalition

The June 28 letter indicated that cost awards would be available to cover preparation, attendance and reporting time in relation to meetings of the RPQR WG and any sub-working group(s), up to 1.5 times of actual attended meeting time. The meetings and corresponding times are outlined in Appendix A of this Notice.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion to determine the cost awards to eligible participants for the following eligible activities:

- a) Submissions on questions identified in the OEB's letter dated November 30, 2021, launching the RPQR consultation.
- b) Participation in the RPQR WG meetings for the period from August 3, 2022 to May 31, 2023.
- c) Participation in the Loss of Supply sub-working group meetings for the period of September 12, 2022 to February 13, 2023.

The decision on costs will be made by an OEB staff member with delegated authority under section 6 of the OEB Act. The hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. Eligible participants that intend to seek a cost award shall submit their cost claims by **June 21, 2023**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be served on each licensed electricity distributor and transmitter. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#) (Practice Direction).
2. Licensed electricity distributors and transmitters will have until **July 5, 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 **July 19, 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-2021-0307** 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 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 be received by end of business, 4:45 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, Shuo Zhang at Shuo.Zhang@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Lawren Murray at Lawren.Murray@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

Attachment – Appendix A