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Energy | de l'énergie
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BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

August 3, 2023

**To: All Members of the Regional Planning Process Advisory Group
All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Licensed Electricity Transmitters**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Regional Planning Process Review
Ontario Energy Board File No. EB-2020-0176**

This notice invites eligible participants in the Regional Planning Process Review (RPPR) consultation to submit cost claims for eligible activities that took place between May 15, 2022 and July 15, 2023.

Background

On December 10, 2020, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a [letter](#) (December 2020 letter) that initiated a consultation to undertake a review of the regional planning process that applies to Ontario's electricity sector. The December 2020 letter indicated that the first step in the RPPR consultation involved re-establishing the Regional Planning Process Advisory Group (RPPAG) to assist the OEB in that review. On December 20, 2021, the RPPAG completed the first phase of its work in providing its [Report to the OEB](#) with recommendations for the OEB's consideration. The OEB then issued a [letter](#) (April 2022 letter) with its response to those recommendations and an implementation plan on April 28, 2022 to initiate the second phase.

The December 2020 letter indicated that cost awards will be available, under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (Act), to eligible participants in relation to the RPPAG activity described in that letter and would continue to be available for any activities that may be necessary following the completion of the RPPAG's work during the first phase of this consultation process. The letter also advised that cost awards will be available to eligible participants for participation in meetings of the RPPAG, to a maximum of actual meeting time plus 50% of meeting time for preparation and reporting.

The December 2020 letter further indicated that costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated licensed electricity distributors (65% of the costs awarded) and all rate-

regulated licensed transmitters (35% of the costs awarded). Within the distributor class, costs awarded will be apportioned based on respective customer numbers. Within the transmitter class, apportionment will be based on respective revenues (using the most recent three-year average from their audited financial statements or similar documentation).

On January 18, 2021, the OEB issued its [decision](#) on cost eligibility. The OEB determined the following organizations would be eligible for an award of costs in relation to cost eligible activities (collectively, the eligible participants):

- Common Voice Northwest
- Pollution Probe
- School Energy Coalition

Eligible Activities

The cost eligible RPPAG activities undertaken between May 15, 2022 and July 15, 2023 are summarized below with additional details provided in Appendix A to this Notice:

- Preparation for, attendance at, and reporting on RPPAG meetings – up to 1.5 times actual attended meeting time.
- Preparation for, attendance at, and reporting on Municipal subgroup meetings – up to 1.5 times actual attended meeting time.
- Preparation of the Municipal Information Document by members of the Municipal subgroup.¹

In relation to preparing the Municipal Information Document, the OEB will take a similar approach as it did on the RPPAG Report to the OEB and the Load Forecast Guideline to take into account providing feedback in writing via e-mail on the final draft. The OEB considers written feedback on earlier drafts for Municipal subgroup review to be preparation for the subgroup meetings. Relative to those other two documents, the Municipal Information Document was a brief document at four pages (excluding appendix).² In the OEB's view, a maximum amount of time equivalent to one subgroup meeting represents an appropriate amount of time for reviewing and commenting on the final draft. Cost awards related to the Municipal Information Document will therefore be available to eligible participants to a maximum of 3.0 hours.³

¹ [Municipal Information Document – Improving the Electricity Planning Process in Ontario: Enhanced Coordination between Municipalities and Entities in the Electricity Sector](#).

² The appendix was a "List of Key MEP Outputs to Improve LDC Load Forecasting".

³ Each subgroup meeting was 2.0 hours (i.e., 2 hours of actual meeting time + 50% = 3 hours per meeting).

With the Implementation Plan in the April 2022 letter now complete, cost awards will continue to be available to eligible participants in relation to any activities (e.g., RPPAG meetings) in the next phase of the RPPAG's work. The OEB will provide further direction regarding the next phase of the RPPAG's work and cost claims for the period after July 15, 2023, at the appropriate time.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion to determine the cost awards that will be made in accordance with section 30 of the Act, for the period between May 15, 2022 and July 15, 2023. The decision on costs awarded will be made by a delegated authority under section 6 of the Act. The hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. Eligible participants intending to claim cost awards shall submit their cost claims by **August 14, 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 rate-regulated licensed electricity distributors and transmitters through the OEB's website under file number EB-2020-0176.
2. Rate-regulated licensed electricity distributors and transmitters will have until **August 21, 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 participant whose cost claim was objected to will have until **August 28, 2023** to file a reply submission with the OEB as to why its cost claim should be allowed. One copy of the reply submission is to be served on the objecting party.
4. The OEB will then issue its decision on cost awards. The OEB's costs will also be addressed in the cost awards decision.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* 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-2020-0176** for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the [OEB's online filing portal](#).

- 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. You will find "Cost Claim filings" under "Filing Systems".
- All eligible 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](#).
- Cost claim 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](#).
- Parties 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.

All communications regarding cost award matters 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: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)

Questions about the RPPR consultation should be directed to Chris Cincar at chris.cincar@oeb.ca.

If you do not participate in the hearing by filing materials in accordance with this Notice, the OEB may proceed without your participation, and you will not be entitled to further notice in this proceeding.

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

Attachment: Appendix A – Consultation Activities for which Cost Claims may be Filed

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards – Dated August 3, 2023

Regional Planning Process Review (EB-2020-0176)

Appendix A: Consultation Activities for which Cost Claims may be Filed

No.	Activity Eligible for Cost Awards	Date of the Meeting	Eligible	Maximum Number of Hours
RPPAG Meetings				
1.	RPPAG Meeting #1	August 11, 2022	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.0
2.	RPPAG Meeting #2	November 21, 2022	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.0
Municipal Information Document – Subgroup Meetings				
3.	MID Meeting #1	August 26, 2022	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.0
4.	MID Meeting #2	August 29, 2022	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.0
5.	MID Meeting #3	September 26, 2022	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.0
6.	MID Meeting #4	September 28, 2022	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.0
7.	MID Meeting #5	October 12, 2022	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.0
8.	MID Meeting #6	October 26, 2022	Meeting Time x 1.5	3.0
Preparation – Municipal Information Document				
9.	Final Draft	December 7, 2022	Maximum of 3.0 hours	3.0