



Ontario
Energy
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BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

September 20, 2023

**To: All Rate-Regulated Electricity Distributors
All Rate-Regulated Electricity Transmitters
Independent Electricity System Operator
Registered Participants – Framework for Energy Innovation: Distributed Resources and Utility Incentives (EB-2021-0118)
Registered Participants in Updating the CDM Guidelines for Electricity Distributors (EB-2021-0106)
All Registered Members – Framework for Energy Innovation Working Group
All Other Interested Parties**

Re: EB-2023-0125: Benefit-Cost Analysis Framework for Addressing Electricity System Needs

The OEB is initiating a consultation to develop a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) Framework for addressing electricity system needs.

Background

The OEB's [Framework for Energy Innovation: Setting a Path Forward for DER Integration](#) (FEI Report) noted that “the OEB will launch a separate initiative to develop the components of a BCA Framework.”¹ This BCA Framework will identify the full energy system benefits and costs of Distributed Energy Resource (DER) solutions.

The BCA Framework will be developed in two phases; Phase One will advance guidance, methodologies, and tools for distribution impacts. The OEB is also considering the inclusion of a simplified assessment of energy system impacts as part of Phase One. Phase Two will focus on broader energy system impacts.

The OEB has retained consulting firm, Guidehouse Canada Ltd. (Guidehouse), to support development of Phase One of the BCA Framework and contribute to the associated stakeholder consultation work. Working under the oversight of OEB staff, Guidehouse has developed a draft project plan, which outlines a proposed Phase One approach for stakeholder review and feedback.

¹ Framework for Energy Innovation: Setting a Path Forward for DER Integration, January 2023

Stakeholder Meeting

Interested parties are invited to attend a stakeholder engagement session on **October 13, 2023**, from **10 to 11 am**. During the session, the draft Phase One BCA Framework project plan will be presented, and stakeholders will be encouraged to provide written feedback following the meeting.

Guidehouse will then prepare a final project plan that considers the written feedback received.

The intent of this stakeholder session and comment period is for Guidehouse to outline key elements of the approach described in the project plan and to understand if there are any major concerns with the proposed approach.

Participation

Stakeholders who wish to participate in this consultation are asked to email notice of their intention to registrar@oeb.ca by **September 27, 2023**.

Emails should include “EB-2023-0125 Benefit-Cost Analysis Framework for Addressing Electricity System Needs” in the subject line and provide the following information:

- participant/organization name;
- name(s) of attendees to be registered; and
- a contact name, telephone number and email address.

Cost Awards

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. Any participant already found to be eligible for cost awards in the Framework for Energy Innovation: Distributed Resources and Utility Incentives (EB-2021-0118) and Updating the CDM Guidelines for Electricity Distributors (EB-2021-0106) will automatically be eligible for cost awards relating to this engagement and need not reapply.

Cost awards will be recovered from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors. Further information regarding cost awards, including a list of automatically eligible participants, can be found in Appendix A to this letter.

Thank you in advance for your participation. The OEB looks forward to your feedback on the draft Phase One BCA Framework project plan.

Any questions relating to this letter should be directed to Alexander Di Ilio at alexander.diilio@oeb.ca or at 416-440-7718. The Board’s toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Details regarding further stakeholder consultations on Phase One of the BCA Framework will be communicated in due course.

Yours truly,

Nancy Marconi
Registrar

Appendix A

Cost Award Matters

Cost Award Eligibility

Any participant already found to be eligible for cost awards under EB-2021-0118 and EB-2021-0106 (see list below) are eligible for cost awards for this engagement.

- Anwaatin Inc.
- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario
- Building Owners and Managers Association Toronto
- Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters
- Consumers Council of Canada
- Energy Probe Research Foundation
- Electric Vehicle Society
- Environmental Defense
- Industrial Gas Users Association
- London Property Management Association
- Low-Income Energy Network
- Ontario Chamber of Commerce
- Ontario Sustainable Energy Association
- Pollution Probe
- School Energy Coalition
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition

For participants not listed above, the OEB will determine eligibility for costs in accordance with its [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#). Any person intending to request an award of costs must file with the OEB a written submission to that effect by **September 27, 2023**. The submission must identify the grounds on which the person believes that it is eligible for an award of costs (addressing the OEB's cost eligibility criteria as set out in section 3 of the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*). An explanation of any other funding to which the person has access must also be provided, as should the name and credentials of any lawyer, analyst or consultant that the person intends to retain, if known. All requests for cost eligibility will be posted on the OEB's website.

If a licensed rate-regulated electricity distributor has any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections must be filed with the OEB by **October 3, 2023**. Any objections will be posted on the OEB's [website](#). The OEB will then make a final determination on the cost eligibility of the requesting participants.

Eligible Activities

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants for participation in the initial stakeholder meeting to a maximum of actual meeting time plus one (1) hour for preparation and four (4) hours for subsequent review and comment on the draft project plan. Details on any subsequent consultation activities eligible for cost awards will be provided at a later date.

Cost Awards

When determining the amount of the cost awards, the OEB will apply the principles set out in section 5 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. The maximum hourly rates set out in the Cost Awards Tariff will also be applied. The OEB expects that groups representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and co-ordination their participation in this process. In accordance with section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* the OEB will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process. From more information on this process, please see the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

How to File Materials

All written materials sent to the OEB in response to this letter will be placed on the public record and posted on the OEB's website.

If the written materials are from a private citizen (i.e., not a lawyer representing a client, not a consultant representing a client or organization, not an individual in an organization that represents the interests of consumers or other groups, and not an individual from a regulated entity), the OEB will remove any personal (i.e., not business) contact information (e.g., address, phone number and e-mail address) before placing the materials on the public record and posting the materials on the OEB's website. However, your name and the entire content of your materials will be placed on the public record and posted on the OEB's website. If the written materials are from a person acting in a professional or business capacity, all information in the written materials will be publicly available.

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-2023-0125** 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)