



Ontario  
Energy  
Board | Commission  
de l'énergie  
de l'Ontario

**BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING**

March 13, 2024

**TO: All licensed Electricity Distributors  
All Other Interested Parties**

**RE: Engagement on Electricity Distribution System Expansion for Housing  
Development  
OEB File No. EB-2024-0092**

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The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will engage stakeholders to inform its policy review of electricity distribution system expansion for housing development, with specific focus on the connection and revenue horizons related to recovery of expansion costs. This review is being undertaken in response to the Minister's request in his November 2023 [Letter of Direction](#), which highlights the importance of ensuring the balance between growth and ratepayer costs remain appropriate. The final report must be submitted to the Minister by June 30, 2024.

The OEB will host a virtual meeting of stakeholders to gather input on the existing rules pertaining to the two horizons, exploring various options that have been identified by OEB staff and identifying any associated considerations for each option. After the meeting, stakeholders will have the chance to submit written comments on the issues discussed and options that were presented.

The meeting will take place on **April 3, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** The meeting will include a presentation by OEB staff and stakeholder discussion. The agenda and presentation materials, including options identified by OEB staff and a set of discussion questions, will be posted on the OEB's Engage with Us [project page](#) in advance of the meeting.

## **Participation**

Stakeholders who want to participate in the meeting are asked email notice of their intention to [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca) by **March 25, 2024**. Emails should include "EB-2024-0092 – Engagement on Electricity Distribution System Expansion for Housing Development" in the subject line.

### **Cost Award Matters and Filing Instructions**

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants under section 30 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, for participation in the consultation. Costs awarded will be recovered from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors.

Important information regarding cost awards and instructions for filing materials with the OEB, is included in Appendix A to this letter.

Any questions relating to this letter should be directed to Mansi Modi at [Mansi.Modi@oeb.ca](mailto:Mansi.Modi@oeb.ca). The Board's toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Sincerely,

Brian Hewson  
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

## **Appendix A**

### Cost Award Matters and Filing Instructions

#### **Cost Award Eligibility**

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 **March 25, 2024**. 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 **March 28, 2024**. 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 parties for participation in the initial stakeholder meeting to a maximum of actual meeting time plus six hours for preparation and written comments.

#### **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-ordinate 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. For 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.

Please quote file number, **EB-2024-0092** 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](mailto: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](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca)  
Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll-free)