



**BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING**

April 2, 2024

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

**Re:** Engagement on Distributor Resilience, Responsiveness and Cost Efficiency  
Ontario Energy Board File No. EB-2023-0003

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The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards for eligible distributor resilience, responsiveness and cost efficiency activities from January 25, 2023, to May 17, 2023.

**Background**

On January 25, 2023, the OEB issued a [letter](#) initiating the engagement on distributor resilience, responsiveness and cost efficiency. This letter indicated that cost awards will be available under Section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* to eligible persons in relation to their participation in the consultation process, based on the criteria set out in the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#). Costs awarded will be recovered from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors.

The OEB granted cost awards for preparation and attendance at each meeting. The meetings were held on March 20, April 25, and May 17, 2023. On March 2, 2023, the OEB issued a Decision on Cost Awards setting out what organizations were eligible to apply for cost awards.

## Eligible Activities

The maximum hours for cost eligible activities as set out in the January 25, March 2, and May 3, 2023, letters are as follows:

Activities Eligible for Cost Awards	Maximum number of hours
Meeting 1 – March 20, 2023	6 hours
Meeting 2 – April 25, 2023	6 hours
Meeting 3 – May 17, 2023	5 hours

## 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 *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to eligible distributor resilience, responsiveness and cost efficiency activities that have occurred from January 25, 2023, to May 17, 2023. The hearing will follow the process set out below:

1. Eligible participants shall submit their cost claims by April 15, 2024. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be sent by email to each licensed rate-regulated electricity distributor. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).
2. All licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors will have until May 9, 2024, to object to a request for cost awards or any aspect of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the OEB and one copy must be sent by email to the person against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. The eligible participant whose cost claim was objected to will have until June 10, 2024, 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 licensed rate-regulated electricity 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.

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-2023-0003** 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 on 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 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.

Email: [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca)

Tel: 1-877-632-6273 (Toll free)

**DATED** at Toronto April 2, 2024

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Brian Hewson  
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