



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

BY EMAIL

June 13, 2024

**To: All Rate-Regulated Electricity Distributors
All Participants in EB-2023-0125**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Benefit-Cost Analysis Framework for Addressing Electricity System Needs
Consultation
OEB File No.: EB-2023-0125**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is initiating a hearing on its own motion to determine cost awards for eligible participants in the consultation for the Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) Framework for Addressing Electricity System Needs.

Background

The BCA Framework is one of the outcomes of the [Framework for Energy Innovation consultation](#), which was initiated to clarify the regulatory treatment of innovative and cost-effective solutions and facilitate their adoption in ways that enhance value for customers. The BCA Framework is an OEB policy that outlines the methodology that electricity distributors are to employ when assessing the economic feasibility of using non-wires solutions to address electricity system needs.

On September 20, 2023, the OEB issued a [letter](#) initiating the consultation for the BCA Framework for Addressing Electricity System Needs. This letter indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible participants under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) in relation to their participation in this consultation based on the criteria set out in the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*, including the maximum hourly rates set out in the Cost Awards Tariff. The letter identified the eligible participants for cost awards and stated that costs awarded would be recovered from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating this hearing on its own motion to determine cost awards that will be made in accordance with section 30 of the OEB Act in relation to the consultation for the BCA Framework for Addressing Electricity System Needs. The maximum number of hours and eligible activities are outlined in Appendix A of this Notice.

The OEB intends to proceed by way of a written hearing unless a party can satisfy the OEB that there is a good reason to not hold a written hearing. If a party wants to object to a written hearing, the objection must be received by the OEB no later than **seven days** after the date of this Notice.

If the OEB does not receive any objections to a written hearing, the hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. Eligible participants filing cost claims shall submit their cost claims with the OEB by **June 27, 2024**. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.
2. Rate-regulated electricity distributors will have until **July 11, 2024**, to object to a request for cost awards or any aspects of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the OEB, and one copy must be sent by email to the party against whose claim the objection is being made. Rate-regulated electricity distributors will have access to any cost claims filed by accessing the OEB's [website](#).
3. The party whose cost claim was objected to will have until **July 18, 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 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.

The OEB will invoice the rate-regulated electricity distributors for its costs, including those from its consultants.

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-2023-0125**, 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.
- 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.
- 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 at the address below and be received by the 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, Alexander Di Ilio at alexander.diilio@oeb.ca or at 416-440-7718 and OEB Counsel, Ljuba Djurdjevic at ljuba.djurdjevic@oeb.ca or at 416-440-7670.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

DATED at Toronto June 13, 2024

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar

Attachment:

1. Appendix A – BCA Framework for Addressing Electricity System Needs Consultation Activities for which Cost Claims May Be Filed and Maximum Number of Hours

**Appendix A: BCA Framework for Addressing Electricity System Needs
Consultation Activities for which Cost Claims May Be Filed and Maximum
Number of Hours**

No.	Date¹	Activity	Maximum Hours²
1	October 13, 2023	Draft project plan webinar	2
2	November 9, 2023	Draft BCA Framework project plan review	4
3	February 1, 2024	Draft BCA Framework review	4

¹ For the webinar, the date noted is that on which the session was held. For document reviews, the date noted is the deadline by which comments were requested.

² The maximum hours for each consultation activity identified is consistent with that communicated to participants in the correspondence or presentation material associated with each activity.