



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

BY E-MAIL

July 9, 2024

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Other Interested Parties
All Cost Eligible Working Group Members**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Connections Review
File No.: [EB-2019-0207](#)**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is giving notice that eligible participants in the Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Connections Review consultation, OEB file no. EB-2019-0207, are invited to submit cost claims for eligible activities as follows:

- a) Participation in the DER Connections Working Group for the period from January 26, 2023 to June 27, 2024 and,
- b) Providing written comments on the proposed amendments to the Distribution System Code (DSC) issued on December 15, 2023, and January 29, 2024.

The OEB has issued previous Decisions and Orders on Cost Awards that addressed costs in this consultation up to January 26, 2023.

Background

On August 13, 2019, the OEB issued a [letter](#) commencing an initiative to review its requirements in regard to the connection of distributed energy resources (DERs) by licensed electricity distributors (DER Connections Review). The letter indicated that cost awards would be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) and that the OEB had determined licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors will pay the costs.

The OEB issued Decisions on September 10, 2019, September 13, 2019, September 23, 2019 and January 13, 2020 that determined the following participants in this consultation process were eligible for cost awards (eligible participants):

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario (AMPCO)
- Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)
- Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME)
- Consumers Council of Canada (CCC)
- Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe)
- Environmental Defence (ED)
- London Property Management Association (LPMA)
- Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC)
- Pollution Probe
- School Energy Coalition (SEC)

The Decisions noted that cost awards would be available in relation to participation in the Working Group. In the Decisions, the OEB requested that participants with similar viewpoints coordinate their activities to reduce costs and advised that this effort will be taken into account during the decision on awards of costs.

The maximum number of cost-eligible hours per participant to prepare for, attend and report on Working Group, Subgroup, and Small Group Meetings was limited to 1.5 times (or 2 times where one consultant was acting on behalf of two separate organizations) the meeting times. The meetings and corresponding times are outlined in Appendix A of this Notice.

In addition, on December 15, 2023, the OEB issued a [Notice of Proposal to Amend the DSC regarding the connection of non-residential electric vehicle \(EV\) charging infrastructure](#), and on January 29, 2024, the OEB issued [Notice of Proposal to Amend the DSC to enable electricity distributors to offer flexible hosting capacity arrangements](#). Stakeholders, including cost eligible participants, were invited to comment. In each of these Notices, the OEB advised that cost awards would be available in relation to providing comments on the proposed DSC amendments in Appendix A to the Notice, to a maximum of 6 hours.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion to determine the cost awards to eligible participants for the following eligible activities:

- a) Participation in the DER Connections Working Group for the period from January 26, 2023 to June 27, 2024; and
- b) Providing written comments on the proposed amendments to the DSC issued on December 15, 2023, and on January 29, 2024.

The decision on costs will be made by an OEB staff member with delegated authority under section 6 of the OEB Act. The hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. Eligible participants that intend to seek a cost award shall submit their cost claims by **July 23, 2024**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one

copy is to be served on each licensed electricity distributor. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#) (Practice Direction).

2. Licensed electricity distributors will have until **July 31, 2024** 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 eligible participant whose cost claim was objected to will have until **August 9, 2024** to file its reply submission, if any, with the OEB, with a copy of the reply submission to be served on the objecting party.
4. The OEB will then issue its decision on cost awards.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of the Practice Direction 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-2019-0207** 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 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.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Cathy Nguyen, at Cathy.Nguyen@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, James Sidlofsky, at James.Sidlofsky@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

Attachment – Appendix A

Appendix A: Cost-Eligible Activities and Hours

Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Connections Review

File No.: [EB-2019-0207](#)

Group	Meeting	Date	Hour	Max Hour	Max Hours (if Representing 2 Eligible Participants)
Main Working Group meetings - Tranche 5	Meeting #1	1/26/2023	2.75	4.13	5.50
	Meeting #2	4/20/2023	2	3.00	4.00
	Meeting #3	5/5/2023	1.25	1.88	2.50
	Meeting #4	8/10/2023	2.5	3.75	5.00
	Meeting #5	11/30/2023	0.75	1.13	1.50
	Meeting #6	5/23/2024	1.75	2.63	3.50
DER Connections Subgroup meetings - Tranche 5	Meeting #1	2/28/2023	2.75	4.13	5.50
	Meeting #2	4/3/2023	2.5	3.75	5.00
	Meeting #3	4/25/2023	1.75	2.63	3.50
	Meeting #4	6/22/2023	2.25	3.38	4.50
	Meeting #5	7/18/2023	2.5	3.75	5.00
	Meeting #6	8/25/2023	1.25	1.88	2.50
	Meeting #7	9/28/2023	1.75	2.63	3.50
	Meeting #8	10/30/2023	2.5	3.75	5.00
	Meeting #9	11/24/2023	2.25	3.38	4.50
	Meeting #10	2/27/2024	3	4.50	6.00
	Meeting #11	4/24/2024	2.5	3.75	5.00
	Meeting #12	6/27/2024	2.5	3.75	5.00
EV Charging Connections Subgroup meetings - Tranche 5	Meeting #1	3/2/2023	2.75	4.13	5.50
	Meeting #2	3/30/2023	2.5	3.75	5.00
	Meeting #3	4/27/2023	2.5	3.75	5.00
	Meeting #4	5/25/2023	2.5	3.75	5.00
	Meeting #5	6/22/2023	2.5	3.75	5.00
	Meeting #6	7/27/2023	2.5	3.75	5.00
	Meeting #7	8/22/2023	2.25	3.38	4.50
	EV System Readiness Meeting # 1	9/12/2023	2	3.00	4.00
	Meeting #8	9/26/2023	2	3.00	4.00
	EV System Readiness Meeting #2	10/16/2023	1.25	1.88	2.50
Meeting #9	11/9/2023	2.5	3.75	5.00	
Meeting #10	11/21/2023	2.5	3.75	5.00	

Group	Meeting	Date	Hour	Max Hour	Max Hours (if Representing 2 Eligible Participants)
	Meeting #11	2/28/2024	1.5	2.25	3.00
	Meeting #12	4/25/2024	2.5	3.75	5.00
	Meeting #13	6/26/2024	2.25	3.38	4.50
DERCP Update (i.e. Risk Framework) Small Group meetings - Tranche 5	Meeting # 1	3/15/2023	1	1.50	2.00
	Meeting #2	4/4/2023	2	3.00	4.00
	Meeting #3	5/1/2023	1.5	2.25	3.00
	Meeting #4	8/21/2023	1.75	2.63	3.50
	Meeting #5	8/28/2023	2	3.00	4.00
	Meeting #6	9/8/2023	2	3.00	4.00
	DER Interconnection Considerations Small Group meetings - Tranche 5	Meeting # 1	2/28/2023	2	3.00
Meeting # 2		3/21/2023	2	3.00	4.00
Meeting # 3		4/17/2023	2	3.00	4.00
Meeting # 4		5/11/2023	2	3.00	4.00
Meeting # 5		6/13/2023	2	3.00	4.00
Meeting # 6		7/5/2023	1.75	2.63	3.50
Meeting #7		8/15/2023	2	3.00	4.00
Meeting #8		9/21/2023	1.25	1.88	2.50
Meeting #9		10/11/2023	2	3.00	4.00
Meeting #10		10/23/2023	1.75	2.63	3.50
Meeting #11		11/16/2023	2	3.00	4.00
Meeting #12		4/4/2024	2	3.00	4.00
Meeting #13		5/7/2024	2	3.00	4.00
Meeting #14		5/9/2024	1.75	2.63	3.50
Meeting #15		5/13/2024	2	3.00	4.00
Meeting #16		6/6/2024	1.5	2.25	3.00
DER Capacity Sharing Small Group meeting - Tranche 5	Meeting # 1	3/23/2023	2	3.00	4.00
	Meeting #2	4/14/2023	1.75	2.63	3.50
	Meeting #3	6/9/2023	2	3.00	4.00
	Meeting #4	6/29/2023	1	1.50	2.00
	Meeting #5	7/21/2023	2	3.00	4.00
	Meeting #6	7/28/2023	2	3.00	4.00
	Meeting #7	8/17/2023	2	3.00	4.00
	Meeting #8	9/28/2023	2	3.00	4.00
	Meeting #9	10/27/2023	1.5	2.25	3.00
	Meeting #10	11/7/2023	1	1.50	2.00