



BY E-MAIL

July 22, 2024

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

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Engagement on Electricity Distribution System Expansion for Housing
Development File No.: [EB-2024-0092](#)**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is giving notice that eligible participants in the Engagement on Electricity Distribution System Expansion for Housing Development, OEB file no. EB-2024-0092, are invited to submit cost claims for eligible activities as follows:

- a) Participation in the stakeholder meeting on Electricity Distribution System Expansion for Housing Development on April 3, 2024, and,
- b) Providing written comments on the electricity distribution system expansion for housing development cost recovery options discussed on April 3, 2024.

Background

On March 13, 2024, the OEB issued a [letter](#) commencing an initiative to review its requirements in regard to 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. 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 has determined licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors will pay the costs.

The OEB issued a Decision on April 2, 2024, in which it found that the following participants in this consultation process are eligible for cost awards (eligible participants):

- Pollution Probe (PP)
- School Energy Coalition (SEC)
- Consumers Council of Canada (CCC)
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)
- Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN)
- Coalition of Concerned Manufacturers and Businesses of Canada (CCMBC)

- Distributed Resource Coalition (DRC)
- Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)

The Decision reminded participants that cost awards would 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. Given the 3-hour stakeholder consultation, eligible participants can apply for up to 9 hours for preparation and attendance at the meeting and for providing written comments. In the Decision, the OEB requested that participants with similar viewpoints coordinate their activities to reduce costs, and advised that such efforts will be taken into account during the decision on awards of costs.

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 stakeholder meeting on Electricity Distribution System Expansion for Housing Development held on April 3, 2024, and,
- b) Providing written comments on the electricity distribution system expansion for housing development cost recovery options.

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 31, 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 **August 7, 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 14, 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-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 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 project lead, Mansi Modi at Mansi.Modi@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca
Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Regards,

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance