

BY E-MAIL

December 19, 2024

**To: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Participants in EB-2022-0295**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Eligibility and Cost Awards
Natural Gas Demand Side Management
Stakeholder Advisory Group and Evaluation Advisory Committee
OEB File No.: EB-2022-0295**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is initiating a hearing on its own motion to determine cost awards for eligible Natural Gas Demand Side Management Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) and Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) members for activities from May 1, 2024, to November 30, 2024.

Background

On December 8, 2022, the OEB issued [a letter](#) initiating the formation of the SAG and updating the EAC. The letter indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) in relation to their participation in the SAG and EAC activities based on the criteria set out in the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* (Practice Direction).

On September 3, 2024, the OEB issued a Decision and Order approving cost awards for SAG and EAC activities from November 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024. As part of that Decision, the OEB determined that all participants from the SAG and EAC who filed cost claims met the criteria set out in the OEB's Practice Direction and were eligible for cost awards.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating this hearing on its own motion to determine cost awards under section 30 of the OEB Act for eligible DSM SAG and EAC activities that occurred from

May 1, 2024, to November 30, 2024.¹ The maximum number of hours and eligible SAG activities are outlined in Appendix A of this Notice. The maximum number of hours and eligible EAC activities are outlined in Appendix B 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 for not holding 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. SAG and EAC members filing cost claims shall submit their cost claims by **January 10, 2025**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be sent by email to each rate-regulated natural gas distributor. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's Practice Direction.
2. Rate-regulated natural gas distributors will have until **January 17, 2025** 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 person whose cost claim was objected to will have until **January 24, 2025** 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 natural gas distributor(s).
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 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.

To address the OEB's costs, including expert DSM evaluation consultant costs, the OEB will proceed by way of progress billing and invoice the distributors on an ad hoc basis. This will ensure timely billing for all parties as the OEB's evaluation activities included within this consultation process can span multiple financial years.

¹ SAG Meeting #22 on April 25, 2024, has been included as it was inadvertently omitted from the previous Cost Award 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-2022-0295** 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 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, Hatem Hassan at hatem.hassan@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Lawren Murray at lawren.murray@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

If you do not participate in the hearing by filing materials in accordance with this Notice, the OEB may proceed without your participation, and you will not be entitled to further notice in this proceeding.

DATED at Toronto, December 19, 2024

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar

Attachments –

Appendix A: Stakeholder Advisory Group Consultation Activities for Which Cost Claims may be Filed and Maximum Number of Hours

Appendix B: Evaluation Advisory Committee Consultation Activities for Which Cost Claims may be Filed and Maximum Number of Hours

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated December 19, 2024

Natural Gas Demand Side Management Stakeholder Advisory Group and Evaluation Advisory Committee (EB-2022-0295)

Appendix A: Stakeholder Advisory Group Consultation Activities for Which Cost Claims may be Filed and Maximum Number of Hours

No.	Date	Activity	Maximum Hours ²
1	25-Apr-24	SAG Meeting #22	4
2	1-May-24	APS Review and Discussions, including key inputs and comments on draft potential results	10
3	1-May-24	Review and Comment: Preliminary SAG Report draft chapters (May 1-July 31)	6
4	9-May-24	SAG Meeting #23	4
5	16-May-24	SAG Meeting #24	3.75
6	23-May-24	Review and Comment: APS Comment Response Round 7	2
7	23-May-24	SAG Meeting #25	3.75
8	28-May-24	SAG Meeting #26	3.75
9	6-Jun-24	SAG Meeting #27	3.75
10	13-Jun-24	SAG Meeting #28	3.75
11	14-Jun-24	Review and Comment: Final Draft APS Results	2
12	18-Jun-24	Review and Comment: Final Measure Characterization Results	2
13	20-Jun-24	SAG Meeting #29	3.75
14	20-Jun-24	Review and Comment: SAG Feedback for June Stakeholder Session	0.5
15	27-Jun-24	2026-2030 EGI DSM Pre-Application Meeting	6.5
16	11-Jul-24	SAG Meeting #30	3.75
17	16-Jul-24	SAG Meeting #31	3.75
18	16-Jul-24	Review and Comment: Custom C&I Proxy NTG Value - Expert Panel	1.5
19	30-Jul-24	SAG Meeting #32	3.5
20	1-Aug-24	SAG Meeting #33 - Joint with EAC	2
21	1-Aug-24	Review and Comment: Final SAG Report chapters (Aug 1 to Oct 31)	12
22	14-Aug-24	SAG Meeting #34 - Joint with EAC	2
23	15-Aug-24	DSM Engagement Session - Commercial and Industrial DSM program planning	7

² Consistent with direction in the SAG Terms of Reference, the maximum eligible hours for each meeting are based on meeting time, preparation, and follow-up time, consistent with the volume of materials circulated. In some cases, the maximum eligible hours may be up to double the actual meeting time. In other cases, such as when a meeting would require less preparation, the allocated time is lower. SAG Members who were unable to attend a meeting are eligible to claim up to 50% of the maximum eligible hours for a given meeting, to account for preparation, follow-up, and review of meeting materials.

No.	Date	Activity	Maximum Hours ²
24	22-Aug-24	DSM Engagement Session - Residential and Income Qualified DSM program planning	7
25	28-Aug-24	SAG Meeting #35 - Joint with EAC	2
26	19-Sep-24	SAG Meeting #36 - Joint with EAC	3.75
27	26-Sep-24	Review and Comment: Draft APS Report	12
28	26-Sep-24	SAG Meeting #37 - Joint with EAC	3.75
29	3-Oct-24	SAG Meeting #38 - Joint with EAC	2
30	3-Oct-24	DSM Engagement Session - Portfolio Summary View	2
31	17-Oct-24	Review and Comment: APS Report Comment Follow-up	1.5

Appendix B: Evaluation Advisory Committee Consultation Activities for Which Cost Claims may be Filed and Maximum Number of Hours

No.	Date	Activity	Maximum Hours ³
1	10-May-24	Review and Comment: CPSV Batch 3	1
2	13-May-24	Review and Comment: CPSV Batch 4	0.5
3	15-May-24	EAC Meeting #16	1.5
4	20-May-24	Review and Comment: Draft Scope of Work - 2023 Annual Verification	1.5
5	21-May-24	EAC Meeting #17	2
6	23-May-24	Review and Comment: 2023 Ag Spillover Survey Guide	1
7	28-May-24	EAC Meeting #18	2
8	4-Jun-24	Review and Comment: Draft TRM Work Plan	1
9	15-Jul-24	Review and Comment: Free Ridership Approach for future studies	1
10	3-Jul-24	Review and Comment: Free Ridership Participant Vendor Survey	1
11	8-Jul-24	Review and Comment: CPSV Batch 5	1
12	15-Jul-24	Review and Comment: Free Ridership Participant Vendor Survey pt 2	1
13	16-Jul-24	Review and Comment: Custom C&I Proxy NTG Value - Expert Panel	1.5
14	22-Jul-24	Review and Comment: CPSV Batch 6	1
15	23-Jul-24	EAC Meeting #19	2
16	1-Aug-24	SAG Meeting #33 - Joint with EAC	2
17	6-Aug-24	EAC Meeting #20	1
18	8-Aug-24	Review and Comment: CPSV Batch 7	1
19	14-Aug-24	SAG Meeting #34 - Joint with EAC	2
20	19-Aug-24	Review and Comment: CPSV Batch 8	1
21	20-Aug-24	EAC Meeting #21	0.5
22	28-Aug-24	SAG Meeting #35 - Joint with EAC	2
23	30-Aug-24	Review and Comment: Draft 2023 Free Ridership Evaluation Report	2
24	4-Sep-24	Review and Comment: CPSV Batch 9	0.5
25	5-Sep-24	EAC Meeting #22	1.25
26	10-Sep-24	Review and Comment: CPSV Batch 9 pt 2	0.5
27	17-Sep-24	EAC Meeting #23	2
28	19-Sep-24	SAG Meeting #36 - Joint with EAC	3.75
29	26-Sep-24	SAG Meeting #37 - Joint with EAC	3.75
30	3-Oct-24	SAG Meeting #38 - Joint with EAC	2
31	9-Oct-24	Review and Comment: Free Ridership Approach for future studies	1
32	18-Oct-24	Review and Comment: Draft Ag Spillover Report	2.5
33	28-Oct-24	Review and Comment: Draft 2023 CPSV Report	2.5
34	1-Nov-24	EAC Meeting #24	2
35	19-Nov-24	EAC Meeting #25	1

³ Consistent with direction in the EAC Terms of Reference, the maximum eligible hours for each meeting are based on meeting time, preparation, and follow-up time, consistent with the volume of materials circulated. In some cases, the maximum eligible hours may be up to double the actual meeting time. In other cases, such as when a meeting would require less preparation, the allocated time would be lower. EAC Members who were unable to attend a meeting are eligible to claim up to 50% of the maximum eligible hours for a given meeting, to account for preparation, follow-up, and review of meeting materials.