



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

BY E-MAIL

December 31, 2024

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

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

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is giving notice that eligible participants are invited to submit cost claims for eligible activities for providing written comments in response to the Notice of Proposed Amendments to the *Distribution System Code* (DSC) for electricity distribution system expansion for housing development issued on November 18, 2024.

Background

On November 18, 2024, the OEB issued a Notice of Proposed Amendments to the DSC (the Notice). These proposed amendments were intended to facilitate the connection of housing developments by extending the connection horizon to a maximum of 15 years for qualifying housing developments and extending the revenue horizon to 40 years for all residential customers. The OEB invited comments from all interested parties on the proposed amendments to the DSC set out in Appendix A to the Notice. Comments were due by December 9, 2024.

The OEB had conducted an engagement on electricity distribution system expansion for housing development in the spring of 2024. In the Notice, the OEB advised that any participant previously found eligible for an award of costs in the OEB's April 2, 2024 Decision on Cost Eligibility (the April 2024 Decision) in that engagement is eligible for an award of costs in relation to comments on the proposed DSC amendments and need not reapply. The following participants identified in the April 2024 Decision provided comments in response to the Notice:

- Pollution Probe (PP)
- Consumers Council of Canada (CCC)
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)
- Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN)

In Appendix B to the Notice, the OEB directed any participant in this process intending to request cost awards (and not already determined eligible for a cost award in the April 2024 Decision) to file a written submission with the OEB by November 25, 2024, identifying the nature of their interest in this process and the grounds on which they are eligible for cost awards, and addressing the other matters identified in Appendix B. Electricity distributors were given until November 28, 2024 to object to any of the cost eligibility requests, after which the OEB would make a final determination on the cost eligibility of the requesting participants.

By letter dated November 20, 2024, Environmental Defence (ED) requested participant status and cost eligibility. The OEB did not receive any objections to this request, and by a Supplementary Decision on Cost Awards dated December 31, 2024, the OEB found that ED is eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. ED subsequently filed a comment letter.

The Notice reminded participants that cost awards will be available in relation to providing comments on the proposed DSC amendments in Appendix A to a maximum of 4 hours.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion to determine the cost awards to eligible participants for Providing written comments on the Notice of Proposed Amendments to the DSC for electricity distribution system expansion for housing development.

The decision on costs will be made by an OEB staff member with delegated authority under section 6 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. 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 **January 14, 2025**. 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 **January 17, 2025** 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 **February 17, 2025** 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

Brian Hewson
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