

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

BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

February 25, 2025

To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors All participants in EB-2022-0267 All Other Interested Parties

Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Reporting and Record-keeping Requirements (RRR) Consultation Ontario Energy Board File Number: EB-2022-0267

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is notifying eligible participants that they are invited to submit cost claims for eligible activities related to the virtual meeting held on January 20, 2025, as part of the above-referenced <u>RRR Consultation</u>.

Background

On December 5, 2024, the OEB issued a <u>letter</u> advising it would host a virtual stakeholder meeting on January 20, 2025, regarding the above-referenced RRR Consultation. The purpose of this meeting was to engage and seek feedback from stakeholders on OEB staff's proposed RRR improvements, and to discuss other potential changes that could help reduce regulatory burden.

The letter indicated that cost awards for participating in the meeting would be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, and that costs would be recovered from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors. Further, it advised that participants deemed eligible for cost awards in the OEB's January 2024 stakeholder meeting, of the same subject matter, would maintain their eligibility for costs for eligible activities and would not be required to reapply. These participants include:

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Consumers Council of Canada
- Environmental Defence
- Pollution Probe
- School Energy Coalition

The letter also invited other participants intending to request an award of costs to file a written submission to that effect by January 20, 2025.

The OEB did not receive any new applications for cost award eligibility for the January 2025 stakeholder meeting.

Eligible Activities

For the stakeholder meeting held virtually on January 20, 2025, the eligible activities and the maximum numbers of hours for each activity are as follows:

No.	Activity Eligible for Cost Awards	Maximum Number of Hours
1	Meeting Preparation and Reporting	1
2	Attendance and Participation	2

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion to determine the cost awards to eligible participants in the January 2025 stakeholder meeting. The decision on costs will be made by delegated authority under section 6 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

The hearing will follow the process set out below.

- Eligible participants shall submit their cost claims by March 7, 2025. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards. Any cost claims will be available for review by licensed electricity distributors through the OEB's website under file number EB-2022-0267.
- 2. Licensed electricity distributors will have until **March 14, 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.
- The eligible participant whose cost claim was objected to will have until March 21, 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 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.

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 <u>Rules of Practice and Procedure</u>.

Please quote file number **EB-2022-0267** for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the <u>OEB's online</u> 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 <u>Regulatory Electronic Submission System (RESS)</u> <u>Document Guidelines</u> found at the <u>File documents online page</u> on the OEB's website.
- Stakeholders are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet <u>set up an</u> <u>account</u> or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact <u>registrar@oeb.ca</u> for assistance.
- Cost claims are filed through the OEB's online filing portal. Please visit the <u>File</u> <u>documents online page</u> 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 OEB's <u>Practice Direction on Cost Awards</u>.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar and be received by end of business, 4:45 p.m., on the required date.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

Yours truly,

Nancy Marconi Registrar