



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

BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

July 31, 2025

**To: All Licensed Electricity Transmitters
All Licensed Electricity Distributors
The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)
All Other Interested Parties**

Re: Streamlining Transmission Connections (EB-2025-0216)

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is launching a comprehensive review of electricity transmitter processes and requirements for connecting load customers in response to the Minister of Energy and Mines' [Integrated Energy Plan \(IEP\) Directive](#).

This review will assess the reasonableness and timeliness of transmitter connection procedures and recommend changes that will streamline connections for load customers, make the process more efficient, and reduce overall connection timelines. The OEB will also consider whether transmission connection performance standards should be set for transmitters. The OEB is required to report back by December 31, 2025.

The purpose of this letter is to:

- Request that industry participants, including load customers and associations of load customers, provide written input about the transmission connection process by August 15, 2025
- Invite stakeholders to attend a virtual Streamlining Transmission Connections Forum to be held on August 27, 2025
- Outline subsequent steps that the OEB will take to support this work.

Approach

To identify the issues that should be addressed in this review, the OEB is inviting industry participants to provide written input by **August 15, 2025**. Specifically, the OEB is seeking input on:

- **Challenges or barriers** encountered under the current transmission connection procedures and associated timelines
- **Opportunities to enhance efficiency** and streamline the overall connection process for load customers
- **Recommendations to improve coordination** between licensed transmitters and the IESO throughout the connection process

The OEB is particularly interested in hearing from load customers who have recent experience with the connection process and those seeking to connect to Ontario's transmission system. Submissions should be sent to Registrar@oeb.ca and note EB-2025-0216 in the subject line.

The OEB will hold a virtual **Streamlining Transmission Connections Forum** on **August 27, 2025**. OEB staff will open the forum with a presentation summarizing what the OEB heard through the written submissions. Industry participants will then have an opportunity to speak on the issues. After the forum, the OEB expects to have an issues list on which to base its review.

To register for the forum, please email Registrar@oeb.ca by **August 15, 2025**, and include "Streamlining Transmission Connections Forum EB-2025-0216" in the subject line. The correspondence must include the name of the organization/participant, as well as their phone number and email address. Registration for the forum can be combined with a submission on the issues.

Following the forum, OEB staff will establish a working group, made up of load customer, transmitter and IESO representatives, to support OEB staff in the development of recommendations. This approach is being undertaken to ensure that the OEB receives advice on the connections process while meeting the timelines set out in the Minister's Directive.

While it may not be possible for all interested load customers to participate in the working group, all related meeting materials will be posted on the OEB's [Engage with Us](#) website, allowing stakeholders to stay informed about the discussions taking place. Stakeholders with views on the materials can email comments directly to Freed Akhter, Senior Advisor, Transmission Policy & Compliance at Freed.Akhter@oeb.ca.

Cost Awards

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, for submissions on the issues, participation in the forum and task force and for subsequent eligible activities as may be identified at the relevant time. Stakeholders that would like to seek an award of costs should indicate this with their submission on the issues and/or with their registration for the forum.

The OEB has determined that licensed electricity transmitters will be responsible for paying any costs of eligible participants and that costs will be apportioned between them based on customer numbers. Further information regarding cost awards, including eligible activities and the process for requesting eligibility, is provided in **Appendix A** of this letter.

Any questions relating to this letter should be directed to Freed Akhter, Senior Advisor, Transmission Policy & Compliance at Freed.Akhter@oeb.ca. The OEB's toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

Attachment: Appendix A – Cost Award Matters

Appendix A – Cost Award Matters

The OEB will determine eligibility for cost awards in accordance with its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. Any participant intending to request cost awards in respect of their participation in this consultation must file a written submission with the OEB by **August 15, 2025** in accordance with the filing instructions below, identifying the nature of their interest in this process and the grounds on which they are eligible for cost awards (addressing the OEB's cost eligibility criteria in Section 3 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*). An explanation of any other funding to which the participant has access must also be provided, as should include the name and credentials of any lawyer, analyst or consultant that the person intends to retain, if known. All requests for cost eligibility will be posted on the OEB website.

Licensed electricity transmitters will be provided with an opportunity to object to any of the requests for cost award eligibility. If an electricity transmitter has objections to any of the cost eligibility requests, those objections must be filed with the OEB by **August 22, 2025**, in accordance with the filing instructions set out below. Any objections will be posted on the OEB website. The OEB will then make a final determination on the cost eligibility of the requesting participants.

Eligible Activities

A load customer or association of load customers that makes a submission on the issues as requested in this letter is eligible for up to five hours for preparation of the submission.

Cost awards will also be available to eligible participants for their participation in the forum and task force. Cost awards will be available to a maximum of actual meeting time plus 1.5 times the actual meeting time for preparation and reporting per eligible participant.

Cost Awards

The OEB will apply the principles in section 5 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*, when determining the amount of the cost awards. The maximum hourly rates in the OEB's Cost Awards Tariff will also be applied. The OEB expects that groups representing the same interests or same type of participant will make every effort to communicate and co-ordinate their participation in this process. Cost awards are made available on a per eligible participant basis, regardless of the number of professional advisors that an eligible participant may wish to retain.

The OEB will use the process in section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards; i.e., the OEB will act as a clearing house for all cost award payments in this process. For more information on this process, please see the [OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#) and the [October 27, 2005 letter](#) regarding the rationale for the OEB acting as a clearing house for the cost award payments. These documents can be found on the OEB's [Rules, Codes and Requirements](#) webpage.

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-2025-0216** 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 email 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 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 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)