



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

**BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING**

**August 29, 2025**

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors  
All Licensed Electricity Generators  
All Licensed Electricity Transmitters  
The Independent Electricity System Operator  
All Natural Gas Distributors  
All Other Interested Parties**

**Re: Regional and Bulk Electricity System Planning Review (EB-2025-0248)  
Invitation to Participate in Advisory Group**

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#### **What You Need to Know**

- **Ontario's Integrated Energy Plan, *Energy for Generations*, set out the importance of evolving energy planning to support growth and affordability.**
- **The Ontario Energy Board is establishing an Advisory Group, including consumers, municipalities, communities, generators, and distributors to support its review of the regional and bulk electricity system planning processes.**
- **With the Advisory Group's support, the review will explore opportunities to enhance the planning process by:**
  - **Aligning regional and bulk planning with load growth**
  - **Increasing flexibility and responsiveness**
  - **Shortening planning timelines, and**
  - **Evaluating the formalization of bulk planning.**
- **Information is included at the end of this letter on how to participate.**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is seeking expressions of interest to join an advisory group in support of its review of the regional and bulk planning process. This review is in direct response to the Minister of Energy and Mines' [Integrated Energy Plan](#) (IEP) Directive (Directive).

## Background

The Directive requires the OEB to undertake a review of the regional and bulk electricity system planning processes and recommend enhancements that will make the processes more efficient, flexible and responsive. The OEB is expected to submit its report to the Minister by March 31, 2026.

Aligned with Section 4.3 of the Directive, the review will examine opportunities to improve the planning process including:

- Better aligning regional and bulk planning with load growth
- Improving flexibility and responsiveness and reducing timelines within the planning cycle, and
- Assessing whether to formalize the bulk planning process.

The OEB has already begun to action this request, having recently asked electricity distributors to complete a survey about their experiences with regional planning. Responses will help identify issues to be considered in the review. The OEB is also engaging with the IESO on the scope of the review, including the IESO's deliverables in response to its own IEP Directive.

## Invitation to Participate in the Advisory Group

To support this review, OEB staff is establishing an advisory group composed of stakeholders from across the energy sector. Members will have the opportunity to share their experience and insights, which will help shape the recommendations in the OEB's report to the Minister. The advisory group is expected to include representatives of electricity consumers, municipalities, communities, distributors, generators, transmitters, the IESO and natural gas distributors, municipalities and consumers.

OEB staff will select an advisory group that balances input from planning participants with perspectives from broader stakeholders, ensuring the group is appropriately sized for effective collaboration.

Interested stakeholders should email a letter of interest to [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca) by **September 12, 2025**, with the subject line "*Regional and Bulk Planning Advisory Group*"

*Participation EB-2025-0248.*” Previous involvement in a regional planning advisory group or participation in a regional or bulk planning process will be considered an asset, but it is not mandatory.

The letter must include:

- Organization name
- Proposed advisory group member name(s)
- Contact information (phone and email)
- A brief description of your organization’s perspective or interest in regional and bulk planning issues (e.g., planning timelines, load growth alignment, integration of distributed energy resources, or bulk system needs)
- A brief description of the organization and/or participant’s experience as part of a previous regional planning advisory group or participation in a regional and bulk planning process, if applicable

In keeping with the timeline for the report to the Minister, advisory group meetings are expected to begin in **September 2025**, with meetings held approximately every two weeks through to **early 2026**.

While not all interested stakeholders may be included in the advisory group, all meeting materials will be posted on the **OEB’s [Engage with Us](#)** page, allowing stakeholders to stay informed and share feedback.

### **Cost Awards**

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, for participation in the advisory group. Stakeholders that would like to seek an award of costs for their participation in the advisory group should indicate this in their letter of interest in joining the advisory group.

The OEB has determined that rate-regulated electricity transmitters will be responsible for paying any costs of eligible participants. Costs will be apportioned to transmitters based on most recent respective revenues (using the **most recent three-year average from their audited financial statements** or similar documentation). 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 Mansi Modi, Sr. Advisor, Transmission Policy & Compliance at [Mansi.Modi@oeb.ca](mailto:Mansi.Modi@oeb.ca). The Board'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 September 12, 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.

Rate-regulated 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 September 19, 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

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants for their participation on the advisory group. 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-2025-0248 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](mailto: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 the parties required 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](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca)

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