



Ontario
Energy
Board | Commission
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BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

December 1, 2025

To: All Regulated Entities
All Other Interested Stakeholders

Re: **OEB 10-Point Action Plan:
Implementation update – Item #9
Ontario Energy Board File No. EB-2025-0098**

What You Need to Know

- **The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is introducing a one-day issues meeting as part of its new Small Distributor Process for cost of service applications.**
- **This streamlined process is designed to reduce regulatory burden and simplify the review for small electricity distributors.**
- **Chapter 2 of the Filing Requirements for Electricity Distribution Rate Applications will be updated to include the acceptance criteria for the Small Distributor Process, applicable to electricity distributors submitting 2027 rate applications.**

Item 9 – Continuing savings, efficiencies, and reduced regulatory burden for small utilities

The OEB is advancing Item 9 of its 10-point Action Plan (the Plan), part of its September 2024 Report Back to the Minister on [Intervenors and Regulatory Efficiency](#) (the Report). Both the Plan and Report are aligned with the 2024 Minister's [Letter of Direction](#), which emphasizes regulatory efficiency as a priority for the OEB to enable Ontario's economic growth.

In line with recommendations from the [Very Small Utilities Working Group Report](#), the OEB piloted process changes to reduce regulatory burden for very small distributors – those with fewer than 5,000 customers – as part of the Very Small Distributors Pilot (formerly the Very Small Utilities Pilot). The pilot included five cost of service applications for 2024/2025 rates.

The use of a one-day issues meeting improved communication and reduced the number of questions from OEB staff and intervenors compared to previous proceedings.

Small Distributor Process

Based on the outcomes of the pilot, the OEB will broaden the availability of the one-day issues meeting option. This streamlined approach will now be automatically available to all very small electricity distributors, and qualifying small electricity distributors – those serving between 5,000 and 30,000 customers – under the newly established **Small Distributor Process**. Eligibility for small electricity distributors will take into consideration the following criteria:

- a) Subtotal A bill impacts are less than 10%
- b) Total bill impacts are less than 10%
- c) There is no request for an Advanced Capital Module or a true-up of a past Incremental Capital Module
- d) Based on past applications of a similar nature, there are expected to be three intervenors or less in the proceeding
- e) Requests for an investment(s) in unique or emerging areas such as non-wire solutions, electric vehicles, Distributed Energy Resources, electrification, Vulnerability and System Hardening, or similar matters
- f) The evidence does not raise unique issues or requests that have not been previously adjudicated by the OEB in a cost of service proceeding

If distributors are unsure whether they meet the criteria, they are encouraged to reach out to the Registrar's Office for assistance.

Next Steps

The OEB will update the Chapter 2 Filing Requirements for Electricity Distribution Cost of Service Rate Applications – 2026 Edition for 2027 Rate Applications to include the acceptance criteria for the Small Distributor Process.

Stay Informed

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to visit the Implementing the OEB's 10-point Action Plan [Engage with Us page](#) and sign up to receive future updates.

Any questions relating to this letter should be directed to registrar@oeb.ca.

Yours truly,

Ritchie Murray
Acting Registrar