

Sent by RESS

January 19, 2026

Ritchie Murray  
Acting Registrar  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Mr. Murray:

**Re: LIEN's Request for Cost Awards for the OEB consultation on the  
Integrated Approach to Utility Renumeration – Next Generation Rate Framework  
(EB-2026-0002)**

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Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP is counsel for the Low-Income Energy Network (“LIEN”).

In response to your letter dated January 8, 2026, LIEN intends to participate in the above-mentioned consultation.

**LIEN'S REQUEST FOR COST AWARDS:**

LIEN is seeking cost eligibility in this proceeding and requests that the OEB find LIEN eligible for costs under section 3.03 (a) of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. LIEN “primarily represents the direct interests of consumers (e.g. ratepayers) in relation to services that are regulated by the Board”. LIEN has been accepted as a party eligible for an award of costs in many other proceedings before the OEB.

As a joint program of the Advocacy Center for Tenants Ontario and the Canadian Environmental Law Association, LIEN occupies a unique intersection of anti-poverty and public interest environmental advocacy and represents over 75 member groups across Ontario. As a network representing the intersection of interests related to low-income consumers and energy sustainability, LIEN's focus is on reducing the energy bills of all low-income consumers and providing low-income consumers with the opportunity to better manage their energy bills. This proceeding will directly impact low-income energy consumers.

This Next Generation Rate Framework is related to other OEB consultations that LIEN is already engaged in and for which LIEN has already provided submissions. In particular, the objectives of



EB-2026-0002 including leveling the playing field for solutions such as non-wires solutions, supporting the timely build out for electrification, and achieving these objectives through cost-effective solutions, are consistent with LIEN's objectives to promote energy efficiency, renewable distributed energy resources, and beneficial electrification, while avoiding/minimizing rate impacts to low-income energy ratepayers.

LIEN has retained Judy Simon & Associates Inc. to provide consulting services to LIEN in this proceeding. Ms. Simon is an expert on energy policy and conservation in Ontario and has been retained for expert advice in many proceedings by LIEN, related to these issues.

Yours truly,

Ali Naraghi  
Associate

1415-0121-3979, v. 1