



February 2, 2026

To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors  
Frequent Intervenors

Re: **OEB 10-Point Action Plan:**  
**Implementation Update – Item #2**  
**Ontario Energy Board File No. EB-2025-0098**

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**What You Need to Know**

- **The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will maintain a \$20,000 intervenor budget for cost of service applications from distributors with fewer than 30,000 customers, subject to the OEB's discretion.**
- **The cap encourages intervenors to plan and manage their activities within a defined budget. Budgets help improve cost predictability for intervenors and utilities and reduce regulatory uncertainty.**
- **The use of a budget will be communicated to intervenors in Procedural Order No. 1.**

**Item 2 – Establishing budgets for intervenors participating in certain applications**

The OEB is advancing Item #2 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 to enable Ontario's economic growth.

**Intervenor Budget Pilot**

The OEB piloted budgets for intervenors in ten cost of service applications for electricity distributors with fewer than 30,000 customers. Each intervenor had a budget of \$20,000 (pre-HST), based on approximately 60 hours of work at a rate of \$330/hour. This rate

was set in accordance with the cost award tariffs under the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* that were in effect at the time of launching the pilot.

The pilot has concluded with an average cost award of \$15,332 per intervenor. Feedback from participating intervenors was positive, and the ability to apply for costs above the budget limit with appropriate justification was appreciated (referred to as a "soft cap" approach).

Results from the pilot demonstrate that a soft cap approach effectively encourages intervenors to operate within budget, with most doing so during the pilot. Where exceedances occurred, they were tied to complex, atypical issues requiring additional effort. Intervenors stressed that proceeding complexity is not necessarily linked to distributor size and is impacted by the number of participants and complexity of issues.

### **Next Steps**

The OEB will continue using budgets for cost of service proceedings for distributors with fewer than 30,000 customers, at the OEB's discretion. The use of a soft budget cap will be communicated to intervenors in Procedural Order No. 1. Intervenors who exceed the soft cap will be expected to provide justification for any amounts over the cap.

While budgets of \$20,000 (pre-HST) per intervenor will continue to be the standard, factors that contribute to the complexity of a proceeding (e.g., distributor size, number of intervenors, any novel or unique requests) will be considered when setting the budget cap. The OEB will evaluate the continued use of the standard \$20,000 budget as part of its review of the cost award tariffs set out in the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

### **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](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca).

Yours truly,

Ritchie Murray  
Acting Registrar