

BY E-MAIL

February 12, 2026

**To: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Participants in EB-2022-0295**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Eligibility and Cost Awards
Natural Gas Demand Side Management
Stakeholder Advisory Group and Evaluation Advisory Committee
OEB File No.: EB-2022-0295**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is initiating a hearing on its own motion to determine cost awards for eligible Natural Gas Demand Side Management Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) members for activities from December 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025.

Background

On December 8, 2022, the OEB issued [a letter](#) initiating the formation of the SAG and updating the EAC. The letter indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) in relation to their participation in the EAC activities based on the criteria set out in the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* (Practice Direction).

On March 5, 2025, the OEB issued a Decision and Order approving cost awards for SAG and EAC activities from May 1, 2024, to November 30, 2024. As part of that Decision, the OEB determined that all participants from the EAC who filed cost claims *met the criteria set out in the OEB's Practice Direction and were eligible for cost awards.*

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating this hearing on its own motion to determine cost awards under section 30 of the OEB Act for eligible DSM EAC activities that occurred from December 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025. The maximum number of hours and eligible EAC activities are outlined in Appendix A of this Notice.

The OEB intends to proceed by way of a written hearing unless a party can satisfy the OEB that there is a good reason for not holding a written hearing. If a party wants to object to a written hearing, the objection must be received by the OEB no later than **seven days** after the date of this Notice.

If the OEB does not receive any objections to a written hearing, the hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. EAC members filing cost claims shall submit their cost claims by **February 26, 2026**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be sent by email to each rate-regulated natural gas distributor. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's Practice Direction.
2. Rate-regulated natural gas distributors will have until **March 12, 2026**, to object to a request for cost awards or any aspect of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the OEB and one copy must be sent by email to the person against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. The person whose cost claim was objected to will have until **March 26, 2026**, to file with the OEB a reply submission as to why its cost claim should be allowed. One copy of the reply submission is to be sent by email to the objecting rate-regulated natural gas distributor(s).
4. The OEB will then issue its decision on cost awards. The OEB's costs may also be addressed in the cost awards decision.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of its Practice Direction to implement the payment of the cost awards. The OEB will therefore act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process.

To address the OEB's costs, including expert DSM evaluation consultant costs, the OEB will proceed by way of progress billing and invoice the distributors on an ad hoc basis. This will ensure timely billing for all parties as the OEB's evaluation activities included within this consultation process can span multiple financial years.

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-2022-0295** 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 e-mail address.
- Please use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the [Regulatory Electronic Submission System \(RESS\) Document Guidelines](#) found on 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 now 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 at the address below and be received by end of business, 4:45 p.m., on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Taiwo Ishmail at taiwo.ishmail@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

Tel: 1-877-632-6273 (Toll free)

If you do not participate in the hearing by filing materials in accordance with this Notice, the OEB may proceed without your participation, and you will not be entitled to further notice in this proceeding.

DATED at Toronto, February 12, 2026

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Ritchie Murray
Acting Registrar

Attachments –
Appendix A: Evaluation Advisory Committee Consultation Activities for Which Cost Claims may be Filed and Maximum Number of Hours.

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated February 12, 2026

Appendix A: Evaluation Advisory Committee Consultation Activities for Which Cost Claims may be Filed and Maximum Number of Hours

No	Date	Activity	Maximum Hours ¹
1	2-Dec-24	Review and Comment: Draft 2023 Annual Verification Report	2.00
2	9-Dec-24	Review and Comment: Draft TRM Sub Doc Update	1.50
3	17-Dec-24	EAC Meeting #25	3.00
4	18-Dec-24	Review and Comment: EGI Proposed Net-to-Gross value for DCVs	0.50
5	19-Dec-24	Review and Comment: Residential, Commercial and Industrial programs RFS SoW	2.00
6	7-Jan-25	EAC Meeting #26	1.75
7	8-Jan-25	Review and Comment: CPSV Post Mortem Questionnaire	0.50
8	14-Jan-25	Review and Comment: Evaluation Activities Scope of Work	1.00
9	16-Jan-25	EAC Meeting #27	1.00
10	29-Jan-25	Cost-effectiveness Discussion	1.50
11	5-Feb-25	Cost-effectiveness Discussion	1.50
12	7-Feb-25	Review and Comment: EGI Process Evaluation Report - Residential Adaptive Thermostats	2.00
13	31-Mar-25	Review and Comment: Draft Free Ridership Sample Design Memo	1.50
14	6-May-25	Review and Comment: Adaptive Thermostat Rebate Process Evaluation	1.00
15	6-May-25	EAC Meeting #28	1.50
16	30-May-25	Review and Comment: 2025 Draft TRM Work Plan	1.00
17	30-May-25	Review and Comment: Hybrid RTU Off-cycle TRM review	1.00
18	3-Jun-25	Review and Comment: Boiler efficiency standards (Amendment 15) Change	1.00
19	3-Jun-25	EAC Meeting #29	1.00
20	9-Jun-25	Review and Comment: Smart Thermostat Jurisdictional Scan	1.00
21	8-Jul-25	EAC Meeting #30	1.00
22	28-Jul-25	Review and comment: 2024 Annual Verification Draft Scope of Work	1.00
23	15-Aug-25	Review and Comment: TRM Common Assumptions Table Review	1.00
24	25-Aug-25	Review and Comment: Draft Free Ridership Report - PY2024 Custom Commercial, Industrial and Large Volume	2.00
25	28-Aug-25	Review and Comment: Heat Pump Sub Docs	1.50
26	11-Sep-25	Review and Comment: Heat Pump Sub Docs	1.50
27	15-Sep-25	EAC Meeting #31	1.50
28	3-Oct-25	Review and Comment: EGI NTG Proposals and Process Evaluation – Commercial Custom	1.00
29	4-Nov-25	EAC Meeting #32	1:50
30	10-Nov-25	Review and Comments: Draft 2024 DSMI, LRAM, CE Results	2.00
31	13-Nov-25	Review and Comment: Weighted Average Measure Life (WAML)	1:00
32	17-Nov-25	Heat Pump Subdoc Conversation	2.00
33	1-Dec-25	Review and Comment: Draft 2024 Annual Verification Report	2.00
34	2-Dec-25	EAC Meeting #33	1:00

¹ Consistent with direction in the EAC Terms of Reference, the maximum eligible hours for each meeting are based on meeting time, preparation, and follow-up time, consistent with the volume of materials circulated. In some cases, the maximum eligible hours may be up to double the actual meeting time. In other cases, such as when a meeting would require less preparation, the allocated time would be lower. EAC Members who were unable to attend a meeting are eligible to claim up to 50% of the maximum eligible hours for a given meeting, to account for preparation, follow-up, and review of meeting materials.