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

BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

May 6, 2026

TO: All Licensed Rate-Regulated Electricity Distributors
All Participants in EB-2024-0199

RE: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Vulnerability Assessment and System Hardening Project (VASH)
OEB File Number: EB-2024-0199

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is giving notice that eligible participants are invited to submit cost claims for eligible activities in the consultation for the Vulnerability Assessment and System Hardening (VASH) project.

Background

On June 27, 2024, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a letter launching the VASH project. This letter indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible participants under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (*OEB Act*) in relation to their participation in this consultation based on the criteria set out in the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* (Practice Direction).

The OEB issued its decision on cost awards eligibility on July 18, 2024 (amended on July 19, 2024), which established that the following eight organizations were eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's Practice Direction:

- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Coalition of Concerned Manufacturers and Businesses of Canada
- Consumers Council of Canada
- Energy Probe Research Foundation
- Pollution Probe
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition
- School Energy Coalition

Eligible Activities

There have been multiple steps in the project, leading to the posting of the final VASH report on October 7, 2025. Throughout this project, the OEB has communicated the eligible activities and their associated maximum hours for cost recovery as summarized in the following table.

Eligible Activity	**Maximum Eligible Hours per Participant**
First Stakeholder Meeting – Jul 31, 2024	4
Second Stakeholder Meeting – Sep 9, 2024	3
Third Stakeholder Meeting – Oct 21, 2024	4.5
Fourth Stakeholder Meeting – Jan 29, 2025	4.5
Fifth Stakeholder Meeting – Apr 11, 2025	4.5
Sixth Stakeholder Meeting – Apr 22, 2025	3
Review and Comments on Draft VA Report	4
Review and comments on Draft VASH Report	8
TOTAL	**35.5**

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating this hearing on its own motion to determine cost awards to eligible participants in relation to VASH initiative. The maximum number of hours and eligible activities are outlined in the table above. The decision on costs will be made by delegated authority under section 6 of the *OEB Act*.

1. Eligible participants intending to claim cost awards shall submit their cost claims with the OEB by **May 20, 2026**. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's Practice Direction. Any cost claims will be available for review through OEB's website under file number EB-2024-0199.

2. Licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors will have until **June 3, 2026**, to object to any aspects of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the

OEB, and one copy must be served to the eligible participant against whose claim the objection is being made.

3. The eligible participant whose cost claim was objected to will have until **June 10, 2026,** to file its reply submission, if any, with the OEB, with a copy of the reply submission to be served to the objecting party.

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.

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-2024-0199**, 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 Regulatory Electronic Submission System (RESS) Document Guidelines found at the File documents online page on the OEB's website.
- Parties 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 filed through 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.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar at the address below and be received by the 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, Zubin Panchal at Zubin.Panchal@oeb.ca or at 416-440-8113

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Kevin Mancherjee

Digitally signed by Kevin Mancherjee
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Kevin Mancherjee
Vice President, Electricity Networks