



Mr. Ritchie Murray
Registrar
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4
Submitted via RESS and email

Re: An Integrated Approach to Utility Remuneration – Next Generation Rate Framework
OEB File No. EB-2026-0002

Dear Mr. Murray,

On behalf of the Ontario Energy Collaborative Association (OECA), we are writing to request cost award eligibility for Phase II of the Ontario Energy Board's Distribution Customer Connections Review, OEB File No. EB-2025-0204.

OECA is also registering its interest in participating in the Customer Connections Advisory Group. We understand Phase II will focus on standardized connection processes, improved customer clarity and transparency, better distributor-transmitter coordination, and practical requirements and performance metrics for distribution customer connections.

OECA is a not-for-profit, member-based organization that brings together practitioners across utilities, municipalities, industry, advisory services, energy management, infrastructure planning, and operations. Its members and stakeholders have direct experience with connection timing, information gaps, coordination challenges, capital planning, customer communication, distributed energy resources, and the cost implications of delayed or unclear connection requirements. OECA submits that it meets the eligibility criteria in section 3 of the OEB Practice Direction on Cost Awards. OECA represents interests relevant to the Board's mandate and this consultation, including customers, practitioners, and organizations affected by distribution connection processes, infrastructure requirements, and associated ratepayer costs.

Connection processes are increasingly important to Ontario's economic growth, housing development, electrification, distributed energy resources, municipal planning, commercial and industrial expansion, and affordability. Many smaller and mid-sized organizations affected by these issues do not have dedicated regulatory teams or the capacity to participate extensively in OEB proceedings. OECA can help bring forward practical customer and practitioner perspectives that may otherwise be underrepresented.



OECA's participation will focus on helping ensure that procedures, requirements, and performance metrics are clear, proportionate, practical, and aligned with customer expectations while recognizing the technical, safety, planning, and cost allocation responsibilities of electricity distributors.

Marc-Antoine Joly, P.Eng., CEM, CMVP, EBCP, CDSM, CEA, Vice-President and Vice-Chair of OECA, will serve as the primary contact. Mr. Joly will coordinate OECA's participation, consolidate member input, attend advisory group meetings, contribute technical and customer-facing perspectives, and support written feedback where required.

OECA does not anticipate retaining external legal counsel at this time and expects to rely on internal and member-based technical, energy management, infrastructure planning, and regulatory experience. OECA does not have independent funding available to support this level of participation. Cost award eligibility would enable OECA to participate in a structured and sustained manner, including meeting attendance, preparation, coordination, and written feedback.

OECA will coordinate with other stakeholders where appropriate to avoid duplication and support efficient use of OEB and stakeholder resources. OECA understands that any cost awards will be subject to the OEB's applicable rules and activity limits.

OECA respectfully requests that the OEB determine OECA to be eligible for cost awards in this consultation.

Should the Board require any additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc-Antoine Joly." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marc-Antoine Joly, P.Eng., CEM, CMVP, EBCP, CDSM, CEA
On behalf of the Ontario Energy Collaborative Association (OECA)