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

BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

July 10, 2026

To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
Customer Connections Advisory Group Members
All Other Interested Parties

Re: Cost Award Eligibility Determinations
Phase II of the Distribution Customer Connections Review
File No.: EB-2025-0204

On June 9, 2026, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a letter launching Phase II of its Distribution Customer Connections (DCC) and Streamlining Transmission Connections Review initiatives. The June 9 letter set out the process for requesting cost award eligibility for the Phase II DCC Review consultation.

This letter addresses cost award eligibility for the Phase II DCC Review consultation (EB-2025-0204). It also identifies the eligible activities and maximum hours for which cost awards may be claimed by eligible participants.

The OEB is making provision for cost awards to be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, for eligible parties' participation in the Phase II DCC Review consultation.

Cost Award Eligibility

In the June 9 letter, the OEB stated that parties previously found to be eligible for an award of costs in prior related consultations[1] would be eligible for cost awards in the Phase II DCC Review. The following three parties meet this criterion and have indicated

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[1] See Distribution Customer Connections Review (letter dated July 31, 2025); Distribution Customer Connections Review (letter dated July 3, 2025); and Engagement on Electricity Distribution System Expansion for Housing Development (April 2, 2024)

their intention to participate in this consultation, and are therefore eligible for an award of costs for their participation in this consultation:

- Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD)
- Energy Probe Research Foundation
- Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) Toronto

Three additional organizations asked to participate in this consultation and requested consideration for cost award eligibility:

- Ontario Energy Collaborative Association (OECA)
- Energy Storage Canada (ESC)
- Quinte Manufacturers Association (QMA)

No objections to the cost eligibility requests were received.

***Ontario Energy Collaborative Association* (OECA)**

The OEB finds that OECA is eligible to apply for an award of costs for this consultation. OECA describes itself as a not-for-profit, member-based organization that brings together practitioners across utilities, municipalities, industry, advisory services, energy management, infrastructure planning, and operations. OECA states that its participation will focus on practical customer and practitioner perspectives related to distribution connection processes, including connection timing, information gaps, customer communication, coordination challenges, performance metrics, and the cost implications of delayed or unclear connection requirements. On this basis, the OEB finds that OECA primarily represents an interest or policy perspective relevant to the OEB's mandate and to the Phase II DCC Review consultation under section 3.03(b) of the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards (Practice Direction).

In making this determination, the OEB has considered that OECA's membership may include individuals or organizations affiliated with electricity distributors, retailers, municipalities, or municipally controlled entities. Section 3.04(a) of the Practice Direction provides that, in the case of an association or other organization comprised of two or more members, the OEB may consider whether the individual members would themselves be eligible or ineligible. Section 3.05 also identifies categories of parties that are generally ineligible for cost awards, including electricity distributors and retailers under section 3.05(b), municipalities under section 3.05(h) and certain government- or municipally controlled corporations under section 3.05(j).

The OEB notes that OECA is eligible for cost awards in this consultation based on OECA's stated intention to advance a broader customer/practitioner perspective relevant to the Phase II DCC Review, and not to represent the institutional or commercial interests of any individual member that may itself be ineligible for cost awards.

The OEB also reminds OECA that cost eligibility does not guarantee recovery of all costs claimed. Any cost claim must comply with the Practice Direction on Cost Awards and will be assessed at the cost claim stage. In particular, section 6.05 of the Practice Direction states that a party will not be compensated for time spent by its employees or officers in preparing for or attending OEB processes. At the cost claim stage, the OEB will therefore consider the nature of the relationship between the individual and OECA (e.g., are they an employee) and the role performed.

Energy Storage Canada **(ESC)**

Energy Storage Canada (ESC) has been included in the Customer Connections Advisory Group. With regard to eligibility for cost awards, based on the material filed by ESC to date, the OEB will not decide on ESC's request for cost eligibility at this time. ESC's request states that ESC seeks cost award eligibility and relies on section 3.03(b) of the Practice Direction. However, the request does not contain all of the information required by Appendix A of the OEB's June 9, 2026 letter, including an explanation of any other funding to which ESC has access and the name and credentials of any lawyer, analyst or consultant that ESC intends to retain, if known. ESC may file a more detailed request for cost eligibility that addresses the matters set out in Appendix A of the June 9, 2026 letter and the Practice Direction, including the cost eligibility process set out in section 4. The OEB will consider ESC's updated request at that time.

Quinte Manufacturers Association **(QMA)**

QMA has also been included in the Customer Connections Advisory Group. Based on the letter filed by QMA, the OEB will not determine QMA's request for cost award eligibility at this time. QMA's request states that it will request an award for its reasonably incurred costs, but it does not contain sufficient information as to why cost eligibility should be granted and does not include all of the information required by Appendix A of the June 9, 2026 letter. In particular, QMA's request does not explain how it meets the OEB's cost eligibility criteria set out in section 3 of the Practice Direction on Cost Awards. It also does not describe any other funding available to QMA or provide the name and credentials of any lawyer, analyst, or consultant that QMA intends to retain, if known. QMA may file a more detailed request for cost eligibility that addresses the matters set out in Appendix A of the June 9, 2026 letter and the Practice Direction, including the cost eligibility process set out in section 4. The OEB will consider QMA's updated request at that time.

Eligible Activities and Maximum Hours

As noted in the June 9 letter, cost awards will be available up to a maximum of 1.5 times the actual meeting time for each advisory group or working group meeting per eligible stakeholder, inclusive of attendance, preparation, and reporting.

The OEB may also request written feedback from advisory group or working group members on draft documents or document packages developed as part of the Phase II DCC Review consultation. Routine review of materials for discussion at an Advisory Group or Working Group meeting will generally be considered part of meeting preparation and reporting and will not be treated as a separate eligible activity.

Where the OEB identifies written feedback on a draft document or document package as a separate eligible activity, cost awards will be available to eligible participants up to the maximum number of hours set out below. These maximums apply per eligible stakeholder and per OEB-identified written feedback activity.

Activities Eligible for Cost Awards	Maximum number of hours
Written feedback on draft connection procedures, including draft sections of the LCCP document	8 hours
Written feedback on a draft coordinated transmitter-distributor connection process document	6 hours
Written feedback on draft templates, forms, checklists, or information-exchange documents	5 hours
Written feedback on draft code changes	4 hours

For greater certainty, cost awards will be available for written feedback only where the OEB expressly identifies the written feedback activity as eligible for cost awards. Cost awards will not be available for unsolicited comments or for routine review of meeting materials unless the OEB identifies that review as a separate eligible activity.

If stakeholders are asked to provide more detailed technical review, mark-ups, or implementation input on draft materials, the OEB may specify a different maximum number of hours when the materials are circulated. Eligible activities related to any broader public written comment opportunity on proposed Distribution System Code amendments, the Load Customer Connection Procedures document or other regulatory instruments will be identified by the OEB at the time comments are requested.

Any questions related to this letter should be directed to Ahmet Erdem, Sr. Advisor, Distribution Sector Evolution, at Ahmet.Erdem@oeb.ca. You may also contact the OEB via our toll-free number: 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

Kevin Mancherjee

Digitally signed by Kevin Mancherjee
Date: 2026.07.10 09:54:37 -04'00'

Kevin Mancherjee
Vice President, Electricity Networks