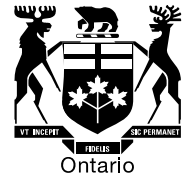


**Ontario Energy  
Board**  
P.O. Box 2319  
27th. Floor  
2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4  
Telephone: 416- 481-1967  
Facsimile: 416- 440-7656  
Toll free: 1-888-632-6273

**Commission de l'Énergie  
de l'Ontario**  
C.P. 2319  
27e étage  
2300, rue Yonge  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4  
Téléphone: 416- 481-1967  
Télécopieur: 416- 440-7656  
Numéro sans frais: 1-888-632-6273



**BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING**

December 19, 2008

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors  
All Licensed Gas Distributors  
Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario ("ACTO")  
Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario ("AMPCO")  
Building Owners and Managers Association ("BOMA")  
Canadian Environmental Law Association ("CELA")  
Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters ("CME")  
Consumers Council of Canada ("CCC")  
Energy Probe Research Foundation  
EnviroCentre  
Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario ("FRPO")  
Green Energy Coalition ("GEC")  
Green Light on a Better Environment ("GLOBE")  
Industrial Gas Users Association ("IGUA")  
Income Security Advocacy Centre ("ISAC")  
Kingston Community Legal Clinic  
Low-Income Energy Network ("LIEN")  
London Property Management Association ("LPMA")  
National Chief's Office on behalf of the Assembly of First Nations ("NCO")  
Nipissing First Nation  
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association ("OMSSA")  
Pollution Probe Foundation ("Pollution Probe")  
School Energy Coalition ("SEC")  
Toronto Environmental Alliance ("TEA")  
Vulnerable Energy Consumer's Coalition ("VECC")**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards  
Consultation Process on Energy Issues Relating to Low Income  
Consumers  
Board File No.: EB-2008-0150**

## **Background**

On July 2, 2008 the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) began a consultation process on energy issues relating to low income consumers.

In its July 2, 2008 letter, the Board stated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons in relation to their participation in the consultation and that any costs awarded would be recovered from all licensed electricity and gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues. Appendix A to the letter stated that cost awards would be available for preparing for, attending at, and reporting on the stakeholder conference, to a maximum of 40 hours.

On September 5, 2008 the Board issued a letter providing further information on the consultation. In that letter, the Board stated that cost awards would also be available in relation to written comments following the completion of the stakeholder conference, to a maximum of 10 hours.

On August 15, 2008, the Board issued a Decision in which the Board ordered that the following parties be eligible for cost awards: ACTO, AMPCO, BOMA, CELA, CME, CCC, Energy Probe Research Foundation, EnviroCentre, FRPO, GEC, GLOBE, IGUA, ISAC, Kingston Community Legal Clinic, LIEN, LPMA, NCO, Nipissing First Nation, OMSSA, Pollution Probe, SEC, TEA and VECC (altogether, the “eligible parties”).

## **Notice of Hearing**

The Board is initiating this hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards that may be made in accordance with section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to the consultation process on energy issues relating to low income consumers. The file number for this hearing is **EB-2008-0150**.

The Board intends to proceed by way of written hearing unless a party can satisfy the Board 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 Board no later than **7 days** after the date of this notice.

Assuming that the Board does not receive any objections to a written hearing, the hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. The eligible parties shall submit their cost claims by **January 9, 2009**. A copy of the cost claim must be filed with the Board and one copy is to be served on each licensed electricity and gas distributor. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* (the "Practice Direction").
2. Licensed electricity and gas distributors will have until **January 23, 2009** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. A copy of the objection must be filed with the Board and one copy must be served on the eligible party against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. The eligible party whose cost claim was objected to will have until **January 30, 2009** to make a reply submission as to why its cost claim should be allowed. A copy of the reply submission must be filed with the Board and one copy is to be served on the objecting distributor.
4. The Board's costs will also be addressed in the cost awards decision.

The Board will then issue its decision on the cost awards.

Service of cost claims, objections and reply submissions on other parties may be effected by courier, registered mail, facsimile or e-mail.

All submissions in this hearing (i.e., cost claims, objections, or replies) will form part of the public record. Copies of the submissions will be available for inspection at the Board's office and the submissions may be published on the Board's website.

Parties must file one paper copy and one electronic copy of their submissions with the Board Secretary by **4:30 pm** on the required dates. The Board requests that parties make every effort to provide electronic copies of their filings in searchable/unrestricted Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format, and to submit their filings through the Board's web portal at [www.errr.oeb.gov.on.ca](http://www.errr.oeb.gov.on.ca). A user ID is required to submit documents through the Board's web portal. If you do not have a user ID, please visit the "e-filings services" webpage on the Board's website at [www.oeb.gov.on.ca](http://www.oeb.gov.on.ca), and fill out a user ID password request. Additionally, parties are requested to follow the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the document entitled

“RESS Document Preparation – A Quick Guide” also found on the e-filing services webpage. If the Board’s web portal is not available, electronic copies of filings may be filed by e-mail at [boardsec@oeb.gov.on.ca](mailto:boardsec@oeb.gov.on.ca). Those that do not have internet access should provide a CD or diskette containing their filing in PDF format.

All submissions must quote file number **EB-2008-0150** and include your name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, and fax number.

**If you do not file a letter objecting to a written hearing or do not participate in the hearing by filing written submissions in accordance with this notice, the Board may proceed without your participation and you will not be entitled to further notice in this proceeding.**

Yours truly,

*Original Signed By*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary