



BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

September 22, 2022

**To: All Regulated Entities
All Interested Parties**

**Re: Action Plan in Response to Stakeholder Comments on the Framework for
Review of Intervenor Processes and Cost Awards
EB-2022-0011**

Today the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is releasing its report detailing a robust 11-point Action Plan in response to comments received from stakeholders on the *Framework for Review of Intervenor Processes and Cost Awards* (Framework). This work furthers the many initiatives undertaken to modernize and refine adjudicative processes and enhance transparency since the OEB's new governance structure was put in place in October 2020. We appreciate the input and continued efforts of stakeholders to engage with us.

The report and materials developed to date for the Framework can be found on the OEB's Engage with Us [webpage](#). This webpage will be updated, as appropriate, and as the Action Plan projects progress.

Background

On March 31, 2022, the OEB issued a letter to stakeholders seeking feedback on the Framework. The Framework identified potential initiatives to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the OEB's adjudicative process, particularly the role of intervenors within it, and sought feedback from stakeholders on the potential initiatives. The OEB also expressed an openness to hearing additional, new ideas for enhancing the adjudicative process.

Comments from stakeholders were received until May 1, 2022. The OEB has reviewed the comments and held internal discussions to determine and prioritize the projects recommended by participants. As a result, the OEB has developed an Action Plan for the Framework consisting of 11 projects – with five scheduled to be completed by the end of this fiscal year (March 31, 2023) and six to be completed by the end of next fiscal year (March 31, 2024).

Sessions outlining the Framework's 11-point Action Plan were held with participants to the Framework review on September 9 and 13, 2022. Work has already commenced on each of the 11 projects. As the work progresses, there will be opportunities for further input from stakeholders as appropriate.

Cost Awards

Eligible stakeholders shall submit their cost claims by **October 6, 2022**. Details of cost awards are included Appendix A.

Yours truly,

Nancy Marconi
Registrar

Appendix A

Details of Cost Awards

The OEB made cost awards available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. The OEB indicated that costs awarded will be recovered from all licensed electricity and gas distributors, electricity transmitters, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) based on the OEB's Cost Assessment Model. Licensed electricity and gas distributors, electricity transmitters, OPG and the IESO had an opportunity to object to any of the requests for cost award eligibility. No objections were received.

In its Decision and Order on Cost Eligibility, dated April 19, 2022, the OEB determined the following stakeholders meet the criteria set out in the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* (Practice Direction) and are therefore eligible for cost awards:

- Anwaatin Inc.
- Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Consumers Council of Canada
- Electric Vehicle Society
- Energy Probe Research Foundation
- Environmental Defence
- Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario
- Green Energy Coalition
- Industrial Gas Users Association
- London Property Management Association
- Low-Income Energy Network
- Pollution Probe
- Quinte Manufacturers Association
- School Energy Coalition
- Scott Petrie Law Firm, on behalf of the Gas Pipeline Landowners of Ontario, the Lambton County Storage Association and the Canadian Association of Energy and Pipeline Landowner Associations
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition

For the purpose of commenting on the issues, potential changes and questions identified in the Framework, the above noted stakeholders are **eligible for up to eight hours**. There will be no cost awards for attending a stakeholder session.

Cost claims are to be 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](#).

The OEB will apply the principles set out in section 5 of the Practice Direction when awarding costs. The maximum hourly rates set out in the OEB's Cost Awards Tariff will be applied.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of the 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.