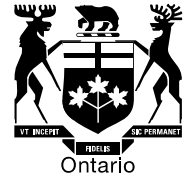


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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

October 2, 2007

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
Association of Building Owners and Managers Association of the Greater Toronto Area
Consumers Council of Canada
Energy Probe Research Foundation
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association Inc.
Green Energy Coalition
London Property Management Association
Low-income Energy Network
Pollution Probe
School Energy Coalition
Vulnerable Energy Consumers' Coalition**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards for Stage 1 of Consultations on the Review of Electricity Distribution Rate Design
Board File No.: EB-2007-0031**

Background

On March 30, 2007, the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") began a consultation process to review the design of electricity distribution rates.

In its March 30, 2007 letter, the Board stated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the "Act"). The Board also stated that the costs to be awarded will be recovered from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors based on their respective distribution revenues. The rates of licensed distributors Cornwall Street Lighting and Power Company and Dubreuil Forest Products are not currently fixed or approved by the Board, and cost awards will not be recovered from these two licensed distributors. Appendix A to the March 30, 2007 letter identified the activity eligible for cost awards in stage 1 of this consultation (the provision of written comments on Board staff's Discussion Paper), as well as the maximum number of hours for which cost awards would be available for that activity. It also indicated that the Board would use the process set out in section 12 of

the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* and act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this consultation.

In accordance with the Board's July 3, 2007 Decision on Cost Eligibility and its August 14, 2007 Decision on Cost Eligibility, the following participants were found to be eligible for an award of costs in this consultation: the Association of Building Owners and Managers Association of the Greater Toronto Area; the Consumers Council of Canada; Energy Probe Research Foundation; the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association Inc.; the Green Energy Coalition; the London Property Management Association; the Low-income Energy Network (in respect of stage 1 of the consultation only); Pollution Probe; the School Energy Coalition; and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers' Coalition (collectively, the "eligible parties").

This consultation process is an ongoing one. However, the Board considers it expedient to address the issue of cost awards for stage 1 of the consultation, which has now been completed.

Notice of Hearing

The Board is initiating this hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards that will be made in accordance with section 30 of the Act in relation to stage 1 of this consultation process. The file number for this hearing is EB-2007-0031.

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 **October 16, 2007**. A copy of the cost claim must be filed with the Board and one copy is to be served on each of the distributors. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.
2. Distributors will have until **October 30, 2007** 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 party against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. The party whose cost claim was objected to will have until **November 6, 2007** to make a reply submission as to why the 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 will then issue its decision on the cost awards. The Board's costs may also be dealt with in the cost awards decision.

Cost claims, objections and reply submissions may be served on other parties by courier, registered mail, facsimile or e-mail.

All submissions in this hearing (i.e., cost claims, objections, and 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 a paper copy of their submissions, and an electronic copy of their submissions in searchable Adobe Acrobat (PDF) or Word, with the Board Secretary by **4:30 pm** on the required dates. Electronic copies may be submitted on CD or diskette or by e-mail to ***boardsec@oeb.gov.on.ca***. The submissions must quote file number **EB-2007-0031** 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