

**Ontario Energy Board**  
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**Commission de l'Énergie de l'Ontario**  
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Compliance Office

**By Email**

December 8, 2005

**To: All Natural Gas Distributors and Vendors**

**Re: Gas Distribution Access Rule (GDAR),  
Next Steps**

On November 15, 2005, the Board issued a Decision and Order addressing the approved form of the Service Agreement to be used by gas vendors and gas distributors. The Board stated that it would issue a Notice under section 45 of the Act proposing amendments to the GDAR as it relates to the timing of implementation of the approved Service Agreement and the Electronic Business Transactions ("EBT") Standards Appendix. On December 8, 2005 the Board issued the Notice proposing amendments to Sections 1.4.2, 1.4.3, 1.4.4 and 6.1.2.1 of the GDAR, and inviting comment on these proposed amendments.

In the Decision and Order, the Board directed Board staff to convene the Advisory Committee contemplated in the EBT Standards Appendix. The Change and Version Control Process included as Appendix B of the EBT Standards Document provides that a Gas Electronic Business Transactions Standards Advisory Committee ("AC") will be created to provide oversight of the implementation of, and recommend to the Board revisions to, the Standards. The membership will consist of one representative of each distributor and each vendor, with a Chair and secretary from Board staff. Given the priority of this project, I have been asked to chair the Committee.

Given the proposed timelines set out in the Board's Notice, it is necessary to commence the work of the Advisory Committee promptly. Therefore, I would like to hold the initial meeting of the AC at the Board's offices on December 15, 2005 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. I would like to invite you to designate and send a representative from your company to be a member of the AC.

At this first meeting, I would like to discuss the plan for proceeding to implement the Standards and the formation of a Gas Electronic Business Transaction Standards Working Group ("WG"). The WG will consider any requests for changes to the Standards and submit to the AC recommended revisions. The first task to be assigned to the WG will be to address the outstanding wording

change and process improvement matters referred to in the Board's Decision and Order of November 15, 2005.

The WG will be chaired by OEB staff, but unlike the AC, membership will be comprised of self-selected market participants. Recognizing the significant amount of work to be undertaken by the WG in order to meet the implementation dates in the proposed amendments to the GDAR, I would expect the WG to convene as soon as possible. An invitation will be extended to interested parties once the date has been decided by the AC.

If you have any comments or questions, Russ Houldin, Senior Advisor, will be pleased to assist. He may be reached at 416 440-8112 or [russ.houldin@oeb.gov.on.ca](mailto:russ.houldin@oeb.gov.on.ca).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "BH", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Brian Hewson  
Chief Compliance Officer