

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
27^e 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

February 5, 2010

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Participants in Consultation Process EB-2009-0349**

**Re: Stakeholder Meeting and Further Written Comments
Rate Protection and the Determination of Direct Benefits under
Ontario Regulation 330/09
Board File Number: EB-2009-0349**

On December 14, 2009, the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") issued a Board staff Discussion Paper proposing a framework for the determination of direct benefits that accrue to the consumers of an electricity distributor as a result of an eligible investment made or planned to be made by the distributor to accommodate a renewable energy generation facility. Interested stakeholders were invited to file written comments identifying their views and positions on the Discussion Paper.

The Board has reviewed the comments and notes that certain participants expressed a desire for further discussion of the issues in advance of issuance of the Board's policy, as well as the opportunity for a second round of comments. The Board agrees that it would be beneficial to expand the scope of this consultation process. The Board is therefore requesting further written comments. To better inform that second round of comments, Board staff will hold a Stakeholder Meeting on February 26, 2010.

This letter provides information in relation to the Stakeholder Meeting and the provision of further written comments.

Stakeholder Meeting

The purpose of the Stakeholder Meeting is to provide a forum for discussion of the substantive policy (rather than legal) matters contained in the staff Discussion Paper as well as the participant comments to facilitate the provision of further written comments by participants. The objectives of the Stakeholder Meeting are:

- to allow Board staff to clarify the intent of certain aspects of the Discussion Paper;
- to allow participants to clarify and elaborate on their written comments provided to date;
- to provide participants and Board staff with an opportunity to explore in some depth the rationale and merits of alternative approaches and other considerations supported by participants;
- to help Board staff gain, through an interactive exchange with participants, a clearer understanding of certain participant proposals and areas of concern including distributor information limitations; and
- to allow for questions and answers between participants and Board staff in relation to policy issues raised in the staff Discussion Paper and the participant written comments that were submitted on those issues.

Location and Registration

Date: February 26, 2010
Time: 9:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m.
Location: Ontario Energy Board, ADR Room
25th floor, 2300 Yonge Street, Toronto

An agenda will be issued to participants prior to the Stakeholder Meeting.

Participants in this consultation that are interested in attending are requested to **register in advance** by e-mail to chris.cincar@oeb.gov.on.ca by **4:30 p.m. on February 12, 2010**. Please include your name, organization, telephone number and e-mail address. Participants who intend to make a presentation are asked to so indicate when they register and to make an electronic copy of the presentation available in advance. Presentation materials must be sent to the Board Secretary by **February 24, 2010**, in accordance with the filing instructions set out below.

Invitation for Further Written Comment and Cost Awards

Following the Stakeholder Meeting, participants will have an opportunity to make further written comments on Board staff's Discussion Paper and written comments on proposals made by other participants. Written comments must be filed with the Board by **March 10, 2010** in accordance with the filing instructions set out below.

As indicated in the Board's September 25, 2009 letter, cost awards will be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* to eligible persons in relation to their participation in this consultation. On October 28, 2009, the Board issued its Decision on Cost Eligibility identifying the participants in this consultation that are eligible for an award of costs.

Cost awards will be available to those eligible participants in relation to their participation in the Stakeholder Meeting and the provision of further comments on Board staff's Discussion Paper and comments on other participants' proposals, **to a maximum of 20 hours**.

Instructions on Filing Material with the Board

All filings in relation to this consultation must quote file number **EB-2009-0349** and include your name, address, telephone number and, where available, an e-mail address and fax number. Three paper copies and one electronic copy of each filing must be provided. Paper copies are to be addressed to the Board Secretary at the Board's mailing address set out above. The Board requests that participants make every effort to provide electronic copies of their filings in searchable/unrestricted PDF format, to submit their filings through the Board's web portal at www.errr.oeb.gov.on.ca and to conform to the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS e-Filing Guides (available on the Board's website at www.oeb.gov.on.ca on the e-Filing Services web page). A user ID is required for filings through the web portal. If you do not have a user ID, please visit the Board's web site on the e-Filings Services web page and fill out a user ID password request. If the web portal is not available, the electronic copy may be submitted by e-mail to BoardSec@oeb.gov.on.ca. Participants that do not have internet access may file their electronic copy on diskette or CD.

Filings must be received by **4:30 pm** on the required dates.

All materials related to this consultation will be posted on the "[Rate Protection and the Determination of Direct Benefits under Ontario Regulation 330/09](#)" web page of the Board's website. The material will also be available for public inspection at the office of the Board during normal business hours.

If you have any questions regarding this consultation, please contact Chris Cincar at 416-440-7696, or e-mail chris.cincar@oeb.gov.on.ca. The Board's toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary