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BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

April 5, 2013

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
Energy Probe Research Foundation**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards in the Initiative to Develop Electricity
Distribution System Reliability Standards
Board File Number: EB-2010-0249**

Background

On November 23, 2011, Board staff issued a letter (the “November 23rd letter”) to the participants in consultation EB-2010-0249, that announced Phase Two of the initiative. Phase Two involved the formation of a Reliability Data Working Group (the “Working Group”), that would meet to discuss issues related to improving the quality of the reliability data that distributors monitor and report to the Board. The November 23rd letter stated that cost awards for participating in the Working Group would be considered once the membership of the group was determined.

On January 25, 2012, Board staff issued a letter that set out the membership of the Working Group. Among the members of the Working Group was Energy Probe Research Foundation (“EP”). On February 3, 2012, the Board issued a Decision on Cost Eligibility in which it determined that EP was found to be eligible for an award of costs.

In that letter the Board indicated that cost awards would be available for the preparation and attendance at the Working Group meetings including any written submissions that

may be requested, to a **maximum of 30 hours**, that costs would not be awarded for case management activities and that costs awarded will be recovered from all licensed electricity distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

On March 20, 2013, the Board issued a Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements related to system reliability. The issuance of this Notice brings a close to Phase Two of the initiative. Although the Working Group may meet in the future as part of the next phase in the initiative, the Board considers it expedient at this time to address cost awards in relation to participation in the Working Group during Phase Two.

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 *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to participation in Phase Two of the consultation process. The file number for the hearing is EB-2010-0249.

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.

If the Board proceeds with a written hearing, the hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. The eligible participants shall submit their cost claims by **April 23, 2013**. A copy of the cost claim must be filed with the Board and one copy is to be served on each licensed electricity distributor. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.
2. Licensed distributors will have until **April 30, 2013**, 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 participant against whose claim the objection is being made.

3. The eligible participant whose claim was objected to will have until **May 7, 2013**, 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 will then issue its decision on cost awards. The Board's costs may also be addressed in the cost awards decision.

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

Parties must file two paper copies and one electronic copy of their submissions (i.e., cost claims, objections or replies) 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.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/. 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.ontarioenergyboard.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@ontarioenergyboard.ca. Those that do not have internet access should provide a CD containing their filing in PDF format.

All submissions must quote file number **EB-2010-0249** and include your name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, and fax number.

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 offices during normal business hours and may be published on the Board's website.

If the submission is from a private citizen (i.e., not a lawyer representing a client, not a consultant representing a client or organization, not an individual in an organization that represents the interests of consumers or other groups, and not an individual from a regulated entity), before making the submission available for viewing at the Board's offices or placing the submission on the Board's website, the Board will remove any personal (i.e., not business) contact information from the submission (i.e., the address, fax number, phone number, and e-mail address of the individual). However, the name of the individual and the content of the submission will be available for viewing at the Board's offices and may be placed on the Board's website.

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 of Hearing, 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

Attachment A: Form for Cost Claim