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BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

August 13, 2014

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
Building Owners and Managers Association – Greater Toronto
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters
Consumers Council of Canada
London Property Management Association
School Energy Coalition
Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards in the Initiative to review the Board's policies relating to Service Area Amendments and Rate-Making after Consolidation Transactions
Board File Number: EB-2014-0138**

Background

On March 31, 2014, the Board posted a staff [Discussion Paper](#) related to an initiative to review its policies on service area amendments and rate-making associated with merger, amalgamation, acquisition and divestiture transactions.

In the [cover letter](#) accompanying the release of the Discussion Paper, the Board indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the "Act") in relation to the provision of comments on the Discussion Paper to a maximum of 21 hours, and that costs awarded will be recovered from all licensed electricity distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

On May 20, 2014, the Board issued a [Decision on Cost Eligibility](#) in which it determined that the Building Owners and Managers Association – Greater Toronto, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, Consumers Council of Canada, London Property

Management Association, School Energy Coalition and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (collectively, the “eligible participants”) were found to be eligible for an award of costs.

The Board considers it expedient at this time to address cost awards in relation to the provision of comments on the Discussion Paper. As indicated in the Board’s March 31, 2014 letter, the Board will determine any next steps for this consultation following its consideration of comments received on the Discussion Paper.

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 the provision of comments on the Discussion Paper.. The file number for the hearing is EB-2014-0138.

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 participants shall submit their cost claims by **August 27, 2014**. 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 **September 10, 2014**, 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 [+ one week] **September 17, 2014**, 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-2014-0138** 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