

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
27e 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

May 11, 2016

To: All Rate-Regulated Licensed Electricity Distributors
Consumers Council of Canada
Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition
All Other Interested Parties

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Elimination of Load Transfer Arrangements – Proposed Amendments to
Distribution System Code
OEB File Number: EB-2015-0006**

Background

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a Notice of Proposal to Amend a Code on February 20, 2015 (February 20th Notice) initiating a consultation to amend the Distribution System Code (DSC) related to the elimination of load transfer arrangements.

In the February 20th Notice, the OEB indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (Act) related to the provision of comments on the proposed DSC amendments to a maximum of 8 hours.

On April 14, 2015, the OEB issued a Decision on Cost Eligibility granting cost award eligibility to the following organizations (collectively, the eligible participants):

- Consumers Council of Canada (CCC); and
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC).

On October 14, 2015, the OEB issued a Notice of Revised Proposal to Amend a Code (October 14th Notice). In the October 14th Notice, the OEB indicated that cost awards would be available to eligible participants related to the provision of comments on the revised proposed DSC amendments to a maximum of 5 hours.

Costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated licensed electricity distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating this hearing on its own motion to determine the cost awards that will be made in accordance with section 30 of the Act related to the eligible activities described above. The OEB intends to proceed by way of written hearing unless a party can satisfy the OEB 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 OEB no later than **7 days** after the date of this Notice of Hearing.

Assuming the OEB does not receive any objections to a written hearing, the hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. Eligible participants shall submit their cost claims by **May 18, 2016**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be served on each rate-regulated licensed electricity distributor. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. As contemplated in the *Practice Direction*, the cost claim form has been customized for this consultation. Eligible participants must use the customized form that is attached as Attachment A to this Notice.
2. Rate-regulated licensed electricity distributors will have until **May 27, 2016** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the OEB and one copy must be served on the eligible participant against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. An eligible participant whose cost claim was objected to will have until **June 3, 2016** 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 OEB and one copy is to be served on the objecting electricity distributor.
4. The OEB will then issue its decision on cost awards. The OEB's costs may also be addressed in the cost awards decision.

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

Parties must file two paper copies and one electronic copy of their filings with the Board Secretary by **4:45 pm** on the required dates. The OEB 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 OEB's web portal at <https://www.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/>. A user ID is required to submit

documents through the OEB's web portal. If you do not have a user ID, please visit the "e-filings services" webpage on the OEB's website at www.ontarioenergyboard.ca, and fill out a user ID password request. Additionally, interested 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 OEB's web portal is not available, electronic copies of filings may be filed by e-mail at BoardSec@ontarioenergyboard.ca. Persons that do not have internet access should provide a CD or diskette containing their filing in PDF format.

All filings must quote file numbers **EB-2015-0006** and include your name, address telephone number and, where available, your e-mail address and fax number.

All filings in this hearing (i.e., cost claims, objections, or replies), will form part of the public record. Copies of the filings will be available for inspection at the OEB's office during normal business hours and the filings may be placed on the OEB's website.

If the filing 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 filing available for viewing at the OEB's offices or placing the filing on the OEB's website, the OEB will remove any personal (i.e., not business) contact information from the filing (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 filing may be available for viewing at the OEB's offices and will be placed on the OEB's website.

If you do not file a letter objecting to a written hearing or do not participate in the hearing by filing written materials in accordance with this Notice, the OEB 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

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Board File No: EB-2015-0006
ATTACHMENT A
Ontario Energy Board Cost Claim Form for Consultations:
Affidavit and Summary of Fees and Disbursements

The forms that eligible participants must complete are provided in a separate MS Excel Workbook named, "EB-2015-0006 Cost Claim Form for Consultation.xls".