



Ontario
Energy
Board | Commission
de l'énergie
de l'Ontario

BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

March 9, 2021

To: All Regulated Entities
All Other Interested Stakeholders

Re: Revisions to the OEB's Rules of Practice and Procedure and Practice Directions

Today the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is posting revised versions of its Rules of Practice and Procedure, Rules of Practice and Procedure for Enforcement Proceedings, Practice Direction on Settlement Conferences and Practice Direction on Confidential Filings (Rules and Practice Directions). A revised Declaration and Undertaking form has also been posted. The revisions are primarily administrative in nature, to reflect the recent changes to the OEB's governance structure and its digitization initiative.

The updates reflect changes to the OEB's governance structure under amendments to the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) that recently came into effect, such as referring to the OEB's Registrar, Chief Commissioner and Commissioners, and removing references to the former Management Committee, Board Secretary and Board Members. As announced by our Registrar last year, the OEB is transitioning to an entirely electronic record for all regulatory proceedings. The revised Rules and Practice Directions have therefore also been amended to remove requirements to file paper copies for our proceedings.

Furthermore, a few years ago, the OEB decided to refer to itself as the "OEB" rather than the "Board" in its adjudicative and other proceedings. I have concluded that it is appropriate to reflect this change in the Rules and Practice Directions.

While further amendments may be made to the Rules and Practice Directions as we work on modernization initiatives, I decided it was important to post procedural documents that reflect the current governance of the OEB.

The mandate letter to the OEB from the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines set a priority for the OEB to develop a plan to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and independence of adjudicative processes, and also to review intervenor processes. We have initially identified three areas within the Rules and Practice Directions for examination this year. These are (i) the rules for motions to review, (ii) the treatment of confidential filings, and (iii) the definition of “substantial interest” used in considering intervention requests. The work on these initiatives is in the initial stage. We will be looking for approaches to improve efficiency and effectiveness in these areas. The OEB also has an initiative underway to identify the characteristics of a top quartile regulator and to make recommendations to achieve this goal. This initiative may lead to further enhancements to our regulatory processes.

I look forward to working with the industry and other stakeholders as we work to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our adjudication. Any questions relating to the current amendments to the Rules and Practice Directions should be directed to Registrar@oeb.ca. The OEB’s toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

Original Signed By

Lynne Anderson
Chief Commissioner