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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

April 23, 2015

**TO: All Rate Regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Participants in Consultation EB-2014-0289
All Other Interested Parties**

**RE: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
2014 Natural Gas Market Review (Board File No. EB-2014-0289)**

Background

The Board initiated a consultation dealing with a [2014 Natural Gas Market Review](#) which included cost awards for eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for participation in certain activities.

With the issuance of the [Staff Report to the Board on the 2014 Natural Gas Market Review](#) the Board concluded this consultation and the cost-eligible activities as set out in Appendix A of this Notice.

Cost Award Eligible Participants

In its [Decision on Cost Eligibility](#) (corrected) dated November 28, 2014, the Board determined that the following participants (together, the “eligible participants”) were eligible to apply for an award of costs in this consultation process:

- Association of Power Producers of Ontario
- Building Owners and Managers Association Toronto
- Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters
- Consumers Council of Canada

- Energy Probe Research Foundation
- Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario
- Industrial Gas User's Association
- London Property Management Association
- Low-Income Energy Network
- Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers
- School Energy Coalition
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition

Notice of Hearing

The Board is initiating a hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards to parties identified above that are eligible for costs.

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. Eligible participants shall submit their cost claims by **Thursday, April 30, 2015**. The cost claim must be filed with the Board and one copy is to be served on each rate regulated electricity distributor, each rate regulated natural gas distributor. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

Eligible Participants must use the customized Cost Claim Form attached as Appendix B to this Notice

2. Rate regulated natural gas distributors will have until **Thursday, May 14, 2015** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. 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 cost claim was objected to will have until **Thursday, May 21, 2015** to file with the Board a reply submission as to why its cost claim should be allowed. One copy of the reply submission is to be served on the objecting party.

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 filings with the Board Secretary by **4:45 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 <https://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, 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 Board'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 USB stick containing their filing in PDF format.

All filings must quote file number **EB-2014-0289** 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 Board's office during normal business hours and the filings may be placed on the Board'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 Board's offices or placing the filing on the Board's website, the Board 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 Board's offices and will 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 materials in accordance with this Notice, the Board may

proceed without your participation and you will not be entitled to further notice in this proceeding.

Dated at Toronto, April 23, 2015

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated April 23, 2015

EB-2014-0289

Appendix A

**Consultation Activities and Maximum Number of Hours
for Which Cost Claims may be Filed**

Cost awards will be available in relation to participation in the Stakeholder Conference; and in relation to the submission of written comments on the issues explored at the Stakeholder Conference.

The maximum number of cost eligible hours per participant for these activities are:

- prepare for, attend and report on Stakeholder Conference
(up to 2 days @ 11 hours/day)..... 22 hours
- written comments on Stakeholder Conference issues 25 hours

The maximum number of cost eligible hours for an expert retained to prepare a separate expert submission for the Stakeholder Conference depends on whether eligible participants are collaborating for this purpose, as follows:

- separate expert submission for one eligible participant 40 hours
- separate expert submission for two or more eligible participants (per
additional eligible participant)..... 20 hours

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated April 23, 2015

2014 Natural Gas Market Review

Board File No. EB-2014-0289

APPENDIX B

**Ontario Energy Board Cost Claim 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-2014-0289 NOH Appendix B Cost Claim Form.xls](#)".