



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

**BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING**

August 5, 2021

To: All Rate-regulated Electricity Distributors  
All Participants in EB-2021-0118 (Framework for Energy Innovation: Distributed Resources and Utility Incentives)  
All Intervenors in Cost of Service Proceedings for 2022 Distribution Rates  
Independent Electricity System Operator  
All Other Interested Parties

**Re: Updating the CDM Guidelines for Electricity Distributors –  
Request for Comments  
Ontario Energy Board File Number: EB-2021-0106**

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On September 30, 2020, the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines issued a [directive](#) to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) that provides direction on the electricity conservation and demand management (CDM) framework for the 2021-2024 period (the 2021-2024 CDM Framework). On January 4, 2021, the IESO released its [2021-2024 Conservation and Demand Management Framework Program Plan](#), which provides an overview of the CDM programs to be delivered by the IESO in response to the Minister's directive.

The OEB today released an OEB staff discussion paper, [Updating the Conservation and Demand Management Guidelines for Electricity Distributors](#), setting out a proposed approach regarding the role of CDM for rate-regulated electricity distributors, addressing the 2021-2024 CDM Framework, the wind-down of any CDM activities associated with the 2015-2020 Conservation First Framework (CFF) and the Interim Framework, and rate-funded CDM activities outside the provincial frameworks. These proposals are primarily applicable to rate-regulated electricity distributors, but may also be of interest to the IESO, natural gas distributors, customer groups, and other parties.

The OEB intends to develop updated CDM guidelines, to replace the existing [Conservation and Demand Management Requirement Guidelines for Electricity](#)

[Distributors](#),<sup>1</sup> which were developed for the CFF. Consequential updates to applicable OEB documents (e.g. the Filing Requirements for Electricity Distribution Rate Applications) to reflect the updated CDM guidelines will also be implemented in due course.

### Invitation for Written Comments and Cost Awards

The OEB invites written comments from interested parties on the OEB staff discussion paper and proposed updates to the CDM guidelines.

Parties interested in submitting comments and receiving updates in this proceeding should indicate their intent to participate by filing a brief letter with the OEB by **August 19, 2021** in accordance with the filing instructions below. Cost awards will be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. The letter should indicate a statement indicating whether or not the participant requests cost eligibility. Participants requesting cost eligibility should identify the grounds on which the participant believes that they are eligible for an award of costs (addressing the OEB's cost eligibility criteria as set out in section 3 of the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#)). If an electricity distributor has objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections must be filed with the OEB by **August 26, 2021**.

Any objections will be posted on the OEB's website. The OEB will then make a final determination on cost eligibility requests and (at a later stage) filed cost claims, in accordance with its Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

The OEB intends to make up to 10 hours per eligible participant for comments regarding the OEB staff discussion paper eligible for cost awards. Costs awarded will be recovered from rate-regulated electricity distributors based on their respective customer numbers.

The OEB will apply the principles set out in section 5 of its Practice Direction on Cost Awards when awarding costs. The maximum hourly rates set out in the OEB's Cost Awards Tariff will be applied. The OEB expects that groups representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and coordinate their participation in this process. The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of its Practice Direction on Cost Awards to implement the payment of the cost awards. Therefore, the OEB will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process. For more information on this process, please see the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

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<sup>1</sup> EB-2014-0278

Written comments on the OEB staff discussion paper and proposed updates to the CDM guidelines from all participants must be filed with the OEB by **September 16, 2021**, in accordance with the filing instructions set out below.

### **Filing Instructions**

Parties are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB **do not include personal information** (as that phrase is defined in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*), unless filed in accordance with rule 9A of the OEB's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*.

Please quote the file number, **EB-2021-0106** for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the OEB's [online filing portal](#).

- Filings should clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number and e-mail address
- Please use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the [Regulatory Electronic Submission System \(RESS\) Document Guidelines](#) found at the [Filing Systems page](#) on the OEB's website
- Parties are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet [set up an account](#), or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca) for assistance

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar at the address below and be received by end of business, 4:45 p.m., on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Michael Parkes at [michael.parkes@oeb.ca](mailto:michael.parkes@oeb.ca) and OEB Counsel, Michael Millar at [michael.millar@@oeb.ca](mailto:michael.millar@@oeb.ca).

Email: [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca)  
Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

**DATED** at Toronto, **August 5, 2021**

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original Signed By*

Christine E. Long  
Registrar