



**BY E-MAIL & WEB POSTING**

**To: All Participants in EB-2018-0278  
All Rate Regulated Electricity Distributors**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards  
Activities and Program-based Benchmarking Initiative  
OEB File No.: EB-2018-0278**

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On October 10, 2018, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) launched an initiative to develop Activity and Program Based Benchmarking (APB) to encourage continuous improvements by regulated utilities. For the development of APB initiative, which has been completed, cost awards are available for eligible participants under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, for participation in the various phases of the initiative. In previous letters, the OEB established a process for stakeholder participation and identified the activities that would be cost-eligible. The OEB also previously determined that costs would be recovered from all licensed electricity distributors and apportioned based on their respective customer numbers.

The OEB 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 *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to eligible consultation activities that have occurred since October 10, 2018.

### **Eligible Activities**

There have been multiple steps in the initiative, leading to the posting of an APB report in March 2021, following which a stakeholder meeting was held in May 2021 to gather feedback.

In its October 2018 letter the OEB established a working group to assist it in the APB initiative and determined that the consumer representatives on the working group were eligible for costs for attending three meetings.

On March 15, 2019, the OEB issued its [Decision on Cost Eligibility](#) granting cost eligibility to five parties in relation to the provision of comments on the OEB Staff Discussion Paper issued on February 25, 2019 and for preparation for and attendance at a stakeholder session on March 5, 2019.

By letter dated March 30, 2021, the OEB issued a final APB Report and provided for cost awards for eligible stakeholders for preparation for and attendance at a stakeholder meeting. On April 28, 2021, the OEB issued its [Decision on Cost Eligibility](#) granting cost eligibility to seven parties.

The eligible activities and their associated maximum hours for cost recovery are summarized in the following table.

ACTIVITY	TOTAL ELIGIBLE HOURS PER PARTICIPANT
Working Group for APB Initiative	Actual meeting time plus up to a maximum of 4 hours per meeting for preparation
OEB Staff Discussion Paper and Stakeholder Consultation Meeting	Up to a maximum of 12 hours (for review and comment on staff discussion paper) and actual attendance time to a maximum of 6 hours
Attendance at Stakeholder Meeting on APB Report	Actual preparation and attendance time to maximum of 10 hours

### Notice of Hearing

The OEB intends to proceed by way of a 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 **seven (7) days** after the date of this Notice.

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

1. Eligible parties shall submit their cost claims by **November 29, 2021**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be sent by email to each licensed electricity distributors. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).

**Eligible persons must use the customized Cost Claim Form attached as Appendix B to this Notice.**

2. Electricity distributors will have until **December 6, 2021** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the OEB and one copy must be sent by email to the eligible party against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. The eligible party whose cost claim was objected to will have until **December 13, 2021** to file with the OEB a reply submission as to why its cost claim should be allowed. One copy of the reply submission is to be sent by email to 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.

### **How to File Materials**

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 file number, **EB-2018-0278** for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the OEB's web portal at <https://p-pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/PivotalUX/>.

- 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 [www.oeb.ca/industry](http://www.oeb.ca/industry).
- 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, stakeholders should include the Case Manager, Ben Bosch at [ben.bosch@oeb.ca](mailto:ben.bosch@oeb.ca) and OEB Counsel, James Sidlofsky at [james.sidlofsky@oeb.ca](mailto:james.sidlofsky@oeb.ca).

E-mail: [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca)

Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

**DATED** at Toronto, November 15, 2021

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original Signed By*

Christine E. Long  
Registrar