



Ontario  
Energy  
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de l'énergie  
de l'Ontario

**BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING**

October 7, 2024

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors  
All Licensed Electricity Transmitters  
Independent Electricity System Operator**

**Re: Enhancing Cyber Security Readiness in Ontario's Electricity Sector**

In its 2024-2027 Business Plan, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) pointed to the need for robust cyber security risk awareness, management and collaboration to counter quickly evolving and increasingly frequent sophisticated cyber security threats. To help address these needs, OEB staff are developing an initiative this fiscal year which is intended to enhance cyber security readiness in Ontario's electricity sector. Details regarding this initiative will be shared with licensed distributors and transmitters through an upcoming engagement with the Cyber Security Advisory Committee (CSAC).

Specifically, the OEB is looking to implement a requirement that utilities periodically submit an independent cyber security assessment to the OEB based on the [Ontario Cyber Security Framework \(OCSF\)](#). Utilities are already expected to use the OCSF for the purpose of preparing their reporting each year under the Reporting and Record-keeping Requirements.

The proposal for independent cyber security assessment would require utilities to have a qualified third-party assess the utility's maturity against the OCSF and then report this to the OEB. Periodic independent assessments will support utilities use of the OCSF as a tool for advancing their cyber security maturity. It will also provide the OEB with a clear view of the progress being made by utilities and allow for more granular utility benchmarking.

OEB staff looks forward to the opportunity to present this initiative and engage with industry participants at the CSAC meeting, scheduled for 1:30-3:30 p.m. on October 30, 2024. All licensed electricity transmitters and distributors are encouraged to participate.

Please contact Muzi Liu, Senior Advisor at [muzi.liu@oeb.ca](mailto:muzi.liu@oeb.ca) with questions about this letter or for more information about CSAC participation.

Yours truly,

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Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance