

BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

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December 5, 2024

To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors

All Other Interested Parties

Re: Stakeholder Meeting | 2024/2025 Reporting and Record-keeping

Requirements (RRR), Ontario Energy Board File Number: EB-2022-0267

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is hosting a stakeholder meeting to provide updates on Reporting and Record-keeping Requirements (RRR) for Ontario's licensed electricity distributors. RRR establishes the minimum reporting and record-keeping requirements by licensed entities, enabling the OEB to fulfil its regulatory mandates.

Focused on continuous improvement, the OEB openly and transparently engages with stakeholders to ensure it is adapting RRRs to meet the needs of an evolving electricity sector. This consultation aligns with the objectives outlined in the OEB's 2023-2026 Business Plan and the Minister's October 2022 Letter of Direction, which highlight the importance of modernizing and streamlining processes to right-size the RRR.

Stakeholder Meeting

The OEB is inviting interested stakeholders to a virtual meeting on **January 20, 2025**, from **9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Share information and raise awareness about the planned changes to RRRs for the April 2025 annual filing. These include:
 - The addition of sub-cause code reporting under section RRR 2.1.4.2.5.
 - The addition of a voluntary feeder-level reporting section under a new RRR section 2.1.4.2.11,
 - A discussion on post-consolidation reporting requirements based on the Handbook to Electricity Distributor and Transmitter Consolidations revised on July 11, 2024, and
 - Updates to the Activity and Program-based Benchmarking (APB) forms.
- Gather feedback on the <u>Interactive Dashboards</u>.

Participation

Stakeholders who would like to participate in the meeting are asked to email notice of their intention to sandra.fernandes@oeb.ca by January 20, 2025. Please include "EB-2022-0267 – RRR Consultation" in the subject line.

Open Data Awareness

In 2022, the OEB began publishing RRR information collected by the OEB through our Open Data initiative to enable deeper, more customized analysis of the RRR data. As of 2023, all nonconfidential data is now published through the open data portal providing valuable insights into the operations of each electricity distributor, including the number and types of customers they serve, consumption data, support programs available, and their financial performance. Additionally, our Interactive Dashboards provide easy access to portions of the Open Data set including industry trends, customizable data visualization, and performance comparisons of electricity distributors.

Cost Award Matters

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants under Section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998 for participation in the consultation. Participants that were deemed eligible for cost awards in the January 2024 Stakeholder Meeting will maintain their eligibility for costs for eligible activities and are not required to reapply. All other participants intending to request an award of costs must file a written submission to that effect by **January 20, 2025**. Costs awarded will be recovered from all licensed rate-regulated electricity distributors. Further information regarding cost awards is included in Appendix A to this letter.

Any questions relating to this letter can be directed to Performance Analytics & Reporting at performance-reporting@oeb.ca. The OEB's toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

Kevin Mancherjee Director, Operations Decision Support

Appendix A

Cost Award Matters

Cost Award Eligibility

The OEB will determine eligibility for costs in accordance with its <u>Practice Direction on Cost Awards</u>. Any person intending to request an award of costs must file with the OEB a written submission to that effect by **January 20, 2025**. The submission must identify the grounds on which the person believes that it is eligible for an award of costs (addressing the OEB's cost eligibility criteria as set out in section 3 of the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*). An explanation of any other funding to which the person has access must also be provided, as should the name and credentials of any lawyer, analyst or consultant that the person intends to retain, if known. All requests for cost eligibility will be posted on the OEB's website. If a licensed rate-regulated electricity distributor has any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections must be filed with the OEB by **January 20, 2025**. Any objections will be posted on the OEB's website. The OEB will then make a final determination on the cost eligibility of the requesting participants.

Eligible Activities

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants for participation in the initial stakeholder meeting to a maximum of actual meeting time plus 50% of meeting time for preparation and reporting.

Cost Awards

When determining the amount of the cost awards, the OEB will apply the principles set out in section 5 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. The maximum hourly rates set out in the Cost Awards Tariff will also be applied. The OEB expects that groups representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and co-ordinate their participation in this process. In accordance with section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* 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*.

How to File Materials

Stakeholders 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-2022-0267** for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the <u>OEB's online</u> 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 <u>Regulatory Electronic Submission System (RESS)</u> <u>Document Guidelines</u> found at the <u>File documents online page</u> on the OEB's website.
- Stakeholders are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet <u>set up an account</u> or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact <u>registrar@oeb.ca</u> for assistance.
- Cost claims are filed through the OEB's online filing portal. Please visit the <u>File documents online page</u> of the OEB's website for more information. All participants shall download a copy of their submitted cost claim and serve it on all required parties as per the <u>Practice Direction on Cost Awards</u>.

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

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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