



BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

December 18, 2024

**To: All Rate-Regulated Electricity Distributors
All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Other Interested Parties**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Green Button Implementation
Ontario Energy Board File Number: [EB-2021-0183](#)**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is giving notice that eligible participants in the consultation on the implementation of Green Button, OEB file no. EB-2021-0183, are invited to submit cost claims for eligible activities as follows:

- a) Participation in the Green Button implementation task force (GB Task Force) meetings for the period from July 2021 to September 2021, and,
- b) Preparation of written comments on the draft OEB staff guidance issued on October 12, 2021.

Background

On July 5, 2021, the OEB issued a [letter](#) initiating a consultation on the implementation of Green Button by electricity and gas distributors, including composition of a task force to assist the OEB in identifying additional guidance or direction that would support implementation. The letter indicated that cost awards would be available under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) and that costs awarded would be recovered from all rate-regulated electricity and gas distributors based on the number of customers they serve.

The July 5 letter also indicated that cost awards would be available to the eligible parties for participation in the GB Task Force, to a maximum of actual meeting time plus 50% of meeting time for preparation and reporting.

In a [Decision on Cost Eligibility](#) issued on August 17, 2021, the OEB determined that the following stakeholders were eligible for cost awards in relation to the OEB's consultation on implementing Green Button (eligible participants):

- Building Owners and Managers Association
- Pollution Probe
- School Energy Coalition

On October 12, 2021, OEB staff issued a [letter](#) inviting comment, among other things, on the draft OEB staff guidance related to implementing Green Button in Ontario. The letter also indicated that the eligible participants may claim costs in connection with the preparation of written comments on the draft OEB staff guidance, to a maximum of five hours.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion to determine the cost awards to eligible participants for the following eligible activities:

- a) Participation in seven GB Task Force meetings taking place between July 15, 2021, and September 2, 2021, to a maximum of actual meeting time (up to 2 hours for each meeting) plus 50% of meeting time for preparation and reporting.
- b) Preparation of written comments on the draft OEB staff guidance issued on October 12, 2021, to a maximum of five hours.

The meetings and corresponding times are outlined in Appendix A of this Notice. The decision on costs will be made by an OEB staff member with delegated authority under section 6 of the OEB Act. The hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. Eligible participants that intend to seek a cost award shall submit their cost claims by **January 21, 2025**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be served on each rate-regulated electricity and natural gas distributors. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#) (Practice Direction).
2. Rate-regulated electricity and natural gas distributors will have until **January 31, 2025**, to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the OEB, and one copy must be served on the eligible participant against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. An eligible participant whose cost claim was objected to will have until **February 10, 2025**, to file its reply submission, if any, with the OEB, with a copy of the reply submission to be served on the objecting party.
4. The OEB will then issue its decision on cost awards.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of the Practice Direction to implement the payment of the cost awards. The OEB will therefore act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process.

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-2021-0183** 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 [File documents online page](#) on the OEB's website.
- Stakeholders 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 for assistance.
- Cost claims are now filed through the OEB's online filing portal. Please visit the [File documents online page](#) 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 [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).

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 Eamon O'Riordan, at Eamon.ORiordan@oeb.ca and OEB Legal Counsel, Lawren Murray, at Lawren.Murray@oeb.ca.

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

Yours truly,

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

Attachment – Appendix A

Appendix A – GB Task Force Meeting Hours

Activity	Date	Start Time	End Time	Length of Meeting (hours)	Maximum Eligible Hours (including preparation and reporting)
Green Button Task Force – Meeting One	July 15, 2021	1.30 pm	3.30 pm	Two hours	Three hours
Green Button Task Force – Meeting Two	July 28, 2021	1.30 pm	3.30 pm	Two hours	Three hours
Green Button Task Force – Meeting Three	August 5, 2021	1.30 pm	3.30 pm	Two hours	Three hours
Green Button Task Force – Meeting Four	August 12, 2021	1.30 pm	3.30 pm	Two hours	Three hours
Green Button Task Force – Meeting Five	August 19, 2021	1.30 pm	3.30 pm	Two hours	Three hours
Green Button Task Force – Meeting Six	August 26, 2021	1.30 pm	3.30 pm	Two hours	Three hours
Green Button Task Force – Meeting Seven	September 2, 2021	1.30 pm	3.30 pm	Two hours	Three hours