

**Ontario Energy  
Board**

P.O. Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street  
27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4  
Telephone: 416-481-1967  
Facsimile: 416-440-7656  
Toll free: 1-888-632-6273

**Commission de l'énergie  
de l'Ontario**

C.P. 2319  
2300, rue Yonge  
27<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4  
Téléphone: 416-481-1967  
Télécopieur: 416-440-7656  
Numéro sans frais: 1-888-632-6273



**BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING**

Original: August 24, 2017  
Revised: August 25, 2017

To: **All Rate Regulated Electricity Distributors  
All Rate Regulated Natural Gas Distributors  
All Rate Regulated Electricity Transmitters  
Ontario Power Generation  
Independent Electricity System Operator  
All Participants in EB-2013-0301 and EB-2015-0159  
All Other Interested Parties**

**Re: New Guidance on Practice Direction on Cost Awards**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is providing new guidance to parties that are found by the OEB pursuant to the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards (Practice Direction)* to be eligible to make a cost claim in respect of their participation in an OEB process<sup>1</sup>. The *Practice Direction* allows for reimbursement of reasonable disbursements directly related to participation in an OEB process.

Effective October 1, 2017, the OEB will no longer consider claims for the costs of meals to be disbursements eligible for recovery under section 7.01 of the *Practice Direction*. Parties that are eligible to claim costs for participating in an OEB process should not therefore include any amounts for meals as part of any cost claims filed on or after October 1, 2017.

Also, effective October 1, 2017, the OEB will consider claims for the costs of overnight accommodations for amounts up to a maximum of \$200 per night (excluding taxes) in a standard room to be disbursements eligible for recovery under section 7.01 of the *Practice Direction*.

---

<sup>1</sup> As defined in the *Practice Direction*, "means a process to decide a matter brought before the Board whether commenced by application, reference, Order in Council, notice of appeal or on the Board's own initiative, and includes a notice and comment process under section 45 or 70.2 of the Act and any other consultation process initiated by the Board."

For clarity, parties that are eligible to apply for cost awards in an OEB process that is currently on-going, will be allowed to claim reasonably incurred costs for meals and accommodation under the earlier rules, as long as the expenses are incurred on or before September 30, 2017. The new rules set out in this letter will apply to all reasonably incurred costs for meals and accommodation incurred on or after October 1, 2017.

For all other disbursement claims, the OEB will continue to assess the reasonableness of eligible disbursements in accordance with the *Practice Direction* and principles set out in the *Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive*.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact Kristi Sebalj, Registrar at [Registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:Registrar@oeb.ca).

Yours truly,

*Original signed by*

Kristi Sebalj  
Registrar