



Ontario | Commission
Energy | de l'énergie
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BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

June 23, 2021

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Licensed Electricity Transmitters
All Natural Gas Distributors
All Other Interested Stakeholders**

**Re: OEB Innovation Sandbox Renewal Consultation Initiation and Notice of
Cost Awards Process
Board File Number: EB-2021-0180**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is initiating a consultation to renew its Innovation Sandbox. The OEB encourages participation in this consultation by all interested stakeholders.

This work, which will proceed in parallel with the OEB's recently-announced [joint call for projects](#) under the IESO's Grid Innovation Fund, represents another avenue through which the OEB is supporting purposeful innovation, as articulated in the OEB's [Strategic Plan](#).

The OEB will solicit stakeholder input on the design and features for a renewed Innovation Sandbox. In keeping with the purposes outlined in its [Stakeholder Engagement Framework](#), the OEB encourages participation in this consultation by all interested stakeholders to ensure that the OEB's renewed Sandbox reflects sector priorities and more effectively supports innovation that delivers value to consumers.

Any questions relating to this consultation should be directed to Rachele Levin at Rachele.Levin@oeb.ca.

DATED at Toronto, June 23, 2021

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Christine E. Long
Registrar

Attachment A: Consultation Process

Attachment B: Cost Awards

Appendix A

To Letter Dated June 23, 2021

EB-2021-0180

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Appendix A sets out how interested stakeholders may participate in this consultation, including instructions for filing materials with the OEB. Appendix B provides information on matters related to cost awards.

The Consultation

July-August: Small Group Meetings

As a first step, OEB staff will hold one-on-one and/or small group meetings with interested stakeholders throughout the months of July and August to discuss opportunities for Sandbox renewal.

Fall 2021: Stakeholder Event

Following the meetings in July and August, OEB staff will issue a draft Sandbox redesign based on the input received in the meetings. The OEB will then solicit stakeholder input on the draft Sandbox redesign by way of a stakeholder event. Further details about the timing of the stakeholder event will be provided at a later date.

Following the Stakeholder Event, stakeholders will have the opportunity to submit written comments on the draft Sandbox redesign. The OEB will then issue its renewed Sandbox.

Invitation to Participate

The OEB encourages participation in this consultation by all interested stakeholders.

Stakeholders interested in participating in the consultation, but who do not intend to request cost eligibility, should indicate their intent and their interest in this matter by filing a letter with the OEB by **July 2, 2021** in accordance with the filing instructions set out below.

Stakeholders interested in participating and who will also be requesting cost eligibility should indicate their interest in the consultation and intent to seek cost awards by filing a letter with the OEB by **July 9, 2021**.

In summary, the letter should clearly indicate the following:

- The stakeholder's intent to participate in the consultation
- A statement regarding whether the participant is requesting cost eligibility. All requests for cost eligibility should comply with the requirements referred to under "Cost Awards" in Appendix B.
- For participants interested in attending a small group or one-on-one meeting in July or August, a statement to that effect must be included in the letter. Stakeholders that prefer a one-one-one meeting (e.g., because they are previous recipients of OEB Innovation Sandbox support), must state so in the letter. Interested stakeholders will be contacted individually to schedule meetings.

Filing Instructions

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-2021-0180** for all materials filed and kindly 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, fax 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.
- Stakeholders are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet [set up an account](#), or require assistance using the web portal can contact registrar@oeb.ca for assistance.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar and be received at the address below by end of business on the required date.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

Appendix B

To Letter Dated June 23, 2021

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COST AWARDS

Cost awards will be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for their participation in cost eligible activities as set out in Appendix B. Appendix B also contains information regarding cost eligibility requests and objections.

Costs awarded will be recovered from all licensed electricity distributors and transmitters and from all natural gas distributors.

Filings in relation to cost award eligibility must be made in accordance with the filing instructions set out above. In order to facilitate a timely decision on cost eligibility, the deadlines for filing cost eligibility requests and objections will be strictly enforced.

Cost Award Eligibility

The OEB will determine eligibility for costs in accordance with its [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#). Any person intending to request an award of costs must file with the OEB a written submission to that effect by **July 9, 2021**. The submission must identify the following:

- The nature of the person's interest in the initiative
- The grounds on which the person believes that they are eligible for an award of costs (addressing the OEB's cost eligibility criteria as set out in section 3 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*)
- An explanation of any other funding to which the person has access
- 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 any licensed electricity distributor or transmitter or natural gas distributor has any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections must be filed with the OEB by **July 16, 2021**. 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 in relation to the consultation activities described in this letter, as follows:

ACTIVITY	TOTAL ELIGIBLE HOURS PER PARTICIPANT
Small/one-one one meeting	Up to 3 hours
Stakeholder event	To be announced at a later date
Written comments on the draft Sandbox redesign document	To be announced at a later date

Further details regarding cost eligible amounts will be provided at the relevant time in relation to written comments and participation at the stakeholder event.

Cost Award Amounts

The OEB will apply the principles set out in section 5 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* when awarding costs. The maximum hourly rates set out in the OEB's Cost Awards Tariff will be applied. The OEB expects that groups representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and coordinate their participation in this process.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards. Therefore, the OEB will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process. For more information, please refer to the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).