



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Innovation Advisory Panel

Background

The OEB's recently released *Strategic Blueprint* for the next five years sets out its commitment to modernizing its approach to regulation in order to keep pace with an evolving sector. The *Blueprint* was informed by an assessment of key developments in the energy sector including; technological innovation, the emergence of new business models, changing consumer expectations, and new public policy initiatives, particularly regarding carbon emissions and climate change. The pace and complexity of these changes warrant a longer term and more strategic approach to regulation that will be pursued through addressing four strategic challenges:

- **Transformation & Consumer Value** – How can the OEB help ensure that the evolution of the sector brings a stronger focus on demonstrable value for consumers?
- **Innovation & Consumer Choice** – How can the OEB incent and enable innovation that enhances consumer choice and control?
- **Consumer Confidence** – How can the OEB strengthen and sustain the confidence of consumers during a period of accelerating change?
- **Regulation “Fit for Purpose”** – How should the OEB equip itself to meet the challenges of sector transformation?

For each of these challenges, a strategic goal has been set to represent the specific outcomes we aim to achieve and a number of strategic objectives describe the particular areas on which we will focus in order to attain each of the goals. Going forward, we need to reflect the strategic vision set out in the *Blueprint* in our business and operating plans and scope out and define action items that will help us achieve the objectives. The OEB is establishing an executive level Innovation Advisory Panel to help inform the development of our action plan to support the achievement of our strategic objectives. The Innovation Advisory Panel will work with the OEB to provide advice on the key questions to be answered, actions to be considered, and priorities that the OEB should pursue. The Panel will focus primarily on two of the strategic challenges: Transformation and Customer Value; and Innovation and Consumer Choice.

Purpose

The purpose of the Innovation Advisory Panel is to bring together a broad cross-section of industry stakeholders to share, debate, and discuss regulatory approaches and initiatives that will help shape tomorrow's energy sector. Many important steps have already been taken in planning our energy future and thinking about modernization of the grid, but there is more to do.

The Innovation Panel will assist with creating strategic alignment on regulatory policy and priorities and provide ongoing advice to the OEB so that we can better understand and respond to the real and



perceived shortcomings, of the regulatory framework, while helping to enable the future, facilitate an environment conducive to innovation and continue to enhance customer value.

Executive Accountability and Administration

Rosemarie Leclair, Chair and CEO will have Executive Accountability and ownership of the Innovation Panel. An external moderator will be appointed to Chair the Panel.

Composition

The external moderator will work with designated OEB staff to determine the composition of the Panel and strategically select members. The target number of members is 12 – 15 and once selected, a member may not substitute a delegate to attend meetings.

Term

Selected members will remain on the Panel for an initial period of two years and may continue after that, depending on the duration of the Panel.

Duties of Innovation Panel Chair

TBD

Duties of Innovation Panel Members

TBD

Meeting Frequency

The intention is to hold meetings once a month, at least initially in order to engage members and commence the scoping and defining of a workplan. Written notes from each meeting held will be prepared and shared with meeting participants to review for accuracy.

Deliverables

Deliverables TBD.

Participant Costs

The Board will reimburse Innovation Panel members only for travel costs (in accordance with the government's Business Travel, Meals and Hospitality Expense Directive) in respect of in-person meetings.

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/travel-meal-and-hospitality-expenses-directive>