

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Re: Budget Review Process (BRP) 'Terms of Reference'

Transparency is the overarching principle in the BRP. The following will help ensure transparency to stakeholders during this process.

- The process should be open to all stakeholders that are interested.
- The size of the group should not be limited.
- Stakeholders are encouraged to register as participants at the outset of each year's process in order to ensure a consistent understanding and to minimize inefficiencies.
- During stakeholder meetings, verbal comments are encouraged as they provide valuable input for general discussion and consideration.
- Written comments will be responded to by the AESO and shared with all stakeholders (i.e., posted to AESO website). As well, stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on each other's comments.
- Written comment submissions are a requisite during the business initiatives and technical consultation period in order to be entitled to present to the AESO Board on the same comments.
- The written decision rendered by the AESO Board on these matters will contain reasons / rationale.
- Throughout the process, the AESO will endeavor to provide as much information as is reasonably possible to ensure stakeholders have all information relevant to the subject matters under review. However, the AESO and stakeholders will need to agree on the level of detail to discuss (including confidential information), on an issue by issue basis, in an effort to be most effective and efficient.
- At the end of each AESO budget process review cycle, the AESO and stakeholders will evaluate the effectiveness of the process and make appropriate changes if required for the following year.

In Addition:

- Everyone is able to present their views.
- Everyone must work within the timeline agreed upon at the start of the process.
- This process is not a negotiated settlement.
- The material to be delivered to the AESO Board in order to prepare a decision does not have to be agreed upon unanimously.
- Information will be provided to all stakeholders in a timely manner as per the proposed Schedule.
- Nothing will preclude the opportunity for stakeholders to ultimately appeal any decision using the dispute mechanism outlined in the ISO rules.