



File OF-AF-ACE 01
10 October 2017

To: List of Participants

**Abandonment Costs Estimate (ACE) Review 2016
Technical Conference – Preliminary Details and Registration Form**

On 16 August 2017 ([A85505](#)), the Board issued Discussion Papers and the Refined ACE Framework (framework) and encouraged all Participants to prepare and file written submissions outlining their views on each of the Discussion Papers, including on the framework. The deadline for providing comments was 20 September 2017.

On 19 September 2017 ([A86108](#)), to assist Participants with planning, the Board announced its intention to hold the Technical Conference during the last two weeks of November (from 20th to 30th November 2017) in Calgary.

The Board has received and is considering the written submissions from Participants on the Discussion Papers and the framework. The Board acknowledges the range of views expressed by Participants on the various topics, and is of the view that the Technical Conference forum will enable an informal exchange of information and discussion among Participants and Board staff. The Board notes that Participants' comments have assisted the Board in finalizing the topics to be discussed and helped inform the structure and format of the Technical Conference.

This letter provides preliminary details regarding the Technical Conference, including information for Participants on how to register for the Technical Conference. As noted in Item 4 below, the Board will release final details, including the Agenda, as soon as they are known to allow Participants to prepare.

1. Technical Conference

Venue: National Energy Board
517 Tenth Avenue SW
Calgary AB T2R 0A8

Dates: Week 1: Tuesday 21 November - Friday 24 November 2017
Week 2: Monday 27 November - (*tentative*) Thursday 30 November 2017

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The Board notes that the specific dates and times for each session for the Technical Conference are subject to change. It may be necessary for discussions to continue late into the second week, and all Participants should make arrangements accordingly.

The Board has retained DPRA Canada to facilitate the Technical Conference.

2. Format and Objectives of the Technical Conference

The Board expects the Technical Conference to be a collaborative process. All Participants will have an opportunity to meaningfully contribute to the refinement and advancement of the Board's current abandonment framework. As stated in the Board's 16 August 2017 cover letter ([A85505](#)) to the Discussion Papers and framework, based on the comments received and any further refinements, the Board may implement the framework ahead of the next ACE Review. The merits of the Group 1 ACE Review 2016 filings will not be discussed as part of the Technical Conference. Those filings will be assessed separately by the Board. Any outcomes of the Technical Conference will not be used to assess the ACE Review 2016 filings.

Since the format of the Technical Conference will be informal in nature, the Board members adjudicating the ACE Review 2016 filings do not anticipate participating in or attending the Technical Conference.

As noted in the Board's Procedural Direction No. 1 ([A81714](#)), the objectives of the Technical Conference are to:

- provide participants with an opportunity to raise questions and clarify written submission on the Discussion Papers and the framework;
- allow participants to discuss possible changes or refinements to assumptions and methodologies, regarding the ACE where possible;
- provide participants with an opportunity to explore in some depth the rationale and merits of alternatives suggested by other participants;
- allow Board staff and Participants to ask questions to facilitate discussion of the topics that will be covered at the Technical Conference; and
- develop requirements and guidance for the future filings to achieve consistency, where possible.

Following the completion of the Technical Conference, Participants will have the opportunity to file revisions to their views expressed in their written submissions or at the Technical Conference. After the completion of the Technical Conference and the filing of any revisions, the Board will release a draft report on the Technical Conference for comment. The dates and deadlines for the draft report and comments from Participants will be communicated at a later date.

3. Registration Form

The Registration Form (form) is attached as Appendix 1 to this letter.

The form provides instructions on how to complete and upload the form on the NEB website. Participants who intend to attend the Technical Conference in-person or remotely are required to complete and e-file (Electronic Document Submission) the form by **26 October 2017**.

The form outlines the sessions and topics that will be covered at the Technical Conference. Participants are to identify the session(s) they intend to attend as requested in the form. This information will assist the Board in determining the number of people attending each session and in planning logistics.

Any company or group representatives who intend to participate in the Technical Conference remotely must express their intent to do so in the form. Please include the approximate number of remote participants. The Board will communicate further details on remote participation to the primary contact for the company or group should the Board receive an expression of intention to participate remotely.

Subsequent to the close of the registration period, the Board will release a List of Technical Conference Participants.

4. Agenda

The Board will release an Agenda prior to the Technical Conference with final dates and times and additional details.

Please direct any enquiries to Matt Groza, Process Advisor at ACEReview@neb-one-gc.ca, or 403-614-4952 or toll free 1-800-899-1265.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Sheri Young
Secretary of the Board

Attachment