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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

October 25, 2018

**TO: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Other Interested Parties**

**RE: Report of the Ontario Energy Board: Framework for the Assessment of
Distributor Gas Supply Plans
EB-2017-0129**

Today the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued its *Report of the Ontario Energy Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans* (Framework). The Framework sets out guiding principles, criteria and the OEB's process for review and assessment of a natural gas distributor's plan to determine whether the plan delivers best value to consumers.

Background

On March 16, 2017, the OEB launched an initiative to update the regulatory approach to the gas supply planning process. The objective of this initiative is to put in place a regulatory framework that provides greater consistency, transparency, accountability and performance measurement in the OEB's assessment of distributor gas supply plans to ensure that consumers are getting best value from their distributor.

On April 12, 2018 the OEB issued the Draft Report of the Ontario Energy Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans (Draft Framework) for comment. The OEB received comments from several stakeholders, including natural gas utilities, consumer groups representing residential, commercial and industrial natural gas users as well as environmental organizations. All comments received as part of the consultation are posted on the OEB's website [here](#).

Stakeholders were generally supportive of the proposed Framework and the OEB's objectives to increase accountability, transparency, and performance measurement. Several stakeholders suggested changes to some of the principles and criteria to increase accountability and clarity. And some stakeholders provided suggestions for changes to the process for reviewing gas supply plans. The OEB appreciates the input provided by stakeholders. The final Framework has been adjusted where the OEB considered appropriate, including additional clarification with respect to the principles that guide the OEB's review and the process that will be followed to review distributors' plans. The OEB expects the Framework will continue to be refined over time as needed and as experience is gained.

The OEB expects distributors to file their first five-year gas supply plan by the end of January 2019 for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024.

Cost Awards

The issuance of the Report of the Ontario Energy Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans marks the conclusion of the consultation. The OEB thanks all participants for their contributions to the Technical Working Group and written comments on the Framework. Cost-eligible activities related to this consultation are complete. A Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards will be issued separately.

Questions about the Framework should be directed to Industry Relations at IndustryRelations@oeb.ca. The OEB's toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary