



EB-2005-0235

IN THE MATTER OF the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c.15 (Sched. B);

AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application by Natural Resource Gas Limited, pursuant to section 36 (1) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, for an order or orders approving or fixing just and reasonable rates and other charges for the sale, distribution, transmission, and storage of gas as of April 1, 2005;

AND IN THE MATTER OF the quarterly rate adjustment mechanism approved by the Ontario Energy Board.

BEFORE: Bob Betts
Presiding Member

George Dominy
Member

Cathy Spoel
Member

DECISION AND ORDER

Natural Resource Gas Limited (“NRG”) filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board on March 2, 2005, for an order or orders approving or fixing just and reasonable rates for the sale and distribution of gas commencing April 1, 2005. In particular, NRG’s application requested:

- an order decreasing the reference price for use in determining amounts to be recorded in the Purchased Gas Commodity Variance Account (“PGCVA”) by \$0.033891 per m³ from the Board approved level of \$0.333565 per m³ to \$0.299674 per m³;
- an order decreasing the gas supply charge by \$0.037638 per m³ from the Board approved level of \$0.344410 per m³ to \$0.306772 per m³. This decrease is the sum of the decrease related to the change in the PGCVA reference price and the change required to prospectively clear the balance in the Gas Purchase Rebalancing Account (“GPRA”).

NRG has provided written evidence in support of the proposed changes contained in the application. The application and pre-filed evidence have been provided by NRG to all parties of record in the most recent main rates proceeding, EB-2005-0235.

The Board issued a Notice of Written Hearing and Procedural Order No. 1 on March 11, 2005, allowing parties of record to file interrogatories and submissions. No submissions were received.

The Board has considered the evidence and finds that it is appropriate to adjust NRG’s rates effective April 1, 2005 to reflect the projected changes in gas costs and prospective recovery of the projected twelve-month balances of the gas supply deferral accounts for the period ending March 31, 2006. The Board also finds that it is appropriate to adjust NRG’s reference prices to reflect the projected changes in gas costs.

Pursuant to the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, section 36(4.1), the Board has considered all deferral account balances related to the commodity cost of gas and is adjusting rates, as set out below, to dispose of the forecasted account balance.

THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. The gas supply charge shall be decreased by \$0.037638 per m³ from \$0.344410 per m³ to \$0.306772 per m³ and the rates schedules attached as Appendix "A" are approved effective April 1, 2005.
2. The reference price for use in determining the amounts to be recorded in the PGCVA (Account No. 179-27) shall be decreased by \$0.033891 per m³ from \$0.333565 per m³ to \$0.299674 per m³, as shown in Appendix "B".
3. The customer notice in Appendix "C" shall be given to all customers with the first bill or invoice reflecting the new rates.

DATED at Toronto, March 24, 2005.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Peter H. O'Dell
Assistant Board Secretary

APPENDIX "A" TO
DECISION AND ORDER
BOARD FILE No. EB-2005-0235
DATED March 24, 2005

NATURAL RESOURCE GAS LIMITED

RATE 1 - General Service Rate

Rate Availability

The entire service area of the Company.

Eligibility

All customers.

Rate

a)	Monthly Fixed Charge	\$9.50
b)	Delivery Charge	
	First 1,000 m ³ per month	16.3901 cents per m ³
	All over 1,000 m ³ per month	8.0771 cents per m ³
c)	Gas Supply Charge (if applicable)	Schedule A

Meter Readings

Gas consumption by each customer under this rate schedule shall be determined by monthly meter reading, provided that in circumstances beyond the control of the company such as strikes or non-access to a meter, the company may estimate the consumption each month as of the scheduled date of the regular monthly meter reading and render a monthly bill to the customer thereof.

Delayed Payment Penalty

When payment is not made in full by the due date noted on the bill, which date shall not be less than 16 calendar days after the date of mailing, hand delivery or electronic transmission of the bill, the balance owing will be increased by 1.5%. Any balance remaining unpaid in subsequent months will be increased by a further 1.5% per month. The minimum delayed payment penalty shall be one dollar (\$1.00).

Bundled Direct Purchase Delivery

Where a customer elects under this rate schedule to directly purchase its gas from a supplier other than NRG, the customer or their agent, must enter into a Bundled T-Service Receipt Contract with NRG for delivery of gas to NRG. Bundled T-Service Receipt Contract rates are described in rate schedule BT1. The gas supply charge will not be applicable to customers who elect said Bundled T transportation service.

Unless otherwise authorized by NRG, customers who are delivering gas to NRG under direct purchase arrangements must obligate to deliver said gas at a point acceptable to NRG, and must acquire and maintain firm transportation on all pipeline systems upstream of Ontario.

Effective: April 01, 2005

Implementation: All bills rendered on or after April 01, 2005

RP-2004-0167 / EB-2005-0235

NATURAL RESOURCE GAS LIMITED

RATE 2 - Seasonal Service

Rate Availability

The entire service area of the company.

Eligibility

All customers.

Rate

For all gas consumed from:	April 1 through October 31:	November 1 through March 31:
a) Monthly Fixed Charge	\$10.75	\$10.75
b) Delivery Charge		
First 1,000 m ³ per month	15.3914 cents per m ³	18.5648 cents per m ³
Next 24,000 m ³ per month	7.6929 cents per m ³	16.6254 cents per m ³
All over 25,000 m ³ per month	4.1915 cents per m ³	16.1952 cents per m ³
c) Gas Supply Charge (if applicable)	Schedule A	Schedule A

Meter Readings

Gas consumption by each customer under this rate schedule shall be determined by monthly meter reading, provided that in circumstances beyond the control of the company such as strikes or non-access to a meter, the company may estimate the consumption each month as of the scheduled date of the regular monthly meter reading and render a monthly bill to the customer thereof.

Delayed Payment Penalty

When payment is not made in full by the due date noted on the bill, which date shall not be less than 16 calendar days after the date of mailing, hand delivery or electronic transmission of the bill, the balance owing will be increased by 1.5%. Any balance remaining unpaid in subsequent months will be increased by a further 1.5% per month. The minimum delayed payment penalty shall be one dollar (\$1.00).

Bundled Direct Purchase Delivery

Where a customer elects under this rate schedule to directly purchase its gas from a supplier other than NRG, the customer or their agent, must enter into a Bundled T-Service Receipt Contract with NRG for delivery of gas to NRG. Bundled T-Service Receipt Contract rates are described in rate schedule BT1. The gas supply charge will not be applicable to customers who elect said Bundled T transportation service.

Unless otherwise authorized by NRG, customers who are delivering gas to NRG under direct purchase arrangements must obligate to deliver said gas at a point acceptable to NRG, and must acquire and maintain firm transportation on all pipeline systems upstream of Ontario.

Effective: April 01, 2005

Implementation: All bills rendered on or after April 01, 2005

RP-2004-0167 / EB-2005-0235

NATURAL RESOURCE GAS LIMITED

RATE 3 - Special Large Volume Contract Rate

Rate Availability

Entire service area of the company.

Eligibility

A customer who enters into a contract with the company for the purchase or transportation of gas:

- a) for a minimum term of one year;
- b) that specifies a combined daily contracted demand for firm and interruptible service of at least 700 m³; and
- c) a qualifying annual volume of at least 113,000 m³.

Rate

1. Bills will be rendered monthly and shall be the total of:

- a) A Monthly Customer Charge:

A Monthly Customer Charge of \$100.00 for firm or interruptible customers; or
A Monthly Customer Charge of \$125.00 for combined (firm and interruptible) customers.

- b) A Monthly Demand Charge:

A Monthly Demand Charge of 22.7470 cents per m³ for each m³ of daily contracted firm demand.

- c) A Monthly Delivery Charge:

- (i) A Monthly Firm Delivery Charge for all firm volumes of 3.6530 cents per m³,

- (ii) A Monthly Interruptible Delivery Charge for all interruptible volumes to be negotiated between the company and the customer not to exceed 8.9612 cents per m³ and not to be less than 5.9412 per m³.

- d) Gas Supply Charge (if applicable)

See Schedule A.

- e) Overrun Gas Charges:

Overrun gas is available without penalty provided that it is authorized by the company in advance. The company will not unreasonably withhold authorization.

If, on any day, the customer should take, without the company's approval in advance, a volume of gas in excess of the maximum quantity of gas which the company is obligated to deliver to the customer on such day, or if, on any day, the customer fails to comply with any curtailment notice reducing the customer's take of gas, then,

- (i) the volume of gas taken in excess of the company's maximum delivery obligation for such day, or
- (ii) the volume of gas taken in the period on such day covered by such curtailment notice (as determined by the company in accordance with its usual practice) in excess of the volume of gas authorized to be taken in such period by such curtailment notice,

as the case may be, shall constitute unauthorized overrun volume.

Any unauthorized firm overrun gas taken in any month shall be paid for at the Rate 3 Firm Delivery Charge in effect at the time the overrun occurs. In addition, the Contract Demand level shall be adjusted to the actual maximum daily volume taken and the Demand Charges stated above shall apply for the whole contract year, including retroactively, if necessary, thereby requiring recomputation of bills rendered previously in the contract year.

Any unauthorized interruptible overrun gas taken in any month shall be paid for at the Rate 1 Delivery Charge in effect at the time the overrun occurs plus any Gas Supply Charge applicable.

For any unauthorized overrun gas taken, the customer shall, in addition, indemnify the company in respect of any penalties or additional costs imposed on the company by the company's suppliers, any additional gas cost incurred or any sales margins lost as a consequence of the customer taking the unauthorized overrun volume.

2. In negotiating the Monthly Interruptible Commodity Charge referred to in 1(c)(ii) above, the matters to be considered include:

- a) The volume of gas for which the customer is willing to contract;
- b) The load factor of the customer's anticipated gas consumption, the pattern of annual use, and the minimum annual quantity of gas which the customer is willing to contract to take or in any event pay for;
- c) Interruptible or curtailment provisions;
- d) Competition.

3. In each contract year, the customer shall take delivery from the company, or in any event pay for it if available and not accepted by the customer, a minimum volume of gas as specified in the contract between the parties. Overrun volumes will not contribute to the minimum volume. The rate applicable to the shortfall from this minimum shall be 3.1530 cents per m³ for firm gas and 5.4412 cents per m³ for interruptible gas.

4. The contract may provide that the Monthly Demand Charge specified in Rate Section 1 above shall not apply on all or part of the daily contracted firm demand used by the customer during the testing, commissioning, phasing in, decommissioning and phasing out of gas-using equipment for a period not to exceed one year (the transition period). In such event, the contract will provide for a Monthly Firm Delivery Commodity Charge to be applied on such volume during the transition of 5.7163 cents per m³ and a gas supply commodity charge as set out in Schedule A, if applicable. Gas purchased under this clause will not contribute to the minimum volume.

Bundled Direct Purchase Delivery

Where a customer elects under this rate schedule to directly purchase its gas from a supplier other than NRG, the customer or their agent, must enter into a Bundled T-Service Receipt Contract with NRG for delivery of gas to NRG. Bundled T-Service Receipt Contract rates are described in rate schedule BT1. The gas supply charge will not be applicable to customers who elect said Bundled T transportation service.

Unless otherwise authorized by NRG, customers who are delivering gas to NRG under direct purchase arrangements must obligate to deliver said gas at a point acceptable to NRG, and must acquire and maintain firm transportation on all pipeline systems upstream of Ontario.

Delayed Payment Penalty

When payment is not made in full by the due date noted on the bill, which date shall not be less than 16 calendar days after the date of mailing, hand delivery or electronic transmission of the bill, the balance owing will be increased by 1.5%. Any balance remaining unpaid in subsequent months will be increased by a further 1.5% per month. The minimum delayed payment penalty shall be one dollar (\$1.00).

Effective: April 01, 2005

Implementation: All bills rendered on or after April 01, 2005

RP-2004-0167 / EB-2005-0235

NATURAL RESOURCE GAS LIMITED

RATE 4 - General Service Peaking

Rate Availability

The entire service area of the company.

Eligibility

All customers whose operations, in the judgment of Natural Resource Gas Limited, can readily accept interruption and restoration of gas service with 24 hours notice.

Rate

For all gas consumed from:	April 1 through December 31:	January 1 through March 31:
a) Monthly Fixed Charge	\$10.75	\$10.75
b) Delivery Charge		
First 1,000 m ³ per month	15.3914 cents per m ³	18.5648 cents per m ³
All over 1,000 m ³ per month	8.0175 cents per m ³	16.6254 cents per m ³
c) Gas Supply Charge (if applicable)	Schedule A	Schedule A

Meter Readings

Gas consumption by each customer under this rate schedule shall be determined by monthly meter reading provided that in circumstances beyond the control of the company such as strikes or non-access to a meter, the company may estimate the consumption each month as of the scheduled date of the regular monthly meter reading and render a monthly bill to the customer thereof.

Delayed Payment Penalty

When payment is not made in full by the due date noted on the bill, which date shall not be less than 16 calendar days after the date of mailing, hand delivery or electronic transmission of the bill, the balance owing will be increased by 1.5%. Any balance remaining unpaid in subsequent months will be increased by a further 1.5% per month. The minimum delayed payment penalty shall be one dollar (\$1.00).

Bundled Direct Purchase Delivery

Where a customer elects under this rate schedule to directly purchase its gas from a supplier other than NRG, the customer or their agent, must enter into a Bundled T-Service Receipt Contract with NRG for delivery of gas to NRG. Bundled T-Service Receipt Contract rates are described in rate schedule BT1. The gas supply charge will not be applicable to customers who elect said Bundled T transportation service.

Unless otherwise authorized by NRG, customers who are delivering gas to NRG under direct purchase arrangements must obligate to deliver said gas at a point acceptable to NRG, and must acquire and maintain firm transportation on all pipeline systems upstream of Ontario.

Effective: April 01, 2005

Implementation: All bills rendered on or after April 01, 2005

RP-2004-0167 / EB-2005-0235

NATURAL RESOURCE GAS LIMITED

RATE 5 - Interruptible Peaking Contract Rate

Rate Availability

Entire service area of the company.

Eligibility

A customer who enters into a contract with the company for the purchase or transportation of gas:

- a) for a minimum term of one year;
- b) that specifies a daily contracted demand for interruptible service of at least 700 m³; and
- c) a qualifying annual volume of at least 50,000 m³.

Rate

1. Bills will be rendered monthly and shall be the total of:

- a) A Monthly Customer Charge:

A Monthly Customer Charge of \$100.00.

- b) A Monthly Delivery Charge:

A Monthly Delivery Charge for all interruptible volumes to be negotiated between the company and the customer not to exceed 8.4612 cents per m³ and not to be less than 5.4612 per m³.

- c) Gas Supply Charge (if applicable)

See Schedule A.

- d) Overrun Gas Charge:

Overrun gas is available without penalty provided that it is authorized by the company in advance. The company will not unreasonably withhold authorization.

If, on any day, the customer should take, without the company's approval in advance, a volume of gas in excess of the maximum quantity of gas which the company is obligated to deliver to the customer on such day, or if, on any day, the customer fails to comply with any curtailment notice reducing the customer's take of gas, then

- (i) the volume of gas taken in excess of the company's maximum delivery obligation for such day, or
- (ii) the volume of gas taken in the period on such day covered by such curtailment notice (as determined by the company in accordance with its usual practice) in excess of the volume of gas authorized to be taken in such period by such curtailment notice,

as the case may be, shall constitute unauthorized overrun volume.

Any unauthorized overrun gas taken in any month shall be paid for at the Rate 1 Delivery Charge in effect at the time the overrun occurs plus any applicable Gas Supply Charge.

For any unauthorized overrun gas taken, the customer shall, in addition, indemnify the company in respect of any penalties or additional costs imposed on the company by the company's suppliers, any additional gas cost incurred or any sales margins lost as a consequence of the customer taking the unauthorized overrun volume.

2. In negotiating the Monthly Interruptible Commodity Charge referred to in 1(c) above, the matters to be considered include:

- a) The volume of gas for which the customer is willing to contract;
- b) The load factor of the customer's anticipated gas consumption and the pattern of annual use and the minimum annual quantity of gas which the customer is willing to contract to take or in any event pay for;
- c) Interruptible or curtailment provisions;
- d) Competition.

3. In each contract year, the customer shall take delivery from the company, or in any event pay for it if available and not accepted by the customer, a minimum volume of gas of 50,000 m³. Overrun volumes will not contribute to the minimum volume. The rate applicable to the shortfall from this annual minimum shall be 5.6702 cents per m³ for interruptible gas.

Bundled Direct Purchase Delivery

Where a customer elects under this rate schedule to directly purchase its gas from a supplier other than NRG, the customer or their agent, must enter into a Bundled T-Service Receipt Contract with NRG for delivery of gas to NRG. Bundled T-Service Receipt Contract rates are described in rate schedule BT1. The gas supply charge will not be applicable to customers who elect said Bundled T transportation service.

Unless otherwise authorized by NRG, customers who are delivering gas to NRG under direct purchase arrangements must obligate to deliver said gas at a point acceptable to NRG, and must acquire and maintain firm transportation on all pipeline systems upstream of Ontario.

Delayed Payment Penalty

When payment is not made in full by the due date noted on the bill, which date shall not be less than 16 calendar days after the date of mailing, hand delivery or electronic transmission of the bill, the balance owing will be increased by 1.5%. Any balance remaining unpaid in subsequent months will be increased by a further 1.5% per month. The minimum delayed payment penalty shall be one dollar (\$1.00).

Effective: April 01, 2005

Implementation: All bills rendered on or after April 01, 2005

RP-2004-0167 / EB-2005-0235

NATURAL RESOURCE GAS LIMITED

SCHEDULE A – Gas Supply Charges

Rate Availability

Entire service area of the company.

Eligibility

All customers served under Rates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Rate

The Gas Supply Charge applicable to all sales customers shall be made up of the following charges:

PGCVA Reference Price	(RP-2004-0167 / EB-2005-0235)	29.9674 cents per m3
GPRA Recovery Rate	(RP-2004-0167 / EB-2005-0235)	(0.2291) cents per m3
Gas Commodity Recovery (1)	(RP-2004-0167 / EB-2004-0413)	0.8230 cents per m3
System Gas Fee	(RP-2004-0167 / EB-2004-0253)	<u>0.1159</u> cents per m3
Total Gas Supply Charge		30.6772 cents per m3

Note:

PGCVA means Purchased Gas Commodity Variance Account

GPRA means Gas Purchase Rebalancing Account

(1) RP-2002-0147/EB-2004-0004 Decision and Order dated April 19, 2004

Effective: April 01, 2005

Implementation: All bills rendered on or after April 01, 2005

RP-2004-0167 / EB-2005-0235

NATURAL RESOURCE GAS LIMITED

RATE BT1 – Bundled Direct Purchase Contract Rate

Availability

Rate BT1 is available to all customers or their agent, who enter into a Receipt Contract for delivery of gas to NRG. The availability of this option is subject to NRG obtaining a satisfactory agreement or arrangement with Union Gas and NRG's gas supplier for direct purchase volume and DCQ offsets.

Eligibility

All customers electing to purchase gas directly from a supplier other than NRG must enter into a Bundled T-Service Receipt Contract with NRG either directly or through their agent, for delivery of gas to NRG at a mutually acceptable delivery point.

Rate

For gas delivered to NRG at any point other than the Ontario Point of Delivery, NRG will charge a customer or their agent, all approved tolls and charges incurred by NRG to transport the gas to the Ontario Point of Delivery.

Note:

Ontario Point of Delivery means Dawn or Parkway on the Union Gas System as agreed to by NRG and NRG's customer or their agent.

Effective: April 01, 2005

Implementation: All bills rendered on or after April 01, 2005

RP-2004-0167 / EB-2005-0235

APPENDIX "B" TO
DECISION AND ORDER
BOARD FILE No. EB-2005-0235
DATED March 24, 2005

NATURAL RESOURCE GAS LIMITED

Accounting Entries for the Purchased Gas Commodity Variance Account

Note: Account numbers are in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts for Gas Utilities, Class A, prescribed under the Ontario Energy Board Act.

Debit/Credit - Account No. 179-27
Purchased Gas Commodity Variance Account (PGCVA)

Credit/Debit - Account No. 623
Gas Purchases

To record monthly as a debit (credit) in Deferral Account No. 179-27 (PGCVA) the difference between the unit cost of all gas commodity purchased by NRG each month including local production and NRG's weighted average cost of gas, the latter being \$0.299674 per m³ approved for rate making purposes effective April 1, 2005.

Debit/Credit - Account No. 179-28
Interest on PGCVA

Credit/Debit - Account No. 323
Other Interest Expense

To record monthly as a debit (credit) in Deferral Account No. 179-28 (PGCVA), simple interest on the balance in Account No. 179-27. Such interest shall be computed monthly on the opening balance in the account at the Board approved short-term debt rate and shall not be compounded.

APPENDIX "C" TO
DECISION AND ORDER
BOARD FILE No. EB-2005-0235
DATED March 24, 2005

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR GAS BILL

On all bills rendered by NRG on or after April 1, 2005, the price we charge for the gas commodity and transportation portion of your bill will be decreasing by \$.037638 per cubic meter to \$.306772 per cubic meter. The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has approved this decrease to reflect the prices that NRG expects that it will be paying to its gas suppliers through to the end of March 2006. On your gas bill this cost is on the line entitled "Gas Commodity".

As a regulated utility, NRG is permitted to recover what it pays for the purchase of gas plus any costs reasonably associated with this purchase but with no mark up or 'profit'. The price the utility charges you is based on the forecasted gas and transportation costs to NRG, which are periodically reviewed by the OEB and reconciled with actual costs. The gas commodity portion gets adjusted regularly throughout the year as the price of the gas commodity changes.

How will this price decrease impact you? That will depend on the amount of gas that you use. For a typical residential customer who consumes 2,000 cubic meters of gas annually, this price change will cause your annual heating costs to decrease by approximately \$75.28 per year. For customers who have arranged to have their gas supplied by a gas marketer/broker, the price may or may not change depending on the terms of the contract the customer has with the gas marketer/broker.

If you have any questions about this rate change, please do not hesitate to contact us at 519-773-5321. We thank you for continuing to make natural gas your fuel of choice.