

BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

February 19, 2021

**TO: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Utilities
All Licensed Gas Marketers
All Parties in EB-2018-0095 and EB-2020-0091
All Participants in the Consultation on the Review of Enbridge Gas Inc.'s
Five-Year Gas Supply Plan (EB-2019-0137)**

**RE: Consultation to Review Annual Update to Five-Year Natural Gas
Supply Plans
Ontario Energy Board: EB-2021-0004**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is initiating a consultation to review Enbridge Gas Inc.'s (Enbridge Gas) Annual Update to its five-year natural gas supply plan (GSP). The OEB encourages participation in this consultation process by all interested parties.

The OEB's [Report of the Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans](#) (Framework) sets out this process.¹ The Framework was designed to introduce greater transparency, accountability and performance measurement to the review of gas supply plans to ensure that customers are receiving value from the distributors' gas supply activities.

Enbridge's 2021 Annual Update was filed on February 1, 2021 and covers the Enbridge Gas Distribution and Union Gas rate zones. It is based on the 2020/21 GSP for the 2020 to 2025 period. The consultation will include a review of the updates to the outlook section of the GSP, significant changes from the previous updates, a three-year historical comparison of actuals and outlook, and the timing of future updates to the GSP. Enbridge Gas is proposing to submit Annual Updates by March 1 of each subsequent year.

Background

On June 24, 2020, Enbridge Gas filed a letter stating that its 2020 Annual Update did not include COVID-19 related impacts and requested to forego the stakeholder

¹ EB-2017-0129.

conference for its 2020 Annual Update.² Enbridge Gas also requested approval to file future annual updates in January or February of each year.

On July 6, 2020, the OEB accepted Enbridge Gas's proposal to expedite the filing of the 2021 Annual Update and consultation such that the OEB and interested parties³ would receive the information by February 1, 2021 as opposed to May as is required per the Framework. The permanency of this timing change will be determined at a later date.

Consultation

As noted in the Framework, the review and assessment of the Annual Update will be carried out in a manner similar to the five-year GSP.⁴

OEB staff and stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit written questions, which should be sent to Enbridge Gas and filed with the OEB by **March 23, 2021**.

It is expected that Enbridge Gas will address these written questions at a two-day transcribed Stakeholder Conference, details of which are set out below. The Stakeholder Conference will be webcast to allow for remote participation. Webcast details will be sent to registered participants in advance of the Stakeholder Conference.

Stakeholder Conference:

Date: April 13-14, 2021

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Webcast (details to be provided on a later date)

Following the Stakeholder Conference, stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit written comments on Enbridge Gas's GSP by **April 20, 2021**.

Enbridge Gas will then have the opportunity to review the written comments and decide whether to: (i) provide written comments in response, and/or (ii) revise its plan and provide a revision statement that outlines any changes, together with the rationale for those changes. Enbridge Gas is to file its written comments and/or revision statement by **April 27, 2021**.

Following the responses and any revisions to the GSP, OEB staff will prepare and file its conclusions. As set out in the Framework, following consideration of OEB staff's conclusions, the OEB may determine that a proceeding is required. Unless the OEB decides to hold a proceeding to consider any component of the Annual Updates, the review process will conclude with OEB staff's conclusions.

² Enbridge's 2020 annual update is its first annual update to its five-year gas supply plan.

³ Enbridge indicated that all interested parties from EB-2019-0137 (5 Year plan) were provided a copy of the Annual Update.

⁴ Gas Supply Framework, October 25, 2018, p. 14.

Invitation to Participate

Those interested in participating should indicate their intent by filing a letter with the OEB by **March 2, 2021** in accordance with the filing instructions set out below. The letter should include a statement as to whether the participant is requesting cost eligibility and whether the participant intends to participate in the Stakeholder Conference.

Cost Awards

Cost awards will be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for their participation in cost eligible activities as set out in Appendix A. Appendix A also contains information regarding cost eligibility requests and objections. Costs awarded will be recovered from Enbridge Gas as it is the only gas distribution utility participating in this review.

Filings to the OEB in relation to cost award eligibility must be made in accordance with the filing instructions set out below. In order to facilitate a timely decision on cost eligibility, the deadlines for filing cost eligibility requests and objections will be strictly enforced.

Filing Instructions

Parties are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB, such as applicant and intervenor evidence, interrogatories and responses to interrogatories or any other type of document, do not include personal information (as that phrase is defined in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*), unless filed in accordance with rule 9A of the OEB's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*.

All materials filed with the OEB must quote the file number, **EB-2021-0004**, and be submitted in a searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the OEB's web portal at <https://p-pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/PivotalUX/>. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the [Regulatory Electronic Submission System \(RESS\) Document Guidelines](#) found at www.oeb.ca/industry. Parties are encouraged to use RESS; however, parties who have not yet [set up an account](#), may email their documents to registrar@oeb.ca.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Khalil Viraney at Khalil.Viraney@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca
Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)
Fax: 416-440-7656

DATED at Toronto, **February 19, 2020**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Christine E. Long
Registrar

Appendix A: Cost Awards

Appendix A

To Letter Dated February 19, 2021

EB-2021-0004

COST AWARDS

Cost Award Eligibility

The OEB will determine eligibility for costs in accordance with its [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#). Any person intending to request an award of costs must file with the OEB a written submission to that effect by **March 2, 2021**. The submission must identify the following:

- The nature of the person's interest in this initiative
- The grounds on which the person believes that they are eligible for an award of costs (addressing the OEB's cost eligibility criteria as set out in section 3 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*)
- An explanation of any other funding to which the person has access
- The name and credentials of any lawyer, analyst or consultant that the person intends to retain, if known
- Whether specific costs for any separate expert submissions are requested, the scope of the retainer, and whether the person intends to combine with other stakeholders for this purpose

If the utility has any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections must be filed with the OEB by **March 9, 2021**. Any objections will be posted on the OEB's website. The OEB will then make a final determination on the cost eligibility of the requesting participants.

Eligible Activities

Cost awards will be available for the following activities:

ACTIVITY	TOTAL ELIGIBLE HOURS PER PARTICIPANT
Written questions	Up to a maximum of 10 hours
Preparation for the Stakeholder Conference	Up to a maximum of 2 hours
Attendance at Stakeholder Conference	Actual attendance time
Written comments on gas supply plan	Up to a maximum of 12 hours

Cost Award Amounts

The OEB will apply the principles set out in section 5 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* when awarding costs. The maximum hourly rates set out in the OEB's Cost Awards Tariff will be applied. The OEB expects that groups representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and coordinate their participation in this process.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards. Therefore, the OEB will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process. For more information on this process, please see the OEB's [*Practice Direction on Cost Awards*](#).