Commission de l'Énergie de l'Ontario



EB-2010-0018

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application by Natural Resource Gas Limited for an Order or Orders approving or fixing just and reasonable rates and other charges for the sale, distribution, transmission and storage of gas commencing October 1, 2010

AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application by Natural Resource Gas Limited for an Order or Orders approving a multi-year incentive rate mechanism plan.

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 9

Natural Resource Gas Limited ("NRG" or the "Applicant") filed an Application, dated February 10, 2010, with the Ontario Energy Board under section 36 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, S.O. 1998*, c.15, Schedule B. The Board assigned file number EB-2010-0018 to the Application. The Application sought approval for a revenue requirement and rates for the 2011 rate year, and for the approval of a four year Incentive Regulation Mechanism ("IRM") for the period 2012-2015.

The Board issued a Notice of Application dated March 1, 2010. The Town of Aylmer, Union Gas Limited ("Union"), Integrated Grain Processors Co-Operative Inc. ("IGPC") and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition ("VECC") applied for and were granted intervenor status.

The Board issued a decision and order on December 6, 2010 that determined rates for the 2011 rate year (effective October 1, 2010). The Board also accepted NRG's request to address the IRM component of the Application for 2012 and beyond (and certain other discrete issues) in a second phase to the proceeding ("Phase 2").

NRG filed a revised IRM plan on May 6, 2011. On July 18, 2011, NRG completed its Phase 2 filing requirements by filing an independent system integrity study that identified alternatives to maintaining system pressure in NRG's southern service area as opposed to purchasing gas from the related company.

In Procedural Order No. 8, the Board made provision for a technical conference followed by a settlement conference. A technical conference was held on September 26, 2011 followed by a settlement conference. The participants in the settlement conference included the Applicant, VECC, IGPC and Board staff. The Town of Aylmer did not attend the settlement conference and by way of an email dated August 26, 2011 indicated that the Town would not be an active participant in Phase 2 but would remain an observer. Union did not participate in the settlement conference.

NRG filed a settlement agreement on November 11, 2011. NRG and the parties were able to reach a settlement on two of the three issues before the Board in Phase 2 of the proceeding. The issue that remains unsettled is the appropriate price for gas purchased from NRG Corp., a related company.

The Board will therefore convene an oral hearing to consider the settlement agreement and to hear the unsettled issue. The Board reminds NRG that the consultant who prepared the System Integrity Study report should be made available for possible crossexamination at the hearing and that parties may also wish to cross-examine a representative from NRG Corp.

The Board considers it necessary to make provision for the following procedural matters. Please be aware that further procedural orders may be issued from time to time.

THE BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:

 The Board will hold an Oral Hearing on November 30, 2011 in the Board's Hearing Room on the 25th floor at 2300 Yonge Street, Toronto. The Oral Hearing will include oral submissions and arguments.

All filings to the Board must quote file number EB-2010-0018, be made through the Board's web portal at <u>www.errr.ontarioenergyboard.ca</u>, and consist of two paper copies and one electronic copy in searchable / unrestricted PDF format. Filings must clearly

state the sender's name, postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Please use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at www.ontarioenergyboard.ca. If the web portal is not available you may email your document to the address below. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit all filings on a CD or diskette in PDF format, along with two paper copies. Those who do not have computer access are required to file 7 paper copies.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Board Secretary at the address below, and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date.

ADDRESS:

Ontario Energy Board P.O. Box 2319 2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor Toronto ON M4P 1E4 Attention: Board Secretary Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (toll free) Fax: 416-440-7656 E-mail: <u>Boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca</u>

DATED at Toronto, November 16, 2011

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary