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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

January 4, 2016

**TO: All Rate Regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Registered Participants in Board File No. EB-2015-0237
All Interested Parties**

RE: 2015 Natural Gas Market Review – Forum Planning

In a letter dated November 25, 2015 ([cover letter](#)) the Board announced its 3rd Natural Gas Market Review consultation, which includes a Forum to be held at the OEB's offices on Thursday, January 21, 2016.

The purpose of the Forum is to examine ongoing developments and related issues in the North American natural gas market and assist the OEB's consideration of any potential impacts – including regulatory implications – of such developments for Ontario's natural gas market.

This letter provides an update on preparations for the Forum, including the posting today of a *2015 Natural Gas Market Review* [Summary Report](#) and Forum [slide presentation](#) prepared for OEB staff by Navigant. These materials address the key factors influencing current North American and Ontario natural gas market trends and provide a forecast of natural gas supply, demand and prices.

Forum planning

To help develop a preliminary draft agenda, the cover letter invited stakeholders to provide feedback on four broad areas of interest. Stakeholder responses, posted on the [2015 NGMR](#) webpage, were considered in developing the three main areas of discussion outlined on the attached preliminary draft agenda:

- The first session will review recent market developments, focusing on how market drivers have evolved since the previous NGMR and affected the forecast of North American and Ontario natural gas supply, demand and prices

- The second session will provide an opportunity to discuss current market conditions and resulting approaches to natural gas purchasing. Note that distributor gas supply plans are the subject of a [separate consultation](#) currently in progress and are therefore not within the scope of this session
- A third, forward looking session will focus on forecast North American and Ontario natural gas market trends over the next few years and any potential market and regulatory implications thereof

This general Forum plan will be further refined on the basis of stakeholder expressions of interest in giving a presentation at the Forum on one or more the indicated subject areas. As noted below, such expressions of interest should be sent to NGMR@ontarioenergyboard.ca by **Friday, January 8, 2016**. However, stakeholders planning to give a presentation should note that the deadline for filing a Forum presentation with the OEB has been extended to **Friday, January 15, 2016**.

Forum overview

The Forum will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, **January 21, 2016** with opening remarks by Ontario Energy Board Chair and CEO Rosemarie T. Leclair. Each session will consist of participant presentation(s)/remarks (see Participant Presentations below) followed by questions and discussion. Forum proceedings will not be transcribed.

Registration Reminder

Interested participants wishing to attend the Forum are reminded that they should register by email to NGMR@ontarioenergyboard.ca by **4:30 p.m. January 8, 2016**. Please indicate “NGMR Forum” in the subject line and provide the following information in the body of the e-mail:

- participant/organization name
- name(s) of attendees to be registered
- whether the participant intends to make a presentation, and if so, the presentation topic(s)
- whether the participant intends to attend in person or by teleconference/webcast
- a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address

As requested in the cover letter, participants are asked to limit Forum in-person attendance to two persons due to seating capacity restrictions. Remote participation will be available through the OEB’s website and teleconference.

Participant Presentations

For agenda preparation purposes, Forum participants planning a presentation are asked to clearly indicate the topic of the presentation. In order to ensure all presentations can be accommodated in the time available and to maximize time for discussion, presentations should be no longer than 10 minutes.

An electronic copy of any presentation materials must be submitted to the Board Secretary by **Friday January 15, 2016**, in accordance with the filing instructions set out in the cover letter. Presentation materials will be posted on the consultation webpage.

Questions about this consultation process should be directed to Stephen Cain at stephen.cain@ontarioenergyboard.ca or 416-440-8144. The Board's toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

Attachment: Preliminary Draft Agenda

**Ontario Energy Board
Natural Gas Market Review
EB-2015-0237**

FORUM

Thursday, January 21, 2016

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA

Session 1 - Natural Gas Market Review & Update

- key changes since the 2014 NGMR that have affected North American and Ontario supply, demand and prices

Session 2 - Current Market Conditions

- stakeholder perspectives on current market conditions and approaches to natural gas purchasing

Session 3 - Looking Ahead

- evolving market supply/demand drivers and price scenarios
- market and regulatory implications of current natural gas market trends