



**EB-2018-0319**

**Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.**

**Application for approval to change rates and other charges  
for the sale, distribution, transmission and storage of gas  
for Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. commencing as of  
January 1, 2019 and to continue the provision of open  
billing services**

**INTERIM RATE ORDER**

**December 13, 2018**

Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. (Enbridge Gas) filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on December 4, 2018, seeking approval to continue the financial terms associated with the Open Bill Access (OBA) program for 2019 and 2020. As the OEB will not be able to issue a final decision on the continuation of the OBA program before January 1, 2019, Enbridge Gas has requested an Interim Order that would be effective as of January 1, 2019, until such time that the OEB can issue a final rate order on this matter.

In the Enbridge Gas OBA proceeding<sup>1</sup>, the company and interested parties agreed to continue the terms of the 2013 OBA settlement<sup>2</sup> with certain adjustments. The OEB approved the settlement agreement that set out the pricing and costing for OBA services during Enbridge Gas' 2014 to 2018 Custom IR term (2014 OEB-approved agreement). The 2014 OEB-approved agreement continued the approach to sharing of net revenues with ratepayers, earned through providing bill access to third parties. The benefit includes an embedded \$5.389 million credit to ratepayers each year. The 2014 OEB-approved agreement also allowed for the ongoing operation of the OBA program on an indefinite basis;<sup>3</sup> however, the financial terms are valid only until the end of 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> EB-2013-0099

<sup>2</sup> EB-2011-0354

<sup>3</sup> Enbridge Gas Open Bill Access Settlement Agreement, EB-2013-0099, p.3

The OEB approves the continuation of the OBA program on an interim basis under the financial terms set out in the 2014 OEB-approved settlement agreement.<sup>4</sup> This interim order will be in effect from January 1, 2019 until such time as the OEB issues a final order for the application filed by Enbridge Gas for an extension to the OBA program<sup>5</sup> or until December 31, 2019, whichever comes first.

The OEB finds it appropriate for the program to continue uninterrupted on the terms already approved by the OEB, until such time as the OEB issues a final decision on this matter. An end date is approved with this order because it is not appropriate for an interim order to continue indefinitely if a final decision is not issued.

This determination of interim rates continues to be without prejudice to the OEB's decision on Enbridge Gas' application and should not be construed as predictive, in any way whatsoever, of the OEB's final determination of the effective dates for rates arising from the application.

**THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:**

1. The OEB approves on an interim basis continuation of the existing financial terms associated with Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. offering open bill access services, effective January 1, 2019. This interim order will be in effect from January 1, 2019 until such time as the OEB issues a final rate order or until December 31, 2019, whichever comes first.

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<sup>4</sup> EB-2013-0099

<sup>5</sup> EB-2018-0319

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**DATED** at Toronto, December 13, 2018

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original signed by*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary