

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership

**Application for approval to change gas distribution rates
and other charges effective January 1, 2020 to
December 31, 2024**

**PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1
March 22, 2019**

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (EPCOR Natural Gas) filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on February 1, 2019 under section 36 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B), seeking approval to charge new rates for the sale and distribution of gas effective January 1, 2020 and approval of an incentive rate-setting plan for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024.

A Notice of Hearing was issued on February 28, 2019. The OEB held a community meeting in Aylmer, Ontario on March 19, 2019, to provide customers with information both on the OEB's rate hearing process and on the specific application filed by EPCOR Natural Gas and to hear directly from customers.

The intervention period closed on March 20, 2019. Each of Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas), Integrated Grain Processors Co-operative Inc. (IGPC), and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) applied for intervenor status. VECC also applied for cost eligibility.

No objections were received from EPCOR Natural Gas.

Enbridge Gas, IGPC and VECC are approved as intervenors. The list of parties in this proceeding is attached as Schedule A to this Procedural Order. VECC is eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

Cost eligible intervenors should be aware that the OEB will not generally allow the recovery of costs for the attendance of more than one representative of any party, unless a compelling reason is provided when cost claims are filed.

Issues List

It is the OEB's expectation that parties will be best positioned to identify issues relevant to EPCOR Natural Gas' application after the applicant has responded to interrogatories. EPCOR Natural Gas, OEB staff and the intervenors shall develop and OEB staff shall file a proposed issues list for the OEB's consideration. The OEB will approve an issues list prior to the settlement conference.

Presentation Day

Following the settlement conference, provision will be made for the presentation of any settlement proposal filed by EPCOR Natural Gas, whether full or partial, and for the presentation of any unsettled issues to be adjudicated by the OEB. EPCOR Natural Gas' presentation is intended to summarize and provide any salient information for the OEB's consideration in reviewing the settlement proposal. With respect to any unsettled issues, the presentation should focus on scoping of the issues and a recommendation on how to address the issues in the proceeding.

It is necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. Further procedural orders may be issued by the OEB.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. OEB staff and intervenors shall request any relevant information and documentation from EPCOR Natural Gas that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **April 9, 2019**.
2. EPCOR Natural Gas shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on all intervenors by **April 30, 2019**.
3. OEB staff shall file a proposed issues list, or, alternatively, shall advise the OEB in writing that the parties and OEB staff have been unable to reach an agreement on a draft issues list by **May 10, 2019**.

4. Unless otherwise ordered by the OEB, a settlement conference will be convened on **May 15, 2019** with the objective of reaching a settlement among the parties. If necessary, the settlement conference will continue on **May 16, 2019**. The settlement conference will be held in the OEB's hearing room at 2300 Yonge Street, 25th Floor, Toronto, Ontario starting at 9:30 a.m.
5. Any settlement proposal arising from the settlement conference shall be filed with the OEB on or before **June 3, 2019**. In addition to outlining the terms of any settlement, the settlement proposal should include a list of any unsettled issues and a recommendation on whether to proceed by way of oral or written hearing.
6. If a settlement proposal is filed, OEB staff's submission on the settlement proposal shall be filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **June 17, 2019**.
7. If there is no settlement proposal arising from the settlement conference, EPCOR Natural Gas shall file a statement to that effect with the OEB by **May 24, 2019**. In that event, parties shall file with the OEB submissions and deliver them to other parties by **May 30, 2019**, outlining the issues that should be heard in writing, and those that should be dealt with by way of oral hearing.
8. The OEB is setting a tentative date of **June 24, 2019** for EPCOR Natural Gas to present to the OEB any settlement proposal and a summary of any unsettled issues in the case. The hearing will start at 9:30 a.m. and will be held at 2300 Yonge Street, 25th Floor, Toronto, Ontario.

All filings to the OEB must quote the file number, EB-2018-0336, be made in searchable/unrestricted PDF format electronically through the OEB's web portal at <https://pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/>. Two paper copies must also be filed at the OEB's address provided below. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at <https://www.oeb.ca/industry>. If the web portal is not available parties may email their documents to the address below. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit all filings on a USB memory stick 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 Registrar at the address below, 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 and OEB Counsel, Michael Millar at Michael.Millar@oeb.ca.

ADDRESS

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Attention: Registrar
Email: boardsec@oeb.ca

Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)
Fax: 416-440-7656

DATED at Toronto, **March 22, 2019**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

By delegation, before: Christine E. Long

Original signed by

Christine E. Long
Registrar

Schedule A

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership

EB-2018-0336

Applicant and List of Intervenors

Dated: March 22, 2019

**EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership
EB-2018-0336
APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS**

March 22, 2019

APPLICANT	Rep. and Address for Service
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EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership

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**EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership
EB-2018-0336
APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS**

March 22, 2019

INTERVENORS

Rep. and Address for Service

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**Integrated Grain Processors
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EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership
EB-2018-0336

APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

March 22, 2019

**Integrated Grain Processors
Co-operative Inc.**

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**Vulnerable Energy
Consumers Coalition**

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