



Ontario Energy Board
Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario

DECISION ON COST AWARD
ELIGIBILITY

EB-2019-0137

Consultation to Review Natural Gas Supply Plans

By Delegation, Before: Theodore Antonopoulos

August 26, 2019

INTRODUCTION

On July 25, 2019, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) announced that it was initiating a consultation to review Enbridge Gas Inc.'s (Enbridge) five-year natural gas supply plans in keeping with the gas supply plan assessment process contemplated in the OEB's [Report of the Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans \(Gas Supply Framework\)](#)¹.

In that letter, parties interested in participating in the consultation were asked to indicate their intent by filing a letter with the OEB by **August 9, 2019**. If a utility had any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections were to be filed with the OEB by **August 16, 2019**.

The following parties requested to participate in the consultation (* denotes a request for cost eligibility):

- Ag Energy Co-operative Ltd. (AEC)
- Anwaatin Inc. (Anwaatin)*
- Building Owners and Managers Association, Greater Toronto (BOMA)*
- Budd Energy Inc. (BEI)
- Canadian Manufactures & Exporters (CME)*
- City of Kitchener – Utilities Division (Kitchener)
- Consumer Council of Canada (CCC)*
- Corporation of the Town of Marathon (Town of Marathon)
- Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe)*
- Environmental Defence (ED)*
- EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (EPCOR Gas)
- Equinor Natural Gas LLC (Equinor)
- Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario (FRPO)*
- Industrial Gas Users Association (IGUA)*
- London Property Management Association (LPMA)*
- Ontario Petroleum Institute Inc. (OPI)
- Pollution Probe*
- School Energy Coalition (SEC)*

¹ EB-2017-0129

- Six Nations Natural Gas Co. (Six Nations Gas)
- TransCanada PipeLines Limited (TCPL)
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)*

Enbridge was given an opportunity to file any objections it might have in relation to the eligibility of the above-noted parties. The OEB did not receive any objections.

This cost eligibility Decision is being issued by delegated authority under section 6 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

OEB FINDINGS

All parties that filed letters of intent with the OEB are granted participation status in this consultation.

The OEB has reviewed the requests for cost eligibility from parties to ensure they were compliant with section 3 of the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#). All requests for cost eligibility are granted. Parties are reminded that any awards of costs will be dependent on the extent to which the parties' questions and submissions relate directly to Enbridge's gas supply plans and are within the scope of the consultation (i.e., to the extent the parties assess Enbridge's gas supply plans against the guiding principles and criteria outlined in the Gas Supply Framework).

The OEB notes that FRPO raised concerns about the time allocated for review of the plans. The OEB notes that the July 25, 2019 letter initiating this consultation identified the opportunity for further comments on Enbridge's plans following the stakeholder conference. The OEB will consider at that time the appropriate amount of eligible hours that would augment the time allotted for the initial phase of the consultation.

The OEB also notes that there are stakeholders with overlapping interests. The OEB expects that participants with similar viewpoints will coordinate their activities to the extent possible in order to increase efficiency and minimize costs. The OEB also reminds parties to be mindful of section 6 of the [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#) with respect to cost eligible claims and specifically, section 6.05 regarding cost eligible representatives.

A decision and order on cost awards will be issued at a later date, typically at the end of the consultation. The OEB reminds parties that the maximum hours allocated for each activity are per party.

DATED at Toronto, August 26, 2019

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President
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