



Ontario
Energy
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DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2015-0245

**Natural Gas Demand Side Management
Evaluation Advisory Committee**

By Delegation Before: Theodore Antonopoulos

December 17, 2019

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

On August 21, 2015 the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued [a letter](#) establishing the process to evaluate the results of Natural Gas Demand Side Management (DSM) programs from 2015 to 2020.

As part of the OEB's evaluation process, an Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) made up of experts representing both utility and non-utility stakeholders was formed.

In the August 21, 2015 letter, the OEB stated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to their participation in the EAC.

Based on the criteria set out in section 3 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*, the OEB has determined that the following persons are eligible for an award of costs:

- Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group
- Jay Shepherd, Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation
- Marion Fraser, Marion Fraser Enterprises Inc.
- Robert M. Wirtshafter, Wirtshafter Associates, Inc.
- Dr. Ted Kesik, University of Toronto

The August 21, 2015 letter indicated that costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues. This apportionment was consistent with the methodology that was in place at the time for allocating costs for cost assessment purposes under section 26 of the OEB Act.

On February 9, 2016, the OEB issued [a letter](#) giving notice of changes to its Cost Assessment Model. Specifically, under the revised Cost Assessment Model, cost assessments for distributors are now based on customer numbers rather than revenues. The OEB considers it appropriate to apportion cost awards for this initiative in a manner consistent with the revised Cost Assessment Model, and has therefore determined that costs awarded will be apportioned within the distributor class based on customer numbers rather than revenues.

On October 25, 2019, the OEB issued a Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards (the Notice) in relation to EAC activities from October 1, 2018 to October 11, 2019.

The OEB received cost claims from Dr. Ted Kesik, Energy Futures Group, Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation and Wirtshafter Associates, Inc. No objections were received from any rate-regulated natural gas distributors.

OEB Findings

The OEB has reviewed the cost claims filed by Dr. Ted Kesik, Energy Futures Group, Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation and Wirtshafter Associates, Inc. to ensure they were compliant with the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

The OEB finds that certain cost claims require reductions, as follows:

- The claim of the Energy Futures Group requires a reduction of \$495 due to the hours claimed for activities #17, #19 and #21, as they are over the prescribed limit.
- The claim of Wirtshafter Associates, Inc. requires a reduction of \$125.40 due to the hours claimed for activity #22, as it is over the prescribed limit.

The OEB finds that the claims of Dr. Ted Kesik, Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation and the reduced claims of the Energy Futures Group and Wirtshafter Associates, Inc. are reasonable. The OEB approves cost awards for the Eligible Participants as follows:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • Dr. Ted Kesik | \$29,287.50 |
| • Energy Futures Group | \$20,790.00 |
| • Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation | \$38,781.60 |
| • Wirtshafter Associates, Inc. Energy Futures Group | \$25,010.70 |

Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amount payable by each rate-regulated natural gas distributor in relation to costs awarded to each Eligible Participant is listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order. However, the amounts will not be paid directly by the distributor to the Eligible Participant.

For EAC member-related costs, the OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards. Therefore, the OEB will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards relating to this consultation process. Invoices will be issued to distributors at the same time as

the invoices for cost assessments are made under section 26 of the Act. The practice of the OEB is to issue to each distributor one invoice that covers all cost awards payable by the distributor for the relevant period. As a result, the invoice may cover cost awards payable in relation to a number of consultations, including this one.

Going forward in this consultation, for the OEB's costs, including expert DSM evaluation consultant costs, the OEB will proceed by way of progress billing and invoice the distributors on an ad hoc basis. This will ensure timely billing for all parties as the OEB's evaluation activities included within this consultation process span across several financial years.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Each distributor listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order shall pay the amounts set out in Schedule A in relation to the costs awarded to each Eligible Participant.
2. Each distributor listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order shall pay the OEB's costs of, and incidental to, this consultation.
3. The payments referred to in order 1 shall be made to the OEB in accordance with the invoice issued to each distributor, and shall be due at the same time as cost assessments under section 26 of the Act are due.

DATED at Toronto December 17, 2019

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Christine E. Long
Registrar and Board Secretary

Schedule A

OEB's Decision and Order on Cost Awards

EB-2015-0245

Gas Distributor, Transmitter, Storage Company	Dr. Ted Kesik	Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group	Jay Shepherd, Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation	Robert M. Wirtshafter, Wirtshafter Associates, Inc.	Total
Enbridge Gas Inc.	\$ 29,216.89	\$ 20,739.88	\$ 38,688.10	\$ 24,950.40	\$ 113,595.27
EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership	\$ 70.61	\$ 50.12	\$ 93.50	\$ 60.30	\$ 274.53
TOTAL	\$ 29,287.50	\$ 20,790.00	\$ 38,781.60	\$ 25,010.70	\$ 113,869.80