

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF EPCOR NATURAL GAS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership has applied to raise its natural gas rates effective April 1, 2021, to recover costs associated with the federal government's *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*, and to recover certain related account balances.

Learn more. Have your say.

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership has applied to the Ontario Energy Board for approval to increase its rates effective April 1, 2021, to recover the costs associated with meeting its obligations under the federal government's *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*. EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership has also applied to recover from customers the balances in the related deferral and variance accounts.

If the application is approved as filed, the amount EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership charges a typical residential customer would increase by the following amounts:

- A typical residential customer in the Aylmer service area will see an annual bill increase of \$70.48. This is composed of an annual bill increase of \$41.47 arising from the 2021 carbon charges, plus a charge of \$29.01 to recover the balances in the related deferral and variance accounts.
- A typical customer in the South Bruce service area will see an annual bill increase of \$42.12 arising from the 2021 carbon charges.

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership has also applied for final approval of its rates approved on an interim basis under file no. EB-2020-0076. In February 2020, EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership filed an application, under file no. EB-2020-0076, for approval to increase its rates, effective April 1, 2020, to recover costs associated with meeting its obligations under the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*. The Ontario Energy Board approved the rates on an interim basis pending the filing of additional information on the deferral and variance accounts. EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership has filed the additional information and is now requesting final approval of the interim rates. The interim rates have been in effect since April 1, 2020 in the Aylmer service area and since June 1, 2020 in the South Bruce service area.

The *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* establishes a carbon pricing program under which a natural gas utility in Ontario, such as EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership, is required to pay a carbon charge for the natural gas that it delivers to its customers. The carbon charge came into effect on April 1, 2019. The charge increased to 5.87 cents/m³ on April 1, 2020 and will increase to 7.83 cents/m³ on April 1, 2021. The costs related to emissions from the operation of EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership's natural gas distribution system are also increasing.

Other customers, including businesses, will also be affected.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider the application filed by EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership. During the hearing, which could be an oral or written hearing, we will question EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership on the

request for a rate increase. We will also hear questions and arguments from individuals that have registered to participate (called intervenors) in the OEB's hearing.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership's application on the OEB's website now
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing
- You can become an intervenor. As an intervenor you can ask questions about EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership's application and make arguments on whether the OEB should approve EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership's request. Apply by **November 23, 2020** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website

LEARN MORE

The OEB will hear the application for the 2020 federal carbon charge (EB-2020-0076) and the current application, for the 2021 federal carbon charge (EB-2020-0231), jointly. Our file numbers for this case are **EB-2020-0076 and EB-2020-0231**.

To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file a letter with your comments or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please enter either of the file numbers **EB-2020-0076 or EB-2020-0231** on the OEB website: **www.oeb.ca/participate**. You can also phone our Public Information Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership has applied for a written hearing. The OEB is considering this request. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **November 23, 2020**.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This rate hearing will be held under section 21(5) and section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c.15 Schedule B.



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