

January 14, 2021

To: All Participants in EB-2020-0106

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Consultation to Review Annual Update to Natural Gas Supply Plans
OEB File No.: EB-2020-0106**

Background

On July 6 2020, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) announced that it was initiating a consultation to review the annual update to the 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 accordance with the Gas Supply Framework, Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) and EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (ENGLP Aylmer and ENGLP Southern Bruce) filed their annual updates to the five-year Gas Supply Plan (GSP). In its kick-off letter dated July 6, 2020, the OEB accepted Enbridge Gas's request to forego review of its 2020 GSP update and to file its next update (for the 2021 year) by February 1, 2021. The OEB however determined that it would proceed with the review of ENGLP's annual update for the Aylmer and Southern Bruce franchise areas.

In its letter dated July 6, 2020, the OEB established the maximum number of cost-eligible hours that a party can claim for the review of each GSP (up to 9 hours for the review of each GSP, ENGLP Aylmer and ENGLP Southern Bruce). On July 27, 2020, the OEB issued its Decision on Cost Eligibility granting cost eligibility to six parties. In its Decision, the OEB noted that there were stakeholders with overlapping interests. The OEB indicated its expectation that stakeholders with similar viewpoints would coordinate their activities in order to increase efficiency and minimize costs.

The OEB issued a Final OEB Staff Report on its review of the Annual Update to the GSPs of ENGLP on December 14, 2020.

¹ EB-2017-0129

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating this hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards that will be made in accordance with section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to eligible consultation activities that have occurred since July 6, 2020.

The OEB intends to proceed by way of a written hearing unless a party can satisfy the OEB that there is a good reason for not holding a written hearing. If a party wants to object to a written hearing, the objection must be received by the OEB no later than **seven (7) days** after the date of this Notice.

Assuming that the OEB does not receive any objections to a written hearing, the hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. Eligible parties shall submit their cost claims by **February 1, 2021**. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and served on ENGLP. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.
2. ENGLP will have until **February 11, 2021** to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the OEB and served on the eligible party against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. An eligible party whose cost claim was objected to will have until **February 22, 2021** to file a reply justifying its cost claim. A copy of the reply submission must be filed with the OEB and served on ENGLP.
4. ENGLP shall pay the OEB's costs of and incidental to this proceeding upon receipt of the OEB's invoice.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of its *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 in this process. For more information on this process parties may refer to the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#) and the [October 27, 2005 letter](#) regarding the rationale for the OEB acting as a clearing house for the cost award payments. These documents can be found on the OEB's [Rules, Codes, Guidelines and Forms](#) webpage.

Parties are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB, such as applicant and intervenor evidence, interrogatories and responses to interrogatories or any other type of document, do not include personal information (as that phrase is defined in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*), unless filed in accordance with rule 9A of the OEB's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*.

All materials filed with the OEB must quote the file number, **EB-2020-0106**, and be submitted in a searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the OEB's web portal at <https://pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice>. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the [Regulatory Electronic Submission System \(RESS\) Document Guidelines](#) found at www.oeb.ca/industry. We encourage the use of RESS; however, parties who have not yet [set up an account](#), may email their documents to registrar@oeb.ca.

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.

If you do not file a letter objecting to a written hearing or do not participate in the hearing by filing written materials in accordance with this Notice, the OEB may proceed without your participation and you will not be entitled to further notice in this proceeding.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)

Fax: 416-440-7656

DATED at Toronto, January 14, 2021

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Christine E. Long
Registrar