

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2020-0295

EPCOR NATURAL GAS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP – SOUTHERN BRUCE

**Application for quarterly rate adjustment mechanism commencing
January 1, 2021**

By Delegation, before: Pascale Duguay

February 3, 2021

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (EPCOR) filed an application on December 10, 2020, with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) for an order or orders approving or fixing just and reasonable rates and other charges for the sale and distribution of natural gas commencing January 1, 2021 for its Southern Bruce operations (the Application).

The Decision and Rate Order was issued on December 18, 2020. Among other things, the Decision and Interim Rate Order directed eligible parties to file their cost claims with the OEB and EPCOR no later than January 11, 2021. EPCOR had until January 18, 2021, to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. Any responses to EPCOR's concerns were to be filed with the OEB and EPCOR by January 25, 2021.

On January 11, 2021, the Industrial Gas Users Association (IGUA) filed a cost claim with the OEB and copied EPCOR. On January 18, 2021, EPCOR stated that it did not object to IGUA's cost claim. However, EPCOR commented that IGUA similarly requested that EPCOR confirm in its October 1, 2020 QRAM¹ that there was no impact to Rate 16 customers stemming from the Application, for which they were awarded costs. EPCOR stated that intervenors should be expected to efficiently determine whether a QRAM affects the classes of customers that they represent.

On January 18, 2021, IGUA replied to EPCOR's letter regarding its cost claim and agreed with EPCOR's view. IGUA suggested that a simple and brief statement in EPCOR's QRAM filing to the effect that there is no impact on its Rate 16 rate class, would enable efficient execution of their task, precluding the need for further review of the filing or clarification questions of the utility.

Findings

The OEB has reviewed IGUA's cost claim and finds it to be reasonable. The OEB agrees with EPCOR's comments and IGUA's recommendation going forward. The OEB finds that for this Application, IGUA is entitled to 100% of its reasonably incurred costs of participating in this proceeding.

¹ EB-2020-0206

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership shall pay the Industrial Gas Users Association \$522.06.

DATED at Toronto February 3, 2021

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Christine E. Long
Registrar