



Ontario
Energy
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DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2019-0003

**Post-2020 Natural Gas Demand Side Management
Framework – Phase 2**

By Delegation Before: Theodore Antonopoulos

March 29, 2021

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The OEB initiated the post-2020 Demand Side Management (DSM) Framework policy consultation on May 21, 2019. The OEB indicated the consultation would be completed in stages.

On June 11, 2019 the OEB issued its Decision on Cost Eligibility (Decision) granting cost eligibility to 18 parties. In the Decision, the OEB indicated its expectation that participants with similar viewpoints would coordinate their activities in order to increase efficiency and minimize costs.

In Phase 1 of the consultation, the OEB sought input and comments from interested stakeholders on the underlying guiding principles, on the goals and objectives to be achieved, and on the scope of the review. The OEB approved costs related to Phase 1 on November 25, 2019.

On December 19, 2019 the OEB issued a letter commencing Phase 2 of the consultation. As part of Phase 2, the OEB sought stakeholder feedback on two items: the draft consultation plan and general framework ideas. The OEB held a half-day stakeholder meeting on January 29, 2020 where it received input on the Phase 2 items. No provisions for written comments were provided.

On December 1, 2020 the OEB issued a letter concluding the policy consultation, and directing Enbridge Gas Inc. to file an application for a new DSM plan by May 1, 2021.

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

- Association of Power Producers of Ontario (APPrO)
- Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)
- Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME)
- Consumers Council of Canada (CCC)
- Efficiency Canada (EC)
- Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe)
- Environmental Defence (ED)
- Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario (FRPO)
- Green Energy Coalition (GEC)
- Housing Services Corporation (HSC)
- Industrial Gas Users Association (IGUA)
- London Property Management Association (LPMA)

- Low Income Energy Network (LIEN)
- Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers (OGVG)
- Ontario Sustainable Energy Association (OSEA)
- Pollution Probe (PP)
- School Energy Coalition (SEC)
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)

On February 18, 2021, the OEB issued a Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards (the Notice). The OEB received cost claims from APPrO, BOMA, CME, CCC, Energy Probe, ED, FRPO, GEC, IGUA, LPMA, LIEN, PP, SEC and VECC. EC, HSC, OGVG and OSEA did not submit a cost claim. On March 8, 2021, Enbridge Gas Inc. filed a letter stating that it had no objections with the cost claims. No comments on cost claims were received by EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership.

OEB Findings

The OEB has reviewed the cost claims filed to ensure they were compliant with the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

The claim of FRPO requires a minor reduction due to rounding of disbursements claimed. The OEB finds that the claims of APPrO, BOMA, CME, CCC, Energy Probe, ED, GEC, IGUA, LPMA, LIEN, PP, SEC and VECC and the adjusted claim of FRPO are reasonable and within the maximum number of hours eligible for cost awards. The OEB approves cost awards for the Eligible Participants as follows:

• Association of Power Producers of Ontario	\$987.62
• Building Owners and Managers Association	\$1,864.50
• Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters	\$480.25
• Consumers Council of Canada	\$1,678.05
• Energy Probe Research Foundation	\$1,405.80
• Environmental Defence	\$1,650.00
• Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario	\$2,151.60
• Green Energy Coalition	\$1,864.50
• Industrial Gas Users Association	\$1,702.05
• London Property Management Association	\$1,342.44
• Low Income Energy Network	\$536.75
• Pollution Probe	\$1,864.50
• School Energy Coalition	\$1,864.50
• Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition	\$1,543.51

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.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of the *Practice Direction* 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.

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 paragraph 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 March 29, 2021

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Christine E. Long
Registrar

Schedule A
OEB's Decision and Order on Cost Awards
EB-2019-0003 – Phase 2

Gas Distributor, Transmitter, Storage Company	Enbridge Gas Inc.	EPCOR Natural Gas LP	Gas Distributor Total
Association of Power Producers of Ontario	\$985.19	\$2.43	\$987.62
Building Owners and Managers Association	\$1,859.91	\$4.59	\$1,864.50
Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters	\$479.07	\$1.18	\$480.25
Consumers Council of Canada	\$1,673.92	\$4.13	\$1,678.05
Energy Probe Research Foundation	\$1,402.34	\$3.46	\$1,405.80
Environmental Defence	\$1,645.94	\$4.06	\$1,650.00
Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario	\$2,146.30	\$5.30	\$2,151.60
Green Energy Coalition	\$1,859.91	\$4.59	\$1,864.50
Industrial Gas Users Association	\$1,697.86	\$4.19	\$1,702.05
London Property Management Association	\$1,339.13	\$3.31	\$1,342.44
Low Energy Income Network	\$535.43	\$1.32	\$536.75
Pollution Probe	\$1,859.91	\$4.59	\$1,864.50
School Energy Coalition	\$1,859.91	\$4.59	\$1,864.50
Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition	\$1,539.71	\$3.80	\$1,543.51
TOTAL	\$20,884.53	\$51.54	\$20,936.07