

BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

May 18, 2021

**TO: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Utilities
All Licensed Gas Marketers
All Parties in EB-2020-0106**

**RE: Consultation to Review Annual Update to Five-Year Natural Gas Supply
Plans
EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (Aylmer and Southern Bruce)
2021 Annual Update – EB-2021-0146**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is initiating a consultation to review EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership's (ENGLP) Annual Update to its five-year natural gas supply plan (GSP). The OEB invites participation in this consultation process by all interested and affected parties.

The OEB's [Report of the Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans](#) (Framework) sets out this process.¹ The Framework was designed to introduce greater transparency, accountability and performance measurement to the review of GSPs to ensure that customers are receiving value from the distributors' gas supply activities.

The GSPs of ENGLP Aylmer and ENGLP Southern Bruce were first reviewed in the individual franchise rate proceedings.² The first Annual Update was conducted in 2020.

On April 30, 2021, ENGLP filed its second (2021) Annual Update with the OEB pursuant to the Framework. The Annual Update covers ENGLP Aylmer and Southern Bruce franchise areas. The consultation will include a review of the updates to the outlook section of the GSP, significant changes from the previous updates and a historical comparison of actuals and outlook.

¹ EB-2017-0129

² The five-year Gas Supply Plan of ENGLP (Aylmer) was approved as part of the settlement proposal in EB-2018-0336. ENGLP (Southern Bruce) filed a three-year gas supply plan in EB-2018-0264.

Consultation

As noted in the Gas Supply Framework, the review and assessment of the annual update will be carried through a consultation, in a manner similar to the five-year GSP.

OEB staff and stakeholders can submit written questions on ENGLP's annual updates (Aylmer and Southern Bruce franchise area). The written questions should be forwarded to ENGLP and filed with the OEB by **June 29, 2021**. ENGLP shall respond to the questions in writing by **July 13, 2021**.

Following the responses to the questions, stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit written comments on ENGLP's GSPs by **July 27, 2021**.

ENGLP will then have the opportunity to review the written comments and decide whether to: (i) provide written comments in response, and/or (ii) revise its plan and provide a revision statement that outlines any changes, together with the rationale for those changes. ENGLP shall file its written comments and/or revision statement by **August 10, 2021**.

Following the responses and any revisions to the GSPs, OEB staff will prepare and file its conclusions to the OEB. As set out in the Gas Supply Framework, following consideration of OEB staff's conclusions, the OEB may determine that a proceeding is required to address specific issues highlighted by OEB staff. Unless the OEB decides to hold a proceeding to consider any component of the annual updates, the review process will conclude with OEB staff's conclusions.

Invitation to Participate

Those interested in participating should indicate their intent and their interest in this matter by filing a letter with the OEB by **June 1, 2021** in accordance with the filing instructions set out below. The letter should include a statement as to whether the participant is requesting cost eligibility.

Cost Awards

Cost awards will be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for their participation in cost eligible activities as set out in Appendix A. Appendix A also contains information regarding cost eligibility requests and objections. Costs awarded will be recovered from ENGLP as it is the only gas distribution utility participating in this review.

Filings in relation to cost award eligibility must be made in accordance with the filing instructions set out below. In order to facilitate a timely decision on cost eligibility, the deadlines for filing cost eligibility requests and objections will be strictly enforced.

How to File Materials

Parties are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB **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](#).

Please quote file number, **EB-2021-0146** for all materials filed and submit them in a searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the [OEB's online filing portal](#).

- Filings should clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address.
- Please 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.
- Stakeholders are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet [set up an account](#), or require assistance using the web portal can contact registrar@oeb.ca for assistance.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar and be received at the address below by end of business on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, stakeholders should include the Case Manager, Khalil Viraney at Khalil.Viraney@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca
Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

DATED at Toronto, **May 18, 2021**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Christine E. Long
Registrar

Appendix A: Cost Awards

Appendix A
To Letter Dated May 18, 2021

EB-2021-0146

COST AWARDS

Cost Award Eligibility

The OEB will determine eligibility for costs in accordance with its [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#). Any person intending to request an award of costs must file with the OEB a written submission to that effect by **June 1, 2021**. The submission must identify the following:

- The nature of the person's interest in this initiative
- The grounds on which the person believes that they are eligible for an award of costs (addressing the OEB's cost eligibility criteria as set out in section 3 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*)
- An explanation of any other funding to which the person has access
- The name and credentials of any lawyer, analyst or consultant that the person intends to retain, if known

If the utility has any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections must be filed with the OEB by **June 8, 2021**. Any objections will be posted on the OEB's website. The OEB will then make a final determination on the cost eligibility of the requesting participants.

Eligible Activities

Cost awards will be available for the following activities:

ACTIVITY	TOTAL ELIGIBLE HOURS PER PARTICIPANT FOR EACH GSP
Review of GSP & submission of written questions, if any	Up to 7 hours
Review of responses and written comments on GSP, if any	Up to 4 hours

Cost Award Amounts

The OEB will apply the principles set out in section 5 of its *Practice Direction on Cost*

Awards when awarding costs. The maximum hourly rates set out in the OEB's Cost Awards Tariff will be applied. The OEB expects that groups representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and coordinate their participation in this process.

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, please see the OEB's [*Practice Direction on Cost Awards*](#).