



Ontario
Energy
Board

Commission
de l'énergie
de l'Ontario

DECISION ON COST AWARD ELIGIBILITY

EB-2021-0146

**EPCOR NATURAL GAS LIMITED
PARTNERSHIP**

**Consultation to Review Annual Update to Natural Gas Supply
Plans**

By Delegation, Before: Theodore Antonopoulos

June 17, 2021

INTRODUCTION

On May 18 2021, 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, EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (ENGLP) filed its annual update to the Gas Supply Plans (GSPs) on April 30, 2021. ENGLP filed its annual update for both its Aylmer franchise area and Southern Bruce franchise area.

Parties interested in participating in the consultation were asked to indicate their intent by filing a letter with the OEB by **June 1, 2021**. If ENGLP had any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections were to be filed with the OEB by **June 8, 2021**.

The following parties requested to participate in the consultation (* denotes a request for cost eligibility):

- Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario (FRPO)*
- Pollution Probe*

ENGLP was given an opportunity to file any objections it might have in relation to the eligibility of the above-noted parties. ENGLP did not file any objections to the intervention requests.

This cost eligibility Decision is being issued by delegated authority under section 6 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

OEB FINDINGS

All parties that filed letters of intent with the OEB may file written questions and comments in this consultation.

¹ EB-2017-0129

The OEB has reviewed the requests for cost eligibility from parties to ensure that they are compliant with section 3 of the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#). All requests for cost eligibility are granted. Parties are reminded that any awards of costs will be dependent on the extent to which the parties' questions and submissions relate directly to ENGLP's GSPs and are within the scope of the consultation (i.e., to the extent the parties assess ENGLP's GSPs against the guiding principles and criteria outlined in the Gas Supply Framework).

The OEB expects that parties will coordinate their activities to the extent possible in order to increase efficiency and minimize costs. The OEB also reminds parties to be mindful of section 6 of the [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#) with respect to cost eligible claims and specifically, section 6.05 regarding cost eligible representatives.

A decision and order on cost awards will be issued at the end of the consultation. The OEB reminds parties that the maximum hours allocated for each activity are per party. As provided in the Appendix A of the Initiation Letter², cost awards will be available for the following activities:

ACTIVITY	TOTAL ELIGIBLE HOURS PER PARTY
Review of GSP update and written questions	Up to a maximum of 7 hours
Written comments on gas supply plan	Up to a maximum of 4 hours

DATED at Toronto, June 17, 2021

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President
Applications Division

² Initiation Letter to Review Annual Update to Five-Year Natural Gas Supply Plan, May 18, 2021