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Energy
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DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2021-0004

**Consultation to Review Annual Update to Natural
Gas Supply Plan of Enbridge Gas Inc.**

By Delegation, Before: Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President
Applications Division

October 5, 2021

OVERVIEW

On February 19, 2021, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) initiated a consultation to review the annual update to the five-year natural gas supply plan of Enbridge Gas Inc. in accordance with the gas supply plan assessment process established in the OEB's [*Report of the Ontario Energy Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans*](#) (Gas Supply Framework).¹

The February 19, 2021 letter noted that costs awarded will be recovered from Enbridge Gas as it is the only gas distribution utility participating in this review.

In its Decision on Cost Award Eligibility and Procedural Order dated March 16, 2021, the OEB determined that Anwaatin Inc. (Anwaatin), Building Owners and Managers Association, Greater Toronto (BOMA), Canadian Manufactures & Exporters (CME), Consumers Council of Canada (CCC), Environmental Defence (ED), Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario (FRPO), Industrial Gas Users Association (IGUA), London Property Management Association (LPMA), Northwestern Ontario Chambers of Commerce Coalition (NWCOC Coalition)*², Ontario Sustainable Energy Association (OSEA), Pollution Probe and School Energy Coalition (SEC) would be eligible for an award of costs for participation in this conference (eligible participants).

OEB staff issued a final report to the OEB on August 3, 2021. On August 18, 2021, the OEB issued its Notice of Hearing on Cost Awards, in which it set out the process for eligible participants to file their cost claims, for Enbridge Gas to raise any objections to the claims, and for eligible participants to respond to any objections raised by Enbridge Gas.

The OEB received cost claims from Anwaatin, BOMA, CME, CCC, ED, FRPO, IGUA, LPMA, NWCOC Coalition, OSEA, Pollution Probe and SEC. On September 8, 2021, Enbridge Gas filed a letter stating that it had no objections to the cost claims. In its kick-off letter dated February 19, 2021, the OEB set the maximum number of cost-eligible hours for each activity that could be claimed by cost-eligible participants. The maximum hours for the stakeholder conference would be the actual attendance time.

¹ EB-2017-0129, October 25, 2018.

² Includes Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce and Chambers of Commerce of Northwestern Ontario.

Findings

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

The OEB has determined that the cost claims submitted by Anwaatin, BOMA, CME, CCC, IGUA, LPMA, NWCOC Coalition, OSEA, Pollution Probe and SEC are in accordance with the overall limits set out in the OEB's Notice dated February 19, 2021.

The OEB notes that the actual duration of the Stakeholder Conference was 10.2 hours. The cost claims submitted by ED and FRPO exceed the maximum number of hours for this category. The OEB will not award costs to any cost-eligible party for hours that exceed the actual duration of the Stakeholder Conference. Accordingly, the hours claimed by ED and FRPO that are in excess of 10.2 hours for the activity "Attendance at Stakeholder Conference" will be reduced. Based on the proportion of the total hours for ED, Kent Elson's time has been reduced by 0.2 hours from 2.5 to 2.3 hours (\$52 plus \$6.76 HST) and Amanda Montgomery's time has been reduced by 0.9 hours, from 8.8 to 7.9 hours (\$148.50 plus \$19.31 HST). The OEB has reduced FRPO's cost claim by 0.3 hours, from 10.5 to 10.2 hours (\$99 plus \$12.87 HST). No additional adjustments have been made to the cost claims of FRPO and ED.

The OEB finds that the claims of Anwaatin, BOMA, CME, CCC, IGUA, LPMA, NWCOC Coalition, OSEA, Pollution Probe and SEC and the adjusted claims of ED and FRPO are reasonable and shall be reimbursed by Enbridge Gas Inc.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, Enbridge Gas Inc. shall immediately pay the following amounts to the eligible participants for their costs:

• Anwaatin Inc.	\$5,881.65
• Building Owners and Managers Association, Greater Toronto	\$7,386.36
• Canadian Manufactures & Exporters	\$2,036.26
• Consumers Council of Canada	\$7,364.78
• Environmental Defence	\$5,443.21
• Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario	\$12,753.18
• Industrial Gas Users Association	\$7,420.71
• London Property Management Association	\$5,511.00

• Northwestern Ontario Chambers of Commerce Coalition	\$9,110.06
• Ontario Sustainable Energy Association	\$9,071.64
• Pollution Probe	\$10,720.88
• School Energy Coalition	\$4,886.12

2. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, Enbridge Gas Inc. shall pay any OEB costs of, and incidental to, this conference immediately upon receipt of the OEB's invoice.

DATED at Toronto October 5, 2021

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President
Applications Division