



Ontario
Energy
Board | Commission
de l'énergie
de l'Ontario

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2021-0147

ENBRIDGE GAS INC.

**Application for natural gas distribution rates and other charges
effective January 1, 2022**

BEFORE: **Allison Duff**
 Presiding Commissioner

Patrick Moran
 Commissioner

David Sword
 Commissioner

November 25, 2021

OVERVIEW

Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) filed an incentive rate-setting mechanism application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on June 30, 2021, seeking approval for changes to its natural gas distribution rates to be effective January 1, 2022.

The OEB granted the following parties intervenor status and cost award eligibility:

- Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)
- Consumers Council of Canada (CCC)
- Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe)
- Environmental Defence
- Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario (FRPO)
- Industrial Gas Users Association (IGUA)
- London Property Management Association (LPMA)
- Pollution Probe
- Ontario Association of Physical Plant Administrators (OAPPA)
- Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers (OGVG)
- School Energy Coalition (SEC)
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)

On October 28, 2021, the OEB issued its Decision on Settlement Proposal and Interim Rate Order in which it set out the process for intervenors to file their cost claims, for Enbridge Gas to raise any objections to the claims and for intervenors to respond to any objections raised by Enbridge Gas.

The OEB received cost claims from BOMA, CCC, Energy Probe, Environmental Defence, FRPO, IGUA, LPMA, Pollution Probe, OGVG, SEC and VECC. By email, OAPPA indicated that it would not file a cost claim. On November 12, 2021, Enbridge Gas filed a letter stating that it had no objections to the cost claims.

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 will approve the cost claims as filed, with the exception of FRPO. The OEB reduces FRPO's total cost claim by four hours plus HST, from 25 to 21 hours. All issues were settled by all parties to the settlement proposal and the OEB finds that FRPO's cost claim is not commensurate with the cost claims of the other intervenors.

The OEB has considered the total quantum of approved costs of approximately \$65,000 in the context of the overall effort by cost-eligible intervenors, the significance of the issues in the application, the procedural steps taken and most importantly, the financial impact to consumers associated with the OEB's decision in this proceeding and is of the view that it is reasonable.

The OEB finds that the claims of BOMA, CCC, Energy Probe, Environmental Defence, IGUA, LPMA, Pollution Probe, OGVG, SEC and VECC and the adjusted claim of FRPO are reasonable and each of these claims shall be reimbursed by Enbridge Gas.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

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

• Building Owners and Managers Association	\$5,253.48
• Consumers Council of Canada	\$5,593.50
• Energy Probe Research Foundation	\$7,912.95
• Environmental Defence	\$3,805.84
• Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario	\$7,830.90
• Industrial Gas Users Association	\$6,921.25
• London Property Management Association	\$5,742.66
• Pollution Probe	\$6,973.23
• Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers	\$3,801.32
• School Energy Coalition	\$5,715.54
• Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition	\$5,916.78

DATED at Toronto November 25, 2021

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Christine E. Long
Registrar