

BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

March 11, 2022

**TO: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Utilities
All Licensed Gas Marketers
All Parties in the Review of the 2021 Annual Update to Enbridge Gas 5-Year
Gas Supply Plan (EB-2021-0004)
All Participants in the Consultation on the Review of Enbridge Gas Inc.'s
Five-Year Gas Supply Plan (EB-2019-0137)**

**RE: Consultation to Review Annual Update to Five-Year Natural Gas
Supply Plan of Enbridge Gas Inc.
Ontario Energy Board: EB-2022-0072**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is initiating a consultation to review Enbridge Gas Inc.'s (Enbridge Gas) Annual Update to its five-year natural gas supply plan (GSP). The OEB encourages participation in this consultation process by all interested parties.

The OEB's [*Report of the Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans*](#) (Framework) sets out the process for the review of gas utilities' five-year natural gas supply plans and the annual updates.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.

Enbridge Gas's 2022 Annual Update was filed on March 1, 2022, and covers the Enbridge Gas Distribution (EGD) and Union Gas rate zones. The initial five-year GSP was for the period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024 for the EGD rate zone and for the period of November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2024 for the Union Gas rate zones.² In response to Enbridge Gas's request to forego the Stakeholder Conference, the OEB did not review the 2020 Annual Update to the GSP. The OEB determined that a review which excluded the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic would not provide the required information or value to

¹ EB-2017-0129

² EB-2019-0137

stakeholders. Accordingly, it was determined to defer the examination of changes to the five-year GSP as part of the 2021 Annual Update.³

The current filing is the second Annual Update to the five-year GSP (excluding 2020) and addresses changes to the market outlook, planning and execution process, and integration updates. It is based on the 2021/22 GSP for the November 1, 2021, to October 31, 2026, period.

The consultation will include a review of the updates to the outlook section of the GSP, any significant changes from previous updates and a three-year historical comparison of actuals and outlook. This review does not include the assessment of EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership's (Aylmer and South Bruce franchise areas) annual update to its GSP. In line with previous years, EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership will file its annual update in May.

Consultation

As noted in the Framework, the review and assessment of the Annual Update will be carried out in a manner similar to the five-year GSP.

OEB staff and stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit written questions, which should be sent to Enbridge Gas and filed with the OEB by **April 14, 2022**.

In line with the review of annual updates in prior years, Enbridge Gas will address the written questions at a two-day transcribed Stakeholder Conference, details of which are set out below. The format of the conference will be determined at a later date. Information on how to participate will be provided to all parties in due course.

Stakeholder Conference:

Date: May 5-6, 2022

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: To be determined

Following the Stakeholder Conference, stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit written comments on Enbridge Gas's GSP by **May 24, 2022**.

³ EB-2020-0135, OEB kick-off letter dated July 6, 2020.

Enbridge Gas 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. Enbridge Gas is to file its written comments and/or revision statement by **June 9, 2022**.

Following the responses and any revisions to the GSP, OEB staff will prepare and file its recommendations. As set out in the Framework, following consideration of OEB staff's recommendations, the OEB may determine that a proceeding is required. Unless the OEB decides to hold a hearing to consider any component of the Annual Updates, the review process will conclude with OEB staff's recommendations.

Invitation to Participate

Those interested in participating should indicate their intent by filing a letter with the OEB by **March 25, 2022**, in accordance with the filing instructions set out below. The letter should include a statement as to whether the participant is requesting cost eligibility and whether the participant intends to participate in the Stakeholder Conference.

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 Enbridge Gas as it is the only gas distribution utility participating in this review.

Filings to the OEB in relation to cost award eligibility must be made in accordance with the filing instructions set out below.

Filing Instructions

Stakeholders 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-2022-0072**, for all materials filed and submit them in 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 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 the [File documents online page](#) on the OEB's website.
- Stakeholders are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet [set up an account](#), or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact registrar@oeb.ca for assistance.
- Cost claims are filed through the OEB's online filing portal. Please visit the [File documents online page](#) of the OEB's website for more information. All participants shall download a copy of their submitted cost claim and serve it on all required parties as per the [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar and be received by end of business, 4:45 p.m., on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must 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, **March 11, 2022**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar

Appendix A: Cost Awards

Appendix A

To Letter Dated March 11, 2022

EB-2022-0072

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 **March 25, 2022**. 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
- Whether specific costs for any separate expert submissions are requested, the scope of the retainer, and whether the person intends to combine with other stakeholders for this purpose

If the utility has any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections must be filed with the OEB by **April 4, 2022**. 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
Written questions	Up to a maximum of 10 hours
Preparation for the Stakeholder Conference	Up to a maximum of 2 hours
Attendance at Stakeholder Conference	Actual attendance time
Written comments on gas supply plan	Up to a maximum of 12 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](#).