

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS EB-2021-0146

Consultation to Review Annual Update to Natural Gas Supply Plans

BEFORE: Theodore Antonopoulos

Vice President, Applications Division

March 22, 2022

OVERVIEW

On May 18, 2021, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) announced that it was initiating a consultation to review the annual update to the natural gas supply plans (GSPs) of EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (ENGLP) in keeping with the gas supply plan assessment process contemplated in the OEB's <u>Report of the Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans</u> (Gas Supply Framework).¹

In accordance with the Gas Supply Framework, ENGLP filed the annual update to its GSPs (for both the Aylmer and South Bruce service territories) on April 30, 2021.

Based on the criteria set out in section 3 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*, the OEB determined that the following parties are eligible for an award of costs:

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

In its letter dated May 18, 2021, the OEB established that costs awarded will be recovered from ENGLP as it is the only gas distribution utility participating in this review.

On February 9, 2022, the OEB issued its Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards in relation to activities for the consultation.

The OEB received cost claims from FRPO and Pollution Probe. On February 25, 2022, ENGLP stated that it had no objections to the cost claims.

Findings

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

The OEB finds that the cost claims of FRPO and Pollution Probe are reasonable and shall be reimbursed by ENGLP.

¹ EB-2017-0129

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

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

Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario

\$3,542.55

• Pollution Probe

\$4,101.90

DATED at Toronto March 22, 2022

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi Registrar