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DECISION AND ORDER ON COST ELIGIBILITY AND COST AWARDS

EB-2021-0246

Integrated Resource Planning Technical Working Group

**By Delegation Before: Kevin Mancherjee
Director, Operations Decision Support**

August 23, 2022

OVERVIEW

This Decision and Order provides the OEB's determinations on cost eligibility and cost awards regarding Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Working Group activities from January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022.

The OEB's July 22, 2021, [Decision and Order](#) established an IRP Framework for Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge). Integrated resource planning involves consideration of both traditional facility solutions and alternative supply- or demand-side solutions to meet Enbridge's identified natural gas system needs. The IRP Framework provides direction on the OEB's requirements for IRP for Enbridge.

The Decision and Order required the OEB to establish an IRP Technical Working Group (Working Group) led by OEB staff, to provide input on IRP issues that will be of value to both Enbridge in implementing IRP, and to the OEB in its oversight of the IRP Framework. The Working Group is expected to support an efficient and transparent implementation of this initial phase of the IRP Framework.

On October 19, 2021, the OEB issued a [letter](#) initiating the formation of the Working Group. This letter indicated that cost awards will be available under Section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* to eligible persons in relation to their participation in the Working Group, based on the criteria set out in the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#), including analyst/consultant fees that are in accordance with the OEB's tariff. The letter also indicated that OEB staff would provide guidance as necessary regarding the maximum number of hours and eligible activities that may be claimed.

The initial membership of the Working Group was announced in a [letter](#) of December 6, 2021. A [Terms of Reference](#) for the Working Group was issued by the OEB on February 17, 2022, which further indicated that maximum cost claims would be set based on meeting hours (with a default maximum cost award of 2.0 times meeting time to take into consideration preparation and follow-up time) and volume of documentation to review in preparation for or between meetings (where the maximum incremental cost award will vary). Additionally, as stated in the Terms of Reference, individual Working Group members or a subset of Working Group members may agree to take on additional tasks, and, with approval from the OEB, will be eligible to claim cost awards for the time to complete those additional tasks.

On June 30, 2022, the OEB issued its Notice of Hearing for Cost Eligibility and Cost Awards in which it set out the process for cost claims. The Notice also stated that costs awarded will be in relation to eligible IRP Working Group activities that occurred from

January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022, and defined the maximum number of hours that could be claimed for each eligible activity. Each Working Group member filing a cost claim was requested to identify the grounds on which the member 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*).

The OEB received cost claims from Working Group members from DNV Energy Insights USA, Inc.; Energy Futures Group; DR Quinn & Associates Ltd; ICF Consulting Canada Inc. and Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation. No objections to any aspects of the cost claims were received from natural gas distributors.

Findings

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

The OEB has determined that all participants filing cost claims meet the criteria set out in the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* and are therefore eligible for cost awards (Eligible Participants). The OEB finds that the claims are reasonable and within the maximum number of hours eligible for cost awards. The OEB approves cost awards for the Eligible Participants as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Tamara Kuiken, DNV Energy Insights USA, Inc. | \$8,763.15 |
| • Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group | \$6,435.00 |
| • Dwayne Quinn, DR Quinn & Associates Ltd | \$10,254.75 |
| • John Dikeos, ICF Consulting Canada Inc. | \$5,570.90 |
| • Jay Shepherd, Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation | \$9,695.40 |

The OEB has apportioned the approved cost awards within the class of rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on customer numbers.

Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amount payable by each rate-regulated natural gas distributor in relation to costs awarded to each Eligible Participant is listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order. However, the amounts will not be paid directly by the rate-regulated natural gas distributors to the Eligible Participants.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of the Practice Direction on Cost Awards to implement the payment of the approved cost awards whereby the OEB will

act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards. Consistent with this process, each Rate-regulated Utility is issued one invoice that covers all cost awards payable for the relevant period. As a result, the invoice may cover cost awards payable in relation to a number of proceedings and consultations, including this proceeding.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Each rate-regulated natural gas distributor in Schedule A to this Decision and Order shall make a payment to the OEB in accordance with the invoice referred to in paragraph 1. The payment shall be due at the same time as all other cost assessments under section 26 of the OEB Act.

DATED at Toronto August 23, 2022

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar

Schedule A

OEB's Decision and Order on Cost Awards

EB-2021-0246

Gas Distributor, Transmitter, Storage Company	DNV Energy Insights USA, Inc.	Energy Futures Group	DR Quinn & Associates Ltd.	ICF Consulting Canada Inc.	Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation	Cost Awards
Enbridge Gas Inc.	8,737.79	6,416.38	10,225.08	5,554.78	9,667.34	40,601.37
EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership	25.36	18.62	29.67	16.12	28.06	117.83
Gas Distributor, Transmitter, Storage Company Total	8,763.15	6,435.00	10,254.75	5,570.90	9,695.40	40,719.20