

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership

**Application for natural gas distribution rates beginning
January 1, 2023**

**PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 3
November 7, 2022**

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (EPCOR) filed an incentive rate-setting mechanism application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on July 18, 2022 under section 36 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B) seeking approval for changes to the rates that EPCOR charges for natural gas distribution in its Southern Bruce service area, beginning January 1, 2023.

Procedural Order No. 1 was issued on August 26, 2022, which made provision for interrogatories, submissions and a reply submission.

On September 27, Procedural Order No. 2 was issued which bifurcated the application into two phases: Phase 1 addressed all issues excluding the Customer Volume Variance Account (CVVA) issue and Phase 2 addresses the CVVA issue.

For Phase 2 of the proceeding, the OEB granted intervenor status to all OEB-approved intervenors in EPCOR South Bruce's 2019-2028 Custom IR proceeding. The School Energy Coalition and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition filed letters noting their intention to participate in Phase 2 of the proceeding. The OEB also made provision for interrogatories and a settlement conference.

On September 28, 2022, EPCOR filed a letter stating that a settlement could not be reached and, with support from the intervenors, recommended the next steps for the proceeding. The recommended next steps include EPCOR filing additional evidence, interrogatories and a potential technical conference if determined by the parties to be beneficial. The OEB accepts the next steps for the proceeding as recommended by EPCOR and the intervenors. The OEB is also establishing a schedule for the argument phase of the proceeding.

It is necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. Further procedural orders may be issued by the OEB.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. EPCOR shall file additional evidence on the CVVA issue by **November 14, 2022**.
2. OEB staff and intervenors shall request any relevant information and documentation from EPCOR for the CVVA issue that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **November 24, 2022**.
3. EPCOR shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on OEB staff and all intervenors by **December 5, 2022**.
4. A half-day transcribed technical conference is tentatively scheduled on **December 9, 2022** beginning at 9:30 a.m. Information on how to participate in the conference will be communicated at a later date. OEB staff and intervenors shall file a shared letter advising whether a technical conference would be beneficial no later than **December 7, 2022**.
5. EPCOR shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all undertakings from the technical conference and serve them on all intervenors by **December 16, 2022**.
6. EPCOR shall file its argument-in-chief with the OEB and send to all parties by **January 9, 2023**.
7. Any written submissions by OEB staff and intervenors shall be filed with the OEB and served on EPCOR by **January 27, 2023**.
8. Any reply submissions by EPCOR, shall be filed with the OEB by **February 10, 2023**.

Parties are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB, such as applicant and intervenor evidence, interrogatories and responses to interrogatories or any other type of document, **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-2022-0184** 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.

- Parties 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, Arturo Lau at Arturo.Lau@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Michael Millar at Michael.Millar@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca
Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

DATED at Toronto, **November 7, 2022**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar