



DECISION ON COST AWARD ELIGIBILITY

EB-2023-0111

EPCOR NATURAL GAS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

**Consultation to Review EPCOR's Natural Gas Supply Plan:
Aylmer's 2023 Annual Update and South Bruce's 2023-2025
Natural Gas Supply Plan**

By Delegation, Before: Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President
Applications

June 9, 2023

INTRODUCTION

On May 16, 2023, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) announced that it was initiating a consultation to review EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership's (EPCOR) natural gas supply plans in accordance with the gas supply plan assessment process contemplated in the OEB's [Report of the Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans](#) (Gas Supply Framework).¹

In accordance with the Gas Supply Framework, EPCOR filed its Gas Supply Plans (GSPs) on May 1, 2023. EPCOR filed its 2023 annual update for its Aylmer franchise area and its 2023-2025 GSP for its South Bruce franchise area.

Parties interested in participating in the consultation were asked to indicate their intent by filing a letter with the OEB by May 29, 2023. If EPCOR had any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections were to be filed with the OEB by June 5, 2023.

Pollution Probe requested to participate in the consultation and sought approval for cost eligibility. EPCOR did not file an objection.

This cost eligibility Decision is being issued by delegated authority under section 6 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

OEB FINDINGS

The OEB has reviewed Pollution Probe's request for cost eligibility to ensure that it is compliant with section 3 of the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#). Pollution Probe's request for cost eligibility is granted. Pollution Probe is reminded that any awards of costs will be dependent on the extent to which its questions and written comments relate directly to EPCOR's GSPs and are within the scope of the consultation (i.e., to the extent Pollution Probe assesses EPCOR's GSPs against the guiding principles and criteria outlined in the Gas Supply Framework).

The OEB reminds Pollution Probe that the maximum hours allocated for each activity are per party. As provided in Appendix A of the Initiation Letter², cost awards will be available for the following activities:

¹ EB-2017-0129

² [Initiation Letter to Review Annual Update to Natural Gas Supply Plan, May 16, 2023](#)

ACTIVITY	TOTAL ELIGIBLE HOURS PER PARTICIPANT
Review of GSP and submission of written questions, if any	Up to 8 hours
Review of responses and written comments on GSP, if any	Up to 5 hours

A decision and order on cost awards will be issued at the end of the consultation.

DATED at Toronto, June 9, 2023

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President
Applications Division