



Ontario
Energy
Board

Commission
de l'énergie
de l'Ontario

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2021-0246

**Integrated Resource Planning Technical Working
Group**

By Delegation Before: Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President
Applications Division

September 27, 2023

OVERVIEW

This Decision and Order provides the OEB's determination on cost awards regarding the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Working Group activities from January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023. The IRP Working Group, led by OEB staff, provides input on IRP issues that will be of value to both Enbridge Gas in implementing IRP, and to the OEB in its oversight of the IRP Framework.

The OEB issued two prior Decisions and Orders on Cost Awards in this proceeding:

- August 23, 2022, Decision and Order on Cost Eligibility and Cost Awards for activities from January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022
- March 13, 2023, Decision and Order on Cost Awards for activities from July 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022

On July 31, 2023, the OEB issued its Notice of Hearing on Cost Awards, setting out the cost claim process. The Notice also stated that costs awarded will be in relation to eligible IRP Working Group activities that occurred from January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023, and defined the maximum of hours that could be claimed for each eligible activity.

The OEB received cost claims from DNV Energy Insights USA Inc., DR Quinn & Associates, Energy Futures Group, ICF Consulting Canada Inc. and Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation. No objections were received.

Findings

The OEB has reviewed the cost claims filed to ensure they are compliant with the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* (Practice Direction). For all participants that filed cost claims, the OEB has previously determined that these participants meet the criteria set out in the OEB's Practice Direction 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:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • DNV Energy Insights USA, Inc. | \$6,712.20 |
| • DR Quinn & Associates | \$15,102.45 |
| • Energy Futures Group | \$8,580.00 |
| • ICF Consulting Canada Inc. | \$6,717.85 |
| • Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation | \$16,556.76 |

The OEB finds that the approved costs will be recovered and apportioned amongst all rate-regulated natural gas distributors in the same manner as under the OEB's Cost Assessment Model.

Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amount payable by each rate-regulated natural gas utility 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 utilities to the eligible participants.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of the Practice Direction 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 invoice will be sent out at the same time as the invoices for cost assessments under section 26 of the OEB Act are sent out, and payment will be due at the same time that cost assessments are due.

The OEB makes payment to each eligible participant once 80% of the costs have been recovered by the OEB.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Each rate-regulated natural gas utility listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order will receive an invoice from the OEB that includes the total costs set out in Schedule A. The payment shall be due at the same time as all other cost assessments under section 26 of the OEB Act.

DATED at Toronto September 27, 2023

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President
Applications Division

Schedule A

OEB's Decision and Order on Cost Awards

EB-2021-0246

Gas Distributor, Transmitter, Storage Company	DNV Energy Insights USA, Inc.	DR Quinn & Associates Ltd.	Energy Futures Group	ICF Consulting Canada Inc.	Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation	Total Costs
Enbridge Gas Inc.	\$6,690.33	\$15,053.24	\$8,552.04	\$6,695.96	\$16,502.82	\$53,494.39
EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership	\$21.87	\$49.21	\$27.96	\$21.89	\$53.94	\$174.87
Gas Distributor, Transmitter, Storage Company Total	\$6,712.20	\$15,102.45	\$8,580.00	\$6,717.85	\$16,556.76	\$53,669.26
Grand Total	\$6,712.20	\$15,102.45	\$8,580.00	\$6,717.85	\$16,556.76	\$53,669.26