



Ontario | Commission
Energy | de l'énergie
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DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2022-0184

EPCOR NATURAL GAS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP (SOUTH BRUCE)

Application for Rates to be effective January 1, 2023 (Phase 2)

BEFORE: Emad Elsayed
Presiding Commissioner

Allison Duff
Commissioner

January 5, 2024

OVERVIEW

This is a decision of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on cost claims filed with respect to an incentive rate-setting mechanism application filed by EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (EPCOR) on July 18, 2022, for changes to the rates that EPCOR charges for natural gas distribution in its Southern Bruce service territory effective January 1, 2023.

In Procedural Order No. 2 issued on September 27, 2022, the OEB determined it would be appropriate to bifurcate the application into two phases. Phase 1 would address the price cap adjustment and request for deferral and variance account disposition and Phase 2 addressed the Customer Volume Variance Account (CVVA) issue. Intervenors in EPCOR's 2019-2028 Custom IR proceeding were approved as intervenors in this proceeding and their cost award eligibility was extended accordingly. The School Energy Coalition (SEC) and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) were approved as intervenors and eligible for a cost award on that basis.

The OEB issued its Decision and Order with respect to the Phase 1 issues on November 3, 2022 and its Decision and Order with respect to the CVVA issue on April 6, 2023. As the final step in this proceeding, the OEB issued an Accounting Order on October 26, 2023 which set out, among other things, the process for addressing cost awards for Phase 2. Cost claims were due no later than November 9, 2023.

Cost claims were filed by SEC and VECC.

EPCOR filed a letter with the OEB on November 17, 2023 confirming they had no objections to those cost claims.

Findings

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

The OEB finds that the cost claims are reasonable and shall be reimbursed by EPCOR.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, EPCOR shall promptly pay SEC and VECC the following amounts for their costs:

- School Energy Coalition \$10,686.42
- Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition \$11,061.81

DATED at Toronto January 5, 2024

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar