

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2023-0111

EPCOR NATURAL GAS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

**Consultation to Review the 2023 Annual Update to EPCOR
Natural Gas Limited Partnership's 2019-2024 Aylmer Natural Gas
Supply Plan and new Three-Year Natural Gas Supply Plan for
South Bruce (2023-2025)**

**By Delegation, Before: Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President, Applications**

February 15, 2024

OVERVIEW

On May 16, 2023, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a [letter](#) that initiated a consultation to review the 2023 Annual Update to EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership's (EPCOR) 2019-2024 Aylmer Natural Gas Supply Plan and a new Three-Year Natural Gas Supply Plan for South Bruce (2023-2025).

The letter invited interested stakeholders to file a request to participate and to indicate in their letter if cost eligibility is required. Cost eligible participants were allowed the following activities:

- 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

On June 9, 2023, the OEB issued its Decision on Cost Award Eligibility, granting Pollution Probe's request for participant status and cost eligibility.

On November 19, 2019, the OEB issued its Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards in which it set out the process for Pollution Probe to file its cost claim, for EPCOR to object to the claim and for any reply from Pollution Probe.

EPCOR noted that Pollution Probe's cost claim of 13.25 hours is over the 13-hour maximum allowed in OEB's Initiation Letter.¹ Pollution Probe in response stated there was an additional phase in the proceeding and that Pollution Probe coordinated with OEB staff in the additional phase which warranted a 0.25-hour overage.

Findings

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

The OEB approves Pollution Probe's cost claim. The OEB recognizes that Pollution Probe has gone over the maximum hours as set out in the Initiation Letter and there was some coordination between Pollution Probe and OEB staff for the extended process. However, Pollution Probe is cautioned that without prior approval, intervenors should not be making claims for going over the maximum allowed hours.

¹ OEB Initiation Letter, May 16, 2023, Appendix A

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, EPCOR shall promptly pay \$4,940.93 to Pollution Probe for its costs.

DATED at Toronto February 15, 2024

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President, Applications