

BY E-MAIL

February 15, 2024

**To: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All Participants in EB-2021-0246**

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Integrated Resource Planning Technical Working Group
Board File No.: EB-2021-0246**

The OEB is initiating a hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards for eligible Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Working Group activities from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Background

The OEB's July 22, 2021 [Decision and Order](#) established an Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Framework for Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge). Integrated resource planning involves consideration of both traditional facility solutions and alternative supply- or demand-side solutions to meet Enbridge's identified natural gas system needs. The IRP Framework provides direction on the OEB's requirements for IRP for Enbridge.

The Decision and Order required the OEB to establish an IRP Technical Working Group (Working Group) led by OEB staff, to provide input on IRP issues that will be of value to both Enbridge in implementing IRP, and to the OEB in its oversight of the IRP Framework. The Working Group is expected to support an efficient and transparent implementation of this initial phase of the IRP Framework.

The OEB has previously issued three decisions on cost awards for Working Group activities covering the period January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Cost awards are available under Section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* to eligible persons in relation to their participation in the Working Group, based on the criteria set out in the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#), including analyst/consultant fees that are in accordance with the OEB's tariff. OEB staff provides guidance as necessary regarding

any additional hours and eligible activities that may be claimed in addition to the base hours and eligible activities outlined in the Working Group's [Terms of Reference](#) (see Appendix A to this Notice). Costs awarded are recovered from all rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

Notice of Hearing

The OEB is initiating this hearing on its own motion in order to determine the cost awards that will be made in accordance with section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to eligible IRP Working Group activities that have occurred from July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. The maximum number of hours and eligible activities for this period are outlined in Appendix A of this Notice.

The OEB intends to proceed by way of a written hearing unless a party can satisfy the OEB that there is a good reason for not holding a written hearing. If a party wants to object to a written hearing, the objection must be received by the OEB no later than **7 days** after the date of this Notice.

Assuming that the OEB does not receive any objections to a written hearing, the hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. Working group members filing cost claims shall submit their cost claims by March 7, 2024. The cost claim must be filed with the OEB and one copy is to be sent by email to each rate-regulated natural gas distributor. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).
2. Natural gas distributors will have until March 21, 2024 to object to a request for cost awards or any aspect of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the OEB and one copy must be sent by email to the person against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. The person whose cost claim was objected to will have until March 28, 2024 to file with the OEB a reply submission as to why its cost claim should be allowed. One copy of the reply submission is to be sent by email to the objecting natural gas distributor.
4. The OEB will then issue its decision on cost awards. The OEB's costs may also be addressed in the cost awards decision.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards. The OEB will therefore act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process.

How to File Materials

Stakeholders are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB **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-2021-0246** 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 on the [File documents online page](#) on the OEB's website.
- Stakeholders 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 now 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 at the address below 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, Michael Parkes at michael.parkes@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

Tel: 1-877-632-6273 (Toll free)

If you do not participate in the hearing by filing materials in accordance with this Notice, the OEB may proceed without your participation and you will not be entitled to further notice in this proceeding.

DATED at Toronto, February 15, 2024

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President, Applications

Attachment – Appendix A

Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards Dated February 15, 2024**Integrated Resource Planning Working Group (EB-2021-0246)****Appendix A: Integrated Resource Planning Working Group Consultation Activities for Which Cost Claims may be Filed and Maximum Number of Hours**

Item Number	Activity	Date	Maximum Hours¹
1	Meeting #28	October 3, 2023	4.0
2	Meeting #29	October 17, 2023	4.0
3	Meeting #30	October 31, 2023	4.0
4	Meeting #31	November 28, 2023	4.0
5	Meeting #32	December 12, 2023	4.0
6	Member review/comments of Enbridge Gas draft DCF+ Guide and spreadsheet ²	N/A	4.0
7	Individual member discussion with Enbridge Gas	July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023	6.0 ³

¹ Per the direction in the Working Group Terms of Reference, maximum eligible hours for each meeting are set at 2.0 times actual meeting time. Working Group members who were unable to attend a meeting are eligible to claim up to 50% of the maximum eligible hours for a given meeting, to account for preparation, follow-up, and review of meeting materials.

² Review of these materials was a discussion item at Working Group meetings; however, members may allocate additional time used to review and comment on these materials to this activity, if needed.

³ This will cover any discussions Enbridge wishes to have with members outside of Working Group meetings (this time could be used by the Working Group member for discussion with Enbridge and/or research/preparation for such discussions) in the time period from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. It may also be possible for a member to include such time commitments as part of the typical meeting preparation activity (see footnote 1), but this provides an additional option when more than a short follow-up is needed.