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Energy
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DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2021-0246

**Integrated Resource Planning Technical
Working Group**

By Delegation Before: Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President
Major Applications

April 11, 2024

OVERVIEW

This Decision and Order provides the OEB's determination on cost awards regarding the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Working Group activities from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 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 three prior cost award decisions 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
- September 27, 2023, Decision and Order on Cost Awards for activities from January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

On February 15, 2024, the OEB issued its Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards (Notice). The Notice stated that cost awards would be available for eligible participants under Section 30 of the *OEB Act, 1998* and that costs awarded would be recovered from all rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

Cost-eligible participants were allowed to claim the following activities:

1. Meeting #28 on October 3, 2023 – Up to a maximum of 4 hours
2. Meeting #29 on October 17, 2023 – Up to a maximum of 4 hours
3. Meeting #30 on October 31, 2023 – Up to a maximum of 4 hours
4. Meeting #31 on November 28, 2023 – Up to a maximum of 4 hours
5. Meeting #32 on December 12, 2023 – up to a maximum of 4 hours
6. Member Review/comments of Enbridge Gas draft DCF+ Guide and spreadsheet – Up to a maximum of 4 hours
7. Individual member discussion with Enbridge Gas – July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 – Up to a maximum of 6 hours

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

Findings

The OEB has reviewed the claims filed to ensure that they are compliant with the 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 cost 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.	\$3,542.55
• DR Quinn & Associates Ltd.	\$7,458.00
• Energy Futures Group	\$4,125.00
• ICF Consulting Canada Inc.	\$4,587.80
• Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation	\$10,888.68

Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amount payable by each rate-regulated natural gas distributor 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 natural gas distributors 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 natural gas distributor 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 *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998, 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 natural gas distributor 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 Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998.

DATED at Toronto April 11, 2024

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President
Major Applications

Schedule A

Decision and Order on Cost Awards

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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 Cost Awards
Enbridge Gas Inc.	3,531.01	7,433.70	4,111.56	4,572.85	10,853.20	30,502.32
EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership	11.54	24.30	13.44	14.95	35.48	99.71
Gas Distributor, Transmitter, Storage Company Total	3,542.55	7,458.00	4,125.00	4,587.80	10,888.68	30,602.03
Grand Total	\$3,542.55	\$7,458.00	\$4,125.00	\$4,587.80	\$10,888.68	\$30,602.03