

EB-2024-0111

Enbridge Gas Inc.

Application to change its natural gas rates and other charges beginning January 1, 2024

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 7 September 26, 2024

Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) under section 36 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998, S.O. 1998, c. 15 (Schedule B), seeking approval for changes to the rates that Enbridge Gas charges for natural gas distribution, transportation and storage, beginning January 1, 2024. The OEB is currently reviewing the second of three phases of the application.

Settlement Conference Extension

A settlement conference commenced on September 10, 2024, and continued until September 20.

On September 23, 2024, Enbridge Gas filed a letter on behalf of all parties in the settlement conference, requesting the settlement conference continue the week of October 7, following the OEB's Cost of Capital hearing (EB-2024-0063). The letter indicated that "parties have made substantial progress in engaging on the full range of issues in the case, and believe that with the benefit of more time, there is a fair prospect of making real progress towards a meaningful settlement."

The parties proposed providing the OEB with an update on the progress of settlement discussion by October 11, 2024.

The OEB accepts the request by parties to extend the settlement conference. The settlement conference shall resume on **October 7**, **2024**. Enbridge Gas shall inform the OEB of the status of settlement discussions including whether a tentative agreement has been reached by **October 11**, **2024**.

A new procedural schedule is set out below for the filing of the settlement proposal by Enbridge Gas and any submission from OEB staff on the settlement proposal, if a settlement is reached among the parties.

Hearing on any Unsettled Issues

In case a full settlement is not reached, the OEB is setting a date for the commencement of a hybrid (in-person and virtual) hearing. The first day of the hearing will be **November 19, 2024**. Further details will be provided in due course.

Enbridge Gas Reply Evidence

By letter dated September 13, 2024, Enbridge Gas advised that the settlement negotiations have delayed the filing of its reply evidence to Exhibit M3: Evidence of Pacific Economics Group titled "Empirical Research for Enbridge Gas IR" (originally due September 16, 2024).

Enbridge Gas shall file its reply evidence by **November 4, 2024**. Any interrogatories on Enbridge Gas's reply evidence must be filed by **November 8, 2024**. Enbridge Gas shall file responses to any interrogatories by **November 14, 2024**.

It is necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. Further procedural orders may be issued by the OEB.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

Settlement Conference

- 1. The settlement conference will resume on **October 7**, **2024**, starting at 9:30 a.m.
- 2. No later than **October 11, 2024**, Enbridge Gas shall inform the OEB, by letter, of the status of the settlement discussions including whether a tentative agreement has been reached.
- 3. If a settlement is reached among the parties, Enbridge Gas shall file the settlement proposal, and send a copy to all intervenors, by November 1, 2024. In addition to outlining the terms of any settlement, the settlement proposal should contain a list of any unsettled issues.
- 4. Any submission from OEB staff on the settlement proposal shall be filed with the OEB and sent to all parties by **November 12, 2024**.

Hybrid Hearing

5. The OEB will convene a hybrid hearing on any unsettled issues at the OEB's hearing room at 2300 Yonge Street, 25th floor, Toronto, starting at 9:30 a.m. on **November 19, 2024.**

Enbridge Gas Reply Evidence

- 6. Enbridge Gas shall file its reply evidence with the OEB and copy all intervenors by **November 4, 2024**.
- 7. OEB staff and intervenors shall request any relevant information that is in addition to the evidence filed by Enbridge Gas, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **November 8, 2024**.
- 8. Enbridge Gas shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on OEB staff and all intervenors by **November 14, 2024**.

Parties are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB, such as applicant and intervenor evidence, interrogatories and responses to interrogatories or any other type of document, **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 <u>Rules of Practice and Procedure</u>.

Please quote file number, **EB-2024-0111** for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the <u>OEB's online filing portal</u>.

- 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 <u>Regulatory Electronic Submission System (RESS)</u> <u>Document Guidelines</u> found at the <u>File documents online page</u> on the OEB's website.
- Parties are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet <u>set up an account</u>, or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact <u>registrar@oeb.ca</u> for assistance.
- Cost claims are filed through the OEB's online filing portal. Please visit the <u>File</u> 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 <u>Practice Direction on Cost Awards</u>.

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, Khalil Viraney, at Khalil.Viraney@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Ian Richler, at Ian.Richler@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

DATED at Toronto, **September 26, 2024**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi Registrar