



Ontario
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DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2022-0295

Natural Gas Demand Side Management

Stakeholder Advisory Group

Evaluation Advisory Committee

By Delegation Before: Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President
Major Applications

March 5, 2025

OVERVIEW

This Decision and Order provides the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) determinations on cost awards regarding natural gas demand side management (DSM) Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) and Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) activities from May 1, 2024, to November 30, 2024.

The DSM SAG is tasked with providing input on the OEB's natural gas conservation potential study and on Enbridge Gas Inc.'s (Enbridge Gas) DSM plan for the 2026-2030 term. The EAC is tasked with providing input on DSM program evaluation related activities.

On December 19, 2024, the OEB issued its Notice of Hearing for Cost Eligibility and Cost Awards (Notice), setting out the cost claim process. The Notice indicated in the September 3, 2024 Decision and Order on Cost Awards, eligible participants who met the criteria set out in the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* were approved for SAC and EAC activities from November 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024. The Notice also indicated that cost awards would be made available for eligible participants under Section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* in relation to their participation in the DSM SAG and EAC and the defined maximum hours that could be claimed for each eligible activity. Costs awarded would be recovered from all rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues.

The OEB received cost claims from the following participants:

- Daniel Violette, Apex Analytics LLC
- Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group
- Erika Lontoc, Erika Lontoc Consulting
- Ted Weaver, First Track Consulting Services (Sunshine Bay Energy Consulting)
- Francis Wyatt, Green Energy Economics Group
- Katherine Johnson, Johnson Consulting Group
- Dr. Ted Kesik, University of Toronto
- Robert Wirtshafter, Wirtshafter Associates Inc.

On January 17, 2025, Enbridge Gas filed a letter noting they had reviewed the submissions and had no objections to the cost claims.

Findings

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

The OEB has determined that all participants filing cost claims meet the criteria set out in the Practice Direction and are therefore eligible for cost awards. 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:

• Daniel Violette, Apex Analytics	\$12,292.50
• Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group	\$23,842.50
• Erika Lontoc, Erika Lontoc Consulting	\$39,154.55
• Ted Weaver, First Track Consulting Service (Sunshine Bay Energy Consulting)	\$13,051.53
• Francis Wyatt, Green Energy Economics Group	\$33,330.00
• Katherine Johnson, Johnson Consulting Group	\$17,572.50
• Ted Kesik, University of Toronto	\$32,175.00
• Robert Wirtshafter, Wirtshafter Associates Inc.	\$27,472.50

The OEB also approves an amount to \$36,626.58, inclusive of DSM evaluation consultant costs, for recovery of the OEB's costs of and incidental to this consultation from rate-regulated natural gas distributors.

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 distributor to the eligible participant.

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 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.

To address the OEB's costs, including consultant costs, the OEB will proceed by way of progress billing and invoice the distributors on an ad hoc basis. This will ensure timely billing for all parties as the OEB's evaluation activities included within this consultation process can span multiple financial years.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Each 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*.
2. Pursuant to section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, each electricity distributor shall pay the OEB's costs of, and incidental to, this proceeding immediately upon receipt of the OEB's invoice.

DATED at Toronto March 5, 2025

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	Daniel Violette, Apex Analytics LLC	Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group	Erika Lontoc, Erika Lontoc Consulting	Ted Weaver, First Track Consulting Service	Francis Wyatt, Green Energy Economics Group	Katherine Johnson, Johnson Consulting Group	Ted Kesik, University of Toronto	Robert Wirtshafter, Wirtshafter Associates Inc.	Cost Awards	OEB Cost	Total Cost
Enbridge Gas Inc	\$12,247.24	\$23,754.71	\$39,010.38	\$13,003.47	\$33,207.27	\$17,507.80	\$32,056.53	\$27,371.34	\$198,158.73	\$36,491.71	\$234,650.44
EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership	\$45.26	\$87.79	\$144.17	\$48.06	\$122.73	\$64.70	\$118.47	\$101.16	\$732.35	\$134.87	\$867.22
Gas Distribution Total	\$12,292.50	\$23,842.50	\$39,154.55	\$13,051.53	\$33,330.00	\$17,572.50	\$32,175.00	\$27,472.50	\$198,891.08	\$36,626.58	\$235,517.66