Enbridge Gas Inc.

Application for Multi-Year Natural Gas Demand Side Management Plan (2026-2030)

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 3 May 13, 2025

Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) filed a multi-year natural gas demand side management (DSM) plan application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on November 29, 2024 under section 36(1) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998, seeking approval for a new natural gas DSM policy framework effective January 1, 2026 and approval of a new multi-year DSM plan, inclusive of budgets, programs and targets, from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2030.

The OEB issued <u>Procedural Order No. 1</u> on March 4, 2025, which among other things, set out the schedule for establishing the issues list.

Enbridge Gas asked to put the application in abeyance pending the preparation of updated evidence in response to the Government of Canda's decision to set the federal carbon charge under the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Act* to zero effective April 1, 2025. Enbridge Gas proposed to file the updates no later than May 30, 2025. The OEB granted the request by letter dated March 24, 2025.

As part of the OEB's <u>Decision on Issues List and Procedural Order No. 2</u> issued on April 10, 2025, the OEB provided direction to Enbridge Gas on its abeyance request, including a requirement that Enbridge Gas report on its preparation of the updates by May 2, 2025.

Consistent with this direction, Enbridge Gas filed a letter on May 2, 2025. Enbridge Gas indicated it will file an update by May 30, 2025 that requests the OEB roll forward the approved 2023-2025 DSM Plan to the 2026 program year. Enbridge Gas seeks a Decision on its 2026 DSM activities by September 30, 2025 to avoid any program disruptions. Due to the delay in the proceeding required for it to update its evidence in response to the removal of the federal carbon charge, a final OEB decision is not expected until 2026.

Request to roll over approved 2023-2025 programs into 2026

Enbridge Gas noted that it will file its updated evidence seeking to roll forward the approved 2023-2025 DSM plan to the 2026 program year no later than May 30, 2025.

As part of Procedural Order No. 2, the OEB provided direction to Enbridge Gas on several items it expected would be addressed in its evidence update to be filed May 30, 2025. To consider the appropriateness of approving the continuation of the previously approved 2023-2025 DSM plan into 2026, in addition to the other items it was planning to address, Enbridge Gas must address the following items in its updated application:

- a) A clear description, detailed discussion of, and updated cost effectiveness data for the current DSM plan (including programs and offers) as it is being delivered in 2025.
- b) A discussion that clearly defines what aspects of its approved 2023-2025 DSM plan have changed, the reasons for the changes, the overall impact of those changes to annual budgets, targets and cost-effectiveness. If the 2023-2025 DSM plan has changed, Enbridge Gas must discuss how the updated plan continues to align with the initial approval and rationale for why an in-depth review may not be required. This includes changes to the residential program following the closure of the Government of Canada Greener Homes Program and the introduction of the joint residential program with the Government of Ontario. Enbridge Gas is expected to respond to the OEB's direction in section 4(b) of Procedural Order No. 2 as part of its update.
- c) The specific requests for proposals related to 2026 DSM activities, including any updated approvals required of the OEB, either to programs or direction in the OEB's DSM policy framework, with supporting rationale.
- d) A detailed discussion regarding how and when an updated multi-year DSM plan will be developed and filed.

The OEB provided additional direction in Procedural Order No. 2, including for Enbridge Gas to discuss considerations related to the social cost of carbon and to what extent the social cost of carbon should be considered, if at all, in relation to its new multi-year DSM plan following the removal of the federal carbon charge. The OEB also directed OEB staff to file the 2024 natural gas DSM achievable potential study so consideration can be given to how it informed Enbridge Gas's multi-year DSM plan. The OEB expects these areas to be addressed as part of the broader multi-year DSM plan update.

The OEB is making provision for the following procedural steps. Based on the review of Enbridge Gas's update filed by May 30, 2025, the OEB will provide additional procedural updates.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Enbridge Gas Inc. shall file its application update on or before **May 30, 2025** and inform the OEB if it anticipates any delays by **May 23, 2025**.

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-2024-0198** 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 registrar@oeb.ca for assistance.
- Cost claims are filed through the OEB's online filing portal. Please visit the <u>File documents online page</u> 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, Michael Bell at Michael.Bell@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Lawren Murray at Lawren.Murray@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

DATED at Toronto, May 13, 2025

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi Registrar