



BY E-MAIL

May 22, 2025

To: All Participants in EB-2024-0139

**Re: Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards
Consultation to Review 2024 Annual Update to Natural Gas Supply
Plan of EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership
OEB File No.: EB-2024-0139**

This notice invites eligible participants in the consultation to review the 2024 Annual Update to the Gas Supply Plans (GSPs) of EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (EPCOR) to submit cost claims for eligible activities.

Background

On June 13, 2024, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a [letter](#) that initiated a consultation to review EPCOR's New Five-Year Natural Gas Supply Plan for Aylmer and 2024 Annual update to Southern Bruce's 2023-2025 Gas Supply in accordance with the gas supply plan assessment process established in the OEB's [Report of the Ontario Energy Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans](#) (Gas Supply Framework).¹

In the June 13, 2024, letter, the OEB established a process for filing requests to participate and identified the activities that would be cost-eligible. The cost-eligible activities and the maximum hours are restated below:

ACTIVITY	TOTAL ELIGIBLE HOURS PER PARTICIPANT
Review of GSP & submission of written questions, if any	Up to a maximum of 8 hours
Review of responses and written comments on GSP, if any	Up to a maximum of 5 hours

¹ EB-2017-0129, October 25, 2018.

On July 11, 2024, the OEB issued its Decision on Cost Award Eligibility granting cost eligibility to Pollution Probe.

The OEB issued a Final OEB Staff Report on its review of the Annual Update to the GSPs of EPCOR on February 28, 2025.

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 consultation activities. The matter will be determined by an employee of the OEB who has been delegated this authority under section 6 of the Act. Costs awarded will be recovered from EPCOR.

The hearing will follow the process set out below.

1. Pollution Probe shall submit its cost claims by **June 4, 2025**. The cost claims must be filed with the OEB and served on EPCOR. The cost claims must be completed in accordance with section 10 of the OEB's [*Practice Direction on Cost Awards*](#).
2. EPCOR will have until **June 11, 2025**, to object to any aspect of the costs claimed. The objection must be filed with the OEB and served on the eligible party against whose claim the objection is being made.
3. Pollution Probe will have until **June 18, 2025**, to file a reply submission as to why its cost claim should be allowed. A copy of the reply submission must be filed with the OEB and served on EPCOR.
4. EPCOR shall pay the OEB's costs of and incidental to this proceeding upon receipt of the OEB's invoice.

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-2024-0139** 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 at 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 and be received by end of business, 4:45 p.m., on the required date.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)

DATED at Toronto, May 22, 2025

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Ritchie Murray
Acting Registrar