

EB-2025-0064

## Enbridge Gas Inc.

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

## DECISION ON CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 3 August 1, 2025

Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) filed an application on October 31, 2022, with the 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 third of the three phases of the application.

#### SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

A settlement conference will be held from **September 8 to 10, 2025**. No later than September 10, 2025, a letter from OEB staff shall be filed with the OEB indicating whether a tentative agreement has been reached or whether parties believe additional time is needed. OEB staff's settlement progress letter will be coordinated with the settlement conference facilitator.

The OEB will evaluate whether there is value in the settlement conference continuing based on the settlement progress letter.

The settlement conference will be limited to the issues on the approved Issues List for Phase 3 that relate to ratemaking, including rate harmonization, cost allocation and rate design. Non-ratemaking matters will be addressed following the settlement conference. Accordingly, the OEB has determined that Issues 13 (a) through (d)<sup>1</sup> of the Issues List

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Issue 13: Has Enbridge Gas identified and responded appropriately to all relevant OEB directions and Enbridge Gas commitments made in OEB proceedings (inclusive of any relevant directions arising from the OEB's pending decision on Phase 2), including those relating to:

a) an update on the Automated Metering Infrastructure pilot project;

b) a report on the steps that it has taken to achieve the capital reduction set out in the Phase 1 Decision:

c) reporting on the status of its responses to previous Integrated Resource Planning directions;

d) filing updated written marketing materials or reference materials aimed at customers, potential customers, HVAC contractors or builders that include or previously included energy comparison information;

will proceed directly to hearing and will not be canvassed in the settlement conference. For clarity, Issue 13 (e)<sup>2</sup> remains in scope for the settlement conference.

Following the settlement conference, the OEB will establish a hearing process to address any unsettled issues, including Issues 13 (a) through (d).

Given the collective scope and range of the interests represented by the intervenors, the OEB has determined that it is not necessary for OEB staff to attend or participate in the settlement conference, beyond administrative staff required to support the process. The OEB has also determined that it is not necessary for OEB staff to file submissions on any settlement proposal or on any unsettled issues in this proceeding.

### **POLLUTION PROBE MOTION**

Pollution Probe filed a motion on July 18, 2025 requesting that the OEB require Enbridge Gas to provide written responses to questions it refused to answer during the interrogatory and technical conference process. The motion also requested that the OEB confirm the scope of Issue 13, specifically regarding Integrated Resource Planning and Enbridge Gas's updated marketing materials.

Following the settlement conference, the OEB will also establish a process to address Pollution Probe's motion. The OEB notes that the requests outlined in Pollution Probe's motion relate to Issues 13 (a) through (d), which are excluded from the settlement conference. As such, the motion will not impact the settlement conference.

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY REQUEST**

On July 4, 2025, Enbridge Gas filed its responses to interrogatories. Enbridge Gas requested confidential treatment of hourly and task-specific pricing information from experts at Exhibit I.8.2-SEC-14, Attachment 2. Enbridge Gas stated that the information is presumptively considered to be confidential under the OEB's <u>Practice Direction on Confidential Filings</u>.

No party objected to Enbridge Gas's request.

#### **Findings**

The OEB finds that the redacted information at Exhibit I.8.2-SEC-14, Attachment 2 is commercially sensitive and grants Enbridge Gas's request for confidential treatment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Issue 13 (e): various cost allocation and rate design directives and commitments, including the study regarding interruptible rates.

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. A settlement conference will be convened on **September 8, 2025**, starting at 9:30 a.m. and will continue to **September 10, 2025**, if required. Further information on how to participate will be communicated to parties closer to the date.
- 2. No later than **September 10, 2025**, OEB staff shall file a letter informing the OEB of the status of the settlement discussions including whether a tentative agreement has been reached or if the parties propose to continue the settlement discussions.
- 3. If a settlement is reached between the parties, Enbridge Gas shall file the settlement proposal, and send a copy to all intervenors, by **October 2, 2025**. In addition to outlining the terms of any settlement, the settlement proposal should contain a list of any unsettled issues.

## **Confidentiality Request**

4. Enbridge Gas's request for confidential treatment of certain information in Exhibit I.8.2-SEC-14, Attachment 2. Enbridge Gas shall provide individuals that have signed and filed a Declaration and Undertaking with a revised unredacted version of I.8.2-SEC-14, Attachment 2.

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-2025-0064** 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 <a href="mailto:Khalil.Viraney@oeb.ca">Khalil.Viraney@oeb.ca</a> and OEB Counsel, Michael Millar, at <a href="mailto:Michael.Millar@oeb.ca">Michael.Millar@oeb.ca</a>, and Ian Richler, at <a href="mailto:Ian.Richler@oeb.ca">Ian.Richler@oeb.ca</a>.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

DATED at Toronto, August 1, 2025

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD** 

Ritchie Murray Acting Registrar