

**From:** Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 14, 2025 12:31 PM  
**To:** Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>  
**Cc:** Webmaster <Webmaster@oeb.ca>  
**Subject:** Redacted - Letter of Comment Submitted: EB-2025-0163

## LETTER OF COMMENT

### Comments:

Re: Objection to Enbridge Gas Inc. Application for 2026 Rate Changes - EB-2025-0163 Dear Commissioners, I am writing as a residential customer of Enbridge Gas Inc. to formally object to the proposed natural gas distribution rate increases effective January 1, 2026. These increases will create significant financial hardship for my family and countless others across Ontario. Primary Concerns Documented Pattern of Extreme Rate Volatility As a customer in the Union South Rate Zone, I have experienced devastating rate volatility that demonstrates the failure of current rate-setting mechanisms: July 2024 to July 2025: Rates increased 58.9 percent from 6.77 cents to 10.77 cents per cubic meter - Crisis period: Rates peaked at 29.84 cents per cubic meter in October 2022 - Ongoing instability: Rates have fluctuated wildly between 4.84 cents and 11.50 cents per cubic meter just in the past 18 months This extreme volatility makes budgeting impossible for families. My elderly parents cannot plan their heating costs when rates can increase nearly 60 percent year-over-year. The proposed automatic rate adjustment mechanism will only perpetuate this harmful instability. Failure of Mechanistic Rate Setting - The application describes the proposed increases as largely mechanistic - this is precisely the problem. Mechanistic rate setting ignores: - The documented 58.9 percent rate increase customers like me just experienced - The cumulative impact on families already struggling with cost-of-living pressures - The reality that my elderly parents on fixed pensions cannot absorb endless automatic increases - The lack of genuine accountability for Enbridge operational efficiency - The Price Cap IR mechanism approved for 2025-2028 appears designed to guarantee Enbridge revenue growth regardless of customer hardship or actual performance improvements. Additional Cost Factors Beyond the base rate increase, Enbridge seeks: - Z-factor treatment for Federal Carbon Charge working capital impacts - Miscellaneous Service Charge updates - Hydrogen gas rate rider adjustments - PREP unit rate updates These multiple cost additions compound the financial impact on consumers without clear justification of necessity or consumer benefit. Requested Actions I respectfully request that the OEB: - Suspend automatic rate increases until Enbridge demonstrates how they will protect customers from the extreme volatility we have already endured - Require affordability impact assessments that account for the documented 58.9 percent rate increases customers have recently experienced - Mandate rate stability mechanisms to prevent the devastating swings between 4.84 cents and 29.84 cents per cubic meter that make family budgeting impossible - Reject the Z-factor request for Federal Carbon Charge impacts - customers should not bear additional costs for Enbridge working capital management during a period of demonstrated rate instability Economic Reality - Documented Consumer Impact The rate data shows that Union South customers like myself have endured: - A 58.9 percent rate increase in just one year from July 2024 to July 2025 - Extreme volatility ranging from 4.84

cents to 29.84 cents per cubic meter over recent years - An average rate of 7.89 cents per cubic meter over the last 24 months, with current rates at 10.77 cents per cubic meter - well above average. My family cannot continue absorbing such dramatic increases while maintaining basic home heating. My elderly parents have already begun rationing heat to dangerous levels. Further automatic increases under the proposed IRM will force more families into energy poverty. I urge the Board to prioritize consumer protection and require Enbridge to demonstrate that these increases are truly necessary and that all reasonable alternatives have been exhausted. Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

**Name:** Braunson Yager

**Do you reside in the impacted service area?:** Yes