

Elson Advocacy

October 27, 2025

Ritchie Murray

Registrar/A
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700
Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1E4

Dear Mr. Murray

**Re: Enbridge Gas Inc. Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Pilot Project
Ontario Energy Board File Number: EB-2022-0335
Review Motion of IRP Pilot Project Decision: EB-2025-0124**

I am writing on behalf of Environmental Defence pursuant to Procedural Order No. 1 to make submissions on the next steps for this review motion. Environmental Defence submits that the proceeding should be closed by the OEB as question 1 is moot and questions 2 and 3 are not worthwhile exploring in light of the goals of adjudicative effectiveness and efficiency as they are almost certain to result in no change in the outcome and do not meet the threshold typically applied when administrative tribunals review their own decisions.

Question 1 is Moot

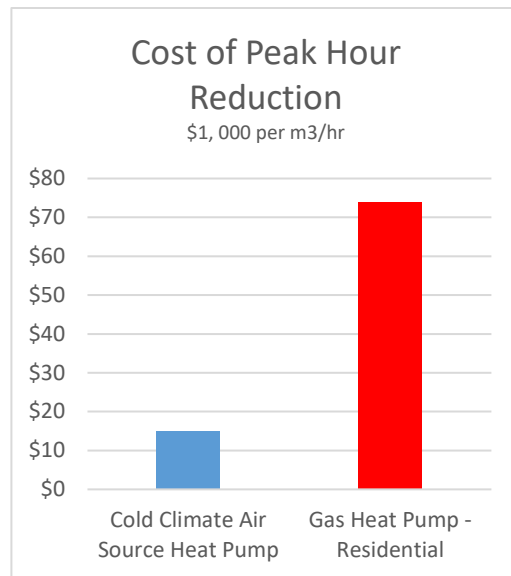
Question 1 is as follows: “By requiring the use of electricity-based IRPAs and/or excluding funding for gas-fired technologies, did the Decision alter the IRP Framework improperly, without notice to parties or providing them a full opportunity to address the issue during the hearing?” This question is moot due to the ongoing consultation into the IRP framework. There is no merit in exploring this question in this docket.

No Merit in Exploring Questions 2 and 2

Question 2 is as follows: “Was there sufficient evidence to support the categorical exclusion of funding for gas-fired technologies in the IRP Pilot?” There is no merit in exploring this question as it is extremely unlikely that the OEB will determine that the original decision was unreasonable with respect to the question posed. Presumably the Review Panel would not simply re-answer the question afresh, and would instead ask if the original panel’s analysis was within the range of reasonable decision, consistent with Supreme Court of Canada jurisprudence on the proper test to apply when reviewing a prior decision.¹ When applying this reasonableness test, it is extremely unlikely that the Review Panel would overturn the original panel’s decision on this question.

¹ *Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) v. Vavilov*, [2019 SCC 65](#).

Enbridge’s evidence in this proceeding clearly showed that reducing peak gas demand with a gas heat pump costs *five times* compared to an electric air source heat pump. This is shown in the figure to below.²



The cost of peak demand reductions is key in the integrated planning resource context as peak demand reductions are typically what is needed to avoid traditional infrastructure investments. In light of this extreme cost differential on the key metric of peak hour reductions, the decision of the original panel would appear to be not only within the range of reasonable decisions, but the correct decision.

Question 3 asks: “In assessing the cost-effectiveness of electric heat pumps versus gas-fired heat pumps—which formed part of the rationale for denying gas-fired heat pump funding—was there sufficient evidence of, and did the Decision adequately consider, the potential cost of any required electricity system upgrades?” There is no merit in exploring this question as it is extremely unlikely that the OEB will determine that original decision was unreasonable with respect to the issues explored in the question. There are two reasons for this.

First, Enbridge had the onus to justify the proposed spending on gas-fired heat pumps. If there was a lack of evidence, that lack of evidence cannot be used to support the spending on gas-fired heat pumps proposed by Enbridge.

Second, Enbridge’s own evidence in the DSM proceeding is that heat pump conversions generate electricity system cost *savings*. That is because cold climate heat pumps are more efficient than traditional air-conditioners and therefore result in summer peak electricity reductions.³ Although

² JT1.4 (calculation: total cost divided by m3/hr reduction).

³ EB-2024-0198, Technical Conference Transcript, July 24, 2025. (“K. ELSON: So column L talks about the summer peak capacity savings, and I take it that's reflecting the value of cold climate heat pumps in cooling more efficiently than what would otherwise be installed in a home? C. FERNANDES: That's correct. Over an assumed air conditioning baseline, there is an improvement because they act as more efficient in cooling mode than a baseline AC unit.”).

heat pumps increase the winter electricity peak, Enbridge anticipates that this will not result in additional electricity system costs while Ontario remains a summer-peaking jurisdiction, which it predicts will be the case until 2038.⁴

Threshold for OEB-Initiated Review

Furthermore, questions 2 and 3 are too detailed and specific to warrant an OEB review on its own initiative. An administrative tribunal will typically only pursue a review of its own decision on its own initiative in particularly important situations or where a previous decision is egregiously wrong. Although the OEB has not enacted a specific threshold for itself in the *OEB Rules of Practice and Procedure* for initiating a review of its own decisions, it presumably will be guided by best practices of other administrative tribunals. Question 1 could be considered to be sufficiently important as it is relevant to ongoing and future IRP activities. However, it is now moot, and questions 2 and 3 clearly do not meet the threshold typically applied by administrative tribunals in situations like this.

For those reasons, Environmental Defence asks that the OEB close this file such that it and the parties can focus their efforts on the IRP framework consultation.

Yours truly,



Kent Elson

⁴ EB-2024-0198, Exhibit D-1-1, Worksheet “EGI 2025 Avoided Costs”, Column AC.