

EB-2025-0065

## Enbridge Gas Inc.

### Application to review five-year gas supply plan

# DECISION ON CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 2 November 5, 2025

Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) filed a five-year gas supply plan with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on May 1, 2025. The five-year gas supply plan covers the period of November 1, 2025 to October 31, 2030. The application also includes Enbridge Gas's annual gas supply plan update for the 2024/2025 gas year.

#### WRITTEN VS. ORAL HEARING

As part of its cover letter to the undertaking responses from the technical conference, Enbridge Gas submitted that with a full record now available for all items on the issues list, there is no need for a further oral hearing process.

Enbridge Gas also stated that it is not aware of any specific concerns that other parties may raise regarding the issues and therefore, it is unclear if there is a benefit to Enbridge Gas filing an argument-in-chief. Enbridge Gas submitted that the most efficient process would be for OEB staff and intervenors to file written submissions setting out their positions followed by Enbridge Gas's reply submission.

Pollution Probe filed a letter stating that it is uncertain Enbridge Gas's approach will resolve all the items on the issues list. Pollution Probe submitted that there is required transparency and value in Enbridge Gas filing an argument-in-chief and that skipping this step would put parties in a position of guessing Enbridge Gas's position on the issues.

The Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario (FRPO) filed a letter submitting that an oral hearing is warranted to enhance an understanding of the complex nature of gas supply planning and its impacts on ratepayers. FRPO stated that the annual updates offered limited opportunities to adduce evidence and that this proceeding is the first opportunity for a full, rigorous review of the gas supply plan. FRPO further noted that issues related to risk management in load balancing and the methodology changes in demand forecasting would benefit from further discovery.

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Enbridge Gas filed a letter in response to FRPO. In that letter, Enbridge Gas maintained that the record is complete and regulatory efficiency favours proceeding with a written hearing. Enbridge Gas stated that no other party opposed a written hearing and that in its view, the issues raised by FRPO can be made in argument. Enbridge Gas also submitted that the design day methodology was resolved in Phase 1 of Enbridge Gas's 2024 Rebasing proceeding<sup>1</sup> and that it would not be appropriate to revisit it as part of this proceeding.

### **Findings**

The OEB finds that an oral hearing is not necessary in this case and will proceed by way of a written hearing.

The OEB has reviewed the submissions from Enbridge Gas, FRPO and Pollution Probe regarding the appropriate format for the remainder of the proceeding. The OEB agrees with Enbridge Gas that the evidentiary record is complete and that there is a sufficient basis upon which a decision can be made on all items set out in the issues list. The issues raised by FRPO can be appropriately addressed by way of written argument.

#### **NEXT PROCEDURAL STEPS**

The OEB directs Enbridge Gas to initiate the written argument phase by filing its argument-in-chief. This will assist the OEB and parties understand Enbridge Gas's position on each item in the issues list and will support parties in preparing their own submissions.

The OEB further directs Enbridge Gas to include proposed draft order language as part of its argument-in-chief (that is, specific wording for the order Enbridge Gas seeks).

The OEB invites OEB staff and parties to provide comments on the proposed language, once received, in their written submissions.

Enbridge Gas may then provide a written reply submission.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY REQUEST**

On September 4, 2025, Enbridge Gas filed its responses to interrogatories. Enbridge Gas requested confidential treatment of information related to the identification of counterparties and volume and pricing information at Exhibit I.4-SEC-9, Attachment 1.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> EB-2022-0200

Enbridge Gas stated that the information is presumptively considered to be confidential under the OEB's *Practice Direction on Confidential Filings*.

No party objected to Enbridge Gas's request.

### **Findings**

The OEB finds that the redacted information at Exhibit I.4-SEC-9, Attachment 1 is commercially sensitive and grants Enbridge Gas's request for confidential treatment.

The OEB is making provision for the following related to this proceeding. Further procedural orders may be issued by the OEB.

#### THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

- 1. Enbridge Gas's argument-in-chief shall be filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **November 25, 2025**.
- 2. Any written submissions from OEB staff and intervenors shall be filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **December 12, 2025**.
- 3. Any written reply submission from Enbridge Gas shall be filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **January 22, 2026**.
- 4. Enbridge Gas's request for confidential treatment of certain information in Exhibit I.4-SEC-9, Attachment 1 is granted. Enbridge Gas shall provide individuals that have signed and filed a Declaration and Undertaking with a revised unredacted version of Exhibit I.4-SEC-9, Attachment 1.

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**<sup>2</sup>, unless filed in accordance with rule 9A of the OEB's <u>Rules of Practice and Procedure</u>.

Please quote file number, **EB-2025-0065** 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 Regulatory Electronic Submission System (RESS)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> As defined in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.31

<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, Catherine Nguyen, at <a href="mailto:Catherine.Nguyen@oeb.ca">Catherine.Nguyen@oeb.ca</a> and OEB Counsel, 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, November 5, 2025

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD** 

Ritchie Murray Acting Registrar