



BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

December 19, 2025

To: Indigenous Communities and Indigenous Organizations Potentially Interested in Participating in the Gas-Electric Co-ordination and Information Sharing (EB-2025-0227) Consultation

Re: Gas-Electric Co-ordination and Information Sharing: Indigenous Engagement (EB-2025-0227)

What You Need to Know

- The OEB has initiated a consultation to set a framework to facilitate the sharing of natural gas and electricity planning information to support energy planning processes. The OEB is taking additional steps to encourage participation from Indigenous communities.
- The OEB is inviting Indigenous communities to an energy planning workshop on January 21, 2026.
- The consultation includes gas-electric co-ordination information sharing forum meetings. The OEB is inviting Indigenous communities to pre-engagement meetings ahead of these forum meetings.

On December 4, 2025, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a [letter](#) to initiate a consultation in response to the Minister of Energy and Mines' [directive](#) regarding the implementation of [Energy for Generations](#), the Government of Ontario's Integrated Energy Plan. The letter invited participants of the consultation to provide feedback on setting a framework to facilitate gas-electric information sharing by:

- Submitting written responses by February 16, 2026, to questions in a [discussion paper](#) that the OEB released on December 17, 2025.
- Participating in gas-electric co-ordination information sharing forum ("co-ordination forum") meetings that are tentatively scheduled to occur in January, March, April and May 2026.

The directive specifies that the OEB must encourage Indigenous communities, among others, to participate in the co-ordination forum. Therefore, the OEB is taking additional steps to encourage Indigenous communities to participate in this consultation. Specifically, the OEB is inviting Indigenous communities to attend:

- An energy planning workshop on January 21, 2026, to provide participants with an overview of the OEB, energy planning in Ontario and the gas-electric co-ordination information sharing project.
- Pre-engagement meetings ahead of each co-ordination forum meeting, tentatively scheduled to occur in March, April and May 2026. The exact dates and times for the co-ordination forum meetings and pre-engagement meetings will be communicated to registered participants later. The purpose of the pre-engagement meetings is for the OEB to consider feedback and questions from Indigenous communities in advance of the co-ordination forum meetings and to incorporate this feedback into the larger consultation approach. A pre-engagement meeting will not be held ahead of the January 2026 co-ordination forum meeting, because the workshop meets this purpose.

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants of the workshop and pre-engagement meetings.

Background

Electricity distributors, transmitters and natural gas distributors each develop discrete system plans. These plans include information such as demand forecasts and solutions for meeting anticipated demand to inform utilities' investment proposals. These plans are filed as evidence to support utilities' applications to the OEB, such as leave to construct and rate applications. The OEB has established some requirements for planning, such as filing requirements for electricity and natural gas rate applications, to ensure the consistency, completeness and rigour of electricity and natural gas plans. The OEB considers these plans in its decision-making to better understand the rationale and assess the prudence, among other objectives, of utilities' proposed investments.

Electricity and natural gas planning have primarily occurred in isolation in Ontario. However, there are increasing interplays between electricity and natural gas, highlighting the need for greater co-ordination between both sectors. Improved information sharing and co-ordination between electricity and natural gas planning (i.e., co-ordinated planning) is intended to ensure these interplays are considered appropriately.

The OEB is establishing a new gas-electric co-ordination information sharing forum to:

- Set the expectations for information sharing.
- Facilitate the sharing of technical information to support energy planning processes in the short term.
- Establish the use of consistent assumptions and scenarios in the medium term.

The co-ordination forum will be initiated on January 27, 2026. The OEB will report back to the Minister of Energy and Mines on progress, outcomes and modelling best practices by September 30, 2026.

Invitation to Participate

In its [letter](#) dated December 4, 2025, the OEB invited Indigenous communities, among others, to participate in the Gas-Electric Co-ordination and Information Sharing consultation. Now, the OEB is inviting Indigenous communities to participate in additional engagement activities: an energy planning workshop and pre-engagement meetings.

The deadline for interested parties to register for the gas-electric co-ordination information sharing consultation is January 5, 2026. The registration deadline has been extended for Indigenous communities to ensure they have adequate time to review this letter before deciding whether to register. Indigenous communities or their representatives who wish to participate in this consultation are requested to register by emailing registrar@oeb.ca by **January 9, 2026**. The original January 5, 2026, deadline remains in effect for non-Indigenous parties.

Indigenous communities or their representatives registered for this consultation will receive instructions for attending the workshop and pre-engagement meetings. Separate registrations for the workshop and pre-engagement are not required.

Please include in the email:

- Subject line: **"Gas-Electric Co-ordination and Information Sharing (EB-2025-0227)"**
- Organization/participant name and Indigenous community being represented
- Names of attendees
- Contact name, telephone number and email address
- Organization's/participant's interest and expertise in natural gas and electricity planning and gas-electric co-ordinated planning.
- Whether the organization/participant is making a request for costs eligibility.

Cost Award Matters

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants under section 30 of *the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. Detailed information regarding cost awards, including how to apply for cost eligibility and filing instructions is included in **Appendix A** to this letter. Costs will be recovered from **all rate-regulated electricity and natural gas utilities**.

Contact Information

We encourage stakeholders and Indigenous communities to register by emailing registrar@oeb.ca to be notified of future updates.

For questions regarding this consultation, please contact:

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

Phone: 1-888-632-6273 (toll-free)

Yours truly,

Ritchie Murray
Acting Registrar

Appendix A – Cost Award Matters

Cost Award Eligibility

The OEB will determine eligibility for costs in accordance with guidelines outlined in the [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#). Indigenous communities seeking to request an award of costs must submit a written request to the OEB by **January 9, 2026**, outlining the reasons they believe they qualify under Section 3 of the Practice Direction on Cost Awards, an explanation of any other available funding sources and the name and qualifications of any lawyer, analyst or consultant they intend to retain, if known.

All requests will be published on the OEB's website and any objections from rate-regulated electricity and natural gas utilities must be filed by **January 14, 2026**, with such objections also published on the OEB's website.

Costs awarded will be recovered from all rate-regulated electricity and natural gas utilities and the OEB will make a final decision on cost eligibility for each participant thereafter.

Eligible Activities

The activities eligible for cost awards are:

Activities Eligible for Cost Awards	Maximum number of Hours
Participation in energy planning workshop	Actual meeting time
Participation in pre-engagement meetings, plus preparation	Actual meeting time plus 1 hour

Further information regarding any subsequent consultation activities, such as dates for pre-engagement meetings, will be communicated later.

When calculating the amount of the cost awards, the OEB will adhere to the principles outlined in section 5 of its Practice Direction on Cost Awards. The maximum hourly rates set out in the Cost Awards Tariff will also be applied. The OEB expects that groups representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and co-ordinate their participation in this process. As per section 12 of its Practice Direction on Cost Awards, the OEB will serve as the central entity for all disbursements of cost awards in this process. For further details about this process, please refer to the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

How to File Materials

Participants in this consultation 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 submit comments to registrar@oeb.ca and quote file number **EB-2025-0227**.

- Please clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number and email address.
- Cost claims may be submitted to registrar@oeb.ca.

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