

April 28, 2026

**TO: All Participants in EB-2025-0125**

**RE: Next Steps - Integrated Resource Planning Framework Review for  
Enbridge Gas  
Ontario Energy Board File No.: EB-2025-0125**

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#### **What You Need to Know**

- **The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has concluded its consultation reviewing the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Framework for Enbridge Gas.**
- **The review focused on assessing IRP progress and impacts and identifying opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the IRP Framework.**
- **The OEB has determined that Enbridge Gas should file an updated IRP Framework for adjudicative review by August 31, 2026, taking into account the proposals and submissions made in the consultation.**

The OEB has concluded its consultation reviewing the [Integrated Resource Planning Framework](#) (Framework) for Enbridge Gas. The OEB has determined that Enbridge Gas should file an updated Framework for adjudicative review and that it will not provide additional guidance on the substance of the Framework updates. In drafting the updated Framework, Enbridge Gas should take into account the proposals and submissions made in the consultation.

#### **Background**

IRP is a planning strategy and process that considers both traditional infrastructure solutions (such as pipelines) and IRP alternatives (sometimes referred to as non-pipeline alternatives

in other jurisdictions). It is used to evaluate how these options interact to address the system needs of Enbridge Gas's regulated operations and identifies and implements the option that is in the best interest of Enbridge Gas and its customers. The Framework, issued in 2021, provides direction to Enbridge Gas as it considers IRP to meet its system needs.

On March 27, 2025, the OEB [announced](#) the launch of a consultation to support a review and evaluation of the Framework. On October 6, 2025, the OEB released a [staff discussion paper](#) (Paper) and, on October 22, 2025, hosted a virtual meeting to present the Paper and address questions from participants.

The Paper reviewed IRP progress and impacts to date, and proposed an incremental evolution of the existing Framework. It included specific OEB staff proposals for changes to the Framework, grouped in four topic areas:

- Update and oversight of the Framework
- Innovation
- Electrification as an IRP Alternative
- Other opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Framework

The Paper also included discussion questions on each topic and invited submissions from consultation participants.

Submissions were received from 14 participants, including Enbridge Gas, ratepayer and environmental groups, First Nations and electricity sector organizations. EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (EPCOR) participated in the consultation but did not file a submission.

All background and materials related to this consultation can be found on the OEB's [Integrated Resource Planning](#) project page on Engage with Us.

### **Procedural Approach for Updating the IRP Framework**

The existing Framework was established through an adjudicated Decision and Order for Enbridge Gas ([EB-2020-0091](#)).

The Framework applies only to Enbridge Gas but states that it should also be used as a resource to guide EPCOR when it examines infrastructure investments and potential alternatives. An issue considered in the Paper (as part of the topic area "Update and Oversight of the IRP Framework") was how updates to the Framework should be implemented, and whether the updated Framework should apply to all rate-regulated natural gas distributors (i.e., inclusive of both Enbridge Gas and EPCOR). The Paper

described three procedural options to update the Framework and invited participants to comment as to which option should be used:

1. Enbridge Gas drafting and filing an updated Framework for adjudicative review and approval (Enbridge Gas adjudicative proceeding).
2. OEB staff drafting and filing an updated Framework for adjudicative review and approval (generic proceeding or Enbridge Gas proceeding).
3. The OEB drafting and issuing a non-adjudicated updated Framework as a policy document (which may also be applicable to EPCOR).

### Participant Comments

Most participants, including Enbridge Gas, supported having any revisions to the Framework adjudicated, noting that this approach allows for meaningful input from participants, testing of proposals and maintaining continuity with the existing Framework. Most non-utility participants preferred that OEB staff draft the updates that would then be adjudicated. Enbridge Gas proposed that it draft and file an updated Framework, stating that this approach would facilitate a more efficient review process and enable seamless implementation following OEB approval.

With respect to the applicability of an updated Framework to EPCOR, Enbridge Gas took no position but noted that any differences in applicability, expectations or requirements among natural gas distributors should be clearly defined. EPCOR did not file a submission. Non-utility participants were relatively evenly divided between preferring an Enbridge Gas-only Framework or a Framework that would also apply to EPCOR.

### OEB Determination on Procedural Approach

The OEB has determined that the option of Enbridge Gas drafting and filing an updated Framework for adjudicative review and approval is appropriate, and that this should occur through an Enbridge Gas application. Therefore, as with the current Framework, the OEB expects that any updated Framework resulting from this proceeding will apply only to Enbridge Gas, although it could also be used as a resource to guide EPCOR. EPCOR is encouraged to participate in this proceeding.

On April 13, 2026, Enbridge Gas filed a [letter](#) indicating that, assuming a standard OEB adjudicative process is expected to follow the filing of a proposed updated Framework, Enbridge Gas is in a position to prepare and file its proposed updates to the Framework without any further guidance or direction from the OEB at this time. The OEB has determined that, with the exception of the guidance in the following paragraph, and

procedural guidance later in this letter regarding adjudicative review of any IRP Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan), it will not provide additional guidance on the substance of the Framework updates, as these will be the subject of adjudication.

By **August 31, 2026**, Enbridge Gas should file an application requesting approval of an updated Framework or request an extension beyond this date if circumstances warrant. In its application, Enbridge Gas should document how the proposals in the Paper and the submissions filed by participants were taken into account in the proposed updated Framework, including Enbridge Gas's rationale for rejecting or modifying proposals from OEB staff and participants. Enbridge Gas should also give consideration to portions of [Energy for Generations: Ontario's Integrated Plan to Power the Strongest Economy in the G7](#) that may be relevant to the matters at issue in the proceeding.

### **IRP Implementation Plan**

The Paper proposed that Enbridge Gas should be required to file a forward-looking Implementation Plan compatible with the updated Framework, also to be reviewed through adjudication. A related proposal in the Paper was that key supporting IRP policy/guidance documents that Enbridge Gas has developed to implement the Framework would be considered (explicitly or implicitly) in the Implementation Plan approval request. Enbridge Gas supported these proposals and indicated that the Implementation Plan should be filed and reviewed through a stand-alone proceeding separate from Enbridge Gas's rebasing applications.

### OEB Procedural Guidance on Review of IRP Implementation Plan

Based on Enbridge Gas's written comments in response to the Paper, the updated Framework drafted and filed for adjudicative review by Enbridge Gas will likely include requirements for an Implementation Plan. The OEB is of the view that the most efficient approach is likely for the Implementation Plan to be reviewed as a second phase in the forthcoming adjudicative proceeding, following a decision and order on updates to the Framework itself in the first phase.

For procedural effectiveness and efficiency, Enbridge Gas is encouraged to indicate in its initial application what supporting policy/guidance documents it expects will be considered in the OEB's subsequent review of the Implementation Plan, and how these interact with any proposed changes to the Framework itself.

**Cost Awards**

Cost awards related to this consultation are addressed in separate correspondence.

Any questions relating to this letter should be directed to Michael Parkes at [michael.parkes@oeb.ca](mailto:michael.parkes@oeb.ca). The OEB's toll free number is 1-877-632-2727.

**DATED** at Toronto, **April 28, 2026**

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Ritchie Murray  
Registrar