Ontario Energy Board | Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS

EB-2022-0295

Natural Gas Demand Side Management

Evaluation Advisory Committee

By Delegation Before: Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President, Natural Gas & Energy Integration

May 5, 2026

OVERVIEW

This Decision and Order provides the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) determinations on cost awards regarding natural gas demand side management (DSM) Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) activities from December 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025.

On August 21, 2015, the OEB issued a letter initiating a process to evaluate the results of Natural Gas DSM programs. As part of the OEB's evaluation process, an EAC, made up of experts representing both utility and non-utility stakeholders, was formed. In the OEB's letter issued December 8, 2022, outlining the process to renew the EAC, the OEB stated that cost awards would be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) in relation to their participation in the EAC. The OEB also determined that costs awarded would be recovered from all rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues. Following completion of the renewal process, the OEB finalized the updated EAC on March 1, 2023.

Based on the criteria set out in section 3 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*, the OEB determined that the following persons are eligible (the Eligible Participants) for an award of costs:

- Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group
- Daniel Violette, Apex Analytics LLC
- Katherine Johnson, Johnson Consulting Group
- Robert M. Wirtshafter, Wirtshafter Associates, Inc.

On March 12, 2026, Enbridge Gas confirmed that it had reviewed the cost claims submitted and did not raise any objections[1].

Findings

The OEB has reviewed the cost claims filed by the Eligible Participants to assess compliance with the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* and the applicable EAC governance documents.

The OEB finds that all cost claims meet the eligibility criteria set out in the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. The OEB further finds that the claimed costs are reasonable and within the maximum number of hours eligible for cost recovery, as adjusted.

[1] Enbridge Gas Cost Claim Submission

The OEB approves cost awards to the eligible participants as follows:

- Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group $9,154.50
- Daniel Violette, Apex Analytics LLC $13,193.25
- Katherine Johnson, Johnson Consulting Group $16,648.63[2]
- Robert M. Wirtshafter, Wirtshafter Associates, Inc. $8,705.75

Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amount payable by each rate-regulated natural gas distributor in relation to costs awarded to each Eligible Participant is listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order. However, the amounts will not be paid directly by the distributor to the Eligible Participant.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the approved cost awards whereby the OEB will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards. Consistent with this process, each distributor is issued one invoice that covers all cost awards payable for the relevant period. As a result, the invoice may cover cost awards payable in relation to a number of proceedings and consultations, including this proceeding.

To address the OEB's costs, including expert DSM evaluation consultant costs, the OEB will proceed by way of progress billing and invoice the distributors on an ad hoc basis. This will ensure timely billing for all parties as the OEB's evaluation activities included within this consultation process can span multiple financial years.

[2] Adjusted claim per Johnson Consulting Group correspondence

IT IS ORDERS THAT:

1. Each distributor listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order will receive an invoice from the OEB that includes the total costs set out in Schedule A. The payment shall be due at the same time as all other cost assessments under section 26 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998.

2. Pursuant to section 30 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, each distributor shall pay the OEB's costs of, and incidental to, this proceeding immediately upon receipt of the OEB's invoice.

DATED at Toronto May 5, 2026

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Ritchie Murray

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Ritchie Murray
Registrar

Schedule A

Decision and Order on Cost Awards

EB-2022-0295

Gas Distributor, Transmitter, Storage Company	Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group	Daniel Violette, Apex Analytics LLC	Katherine Johnson, Johnson Consulting Group	Robert Wirtshafter, Wirtshafter Associates Inc.	Cost Awards	OEB Cost	Total Cost Awards
Enbridge Gas Inc.	9,118.55	13,141.43	16,583.24	8,671.56	47,514.78	47,966.29	95,481.07
EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership	35.95	51.82	65.39	34.19	187.35	189.13	376.48
Gas Distributor, Transmitter, Storage Company Total	**9,154.50**	**13,193.25**	**16,648.63**	**8,705.75**	**47,702.13**	**48,155.42**	**95,857.55**
Grand Total	**$ 9,154.50**	**$ 13,193.25**	**$ 16,648.63**	**$ 8,705.75**	**$ 47,702.13**	**$ 48,155.42**	**$ 95,857.55**