

IN THE MATTER OF a generic proceeding commenced by
the Ontario Energy Board to review the natural gas Model
Franchise Agreement

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 3
July 16, 2026

On March 26, 2026, the Ontario Energy Board issued a Notice of Hearing and commenced a proceeding on its own motion under section 19 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, to conduct a limited review of the Model Franchise Agreement for natural gas.

On June 16, 2026, the Ontario Energy Board issued Procedural Order No. 2 in this proceeding which, among other things, approved an Issues List for this proceeding.

Further Submissions on the Issues List

On July 6, 2026, the intervenor Community Coalition filed a letter regarding the Issues List in this proceeding.¹ In its letter, Community Coalition noted its concern about “the interaction between the issues list decision and the standard approach in individual franchise agreement cases”.² Community Coalition stated that “[i]t would also be unfair to municipalities (and other parties) to rule that relevant issues, such as the appropriate agreement term and termination clauses, are out of scope of both the generic hearing...and individual hearings (due to the restriction on raising general issues that are not specific to a municipality in individual municipal franchise agreement hearings).”³

Findings

The Ontario Energy Board has considered the concern raised by Community Coalition and is making provision for the filing of submissions from the parties in this proceeding to address the proposed addition of issues related to a termination clause and the term of the agreement to the Issues List in this proceeding.

¹ Community Coalition Letter, dated July 6, 2026

² Ibid., p. 1.

³ Ibid.

Specifically, the Ontario Energy Board invites comments on whether the following two issues should be added to the Issues List:

- Is the current 20-year term within the Model Franchise Agreement appropriate?
- Is the inclusion of a termination clause within the Model Franchise Agreement appropriate?

In addition to any submissions that parties may file on the inclusion of these two issues, the Ontario Energy Board also encourages parties to indicate whether they intend to file evidence on these issues if they are added to the Issues List.

To accommodate for this additional procedural step, the procedural schedule as established in Procedural Order No. 2 is hereby suspended. The Ontario Energy Board intends to provide a revised procedural schedule and its decision on the Issues List matter in due course.

Evidence Requests & Procedural Suggestion Letters

Town of Cobourg, Municipal Group, City of Guelph, City of Ottawa, County of Simcoe, Municipality of Temagami, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Community Coalition, and Enbridge Gas filed letters outlining the evidence they wish to file in accordance with the deadline established in Procedural Order No. 2.

Minogi Corporation filed a letter outlining its evidence request on June 15, 2026, following the Ontario Energy Board's approval of an extension for Minogi Corporation to file its evidence proposal.⁴

Findings

The Ontario Energy Board will provide its decision on parties' evidence proposals after it has received submissions from the parties on the Issues List matter discussed above.

⁴ OEB Extension Letter, dated July 13, 2026.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Parties may file written submissions with the Ontario Energy Board regarding the addition of the following issues to the current Issues List:
 - Is the current 20-year term within the Model Franchise Agreement appropriate?
 - Is the inclusion of a termination clause within the Model Franchise Agreement appropriate?
2. Any submissions in this regard must be filed with the Ontario Energy Board and copied to all parties, by **July 30, 2026**.

Direction for preparing materials

- Parties must avoid the use of acronyms. Not everyone knows what an acronym means, even if it is common within a specific sector. Avoiding acronyms removes guesswork and ensures the meaning is immediately clear.
- Parties are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the Ontario Energy Board, such as applicant and intervenor evidence, interrogatories and responses to interrogatories or any other type of document, **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 Ontario Energy Board's [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#).
- Filings should clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number and e-mail address.
- Other than for applications or as otherwise required or directed by the Ontario Energy Board, parties are not required to submit a cover letter for materials that are self-evident (e.g., interrogatories, submissions) unless the cover letter includes a request or additional information not included in the materials themselves.
- Parties are strongly encouraged to use bookmarks in their filings to aid in navigation.
- Parties should not append to their evidence entire Ontario Energy Board documents (e.g., decisions, policy documents, guidelines). Rather, parties should provide citations to the documents and a clear and concise summary of the

relevant part(s) of the document. Parties are encouraged to use hyperlinks for complete, permanent, and publicly available versions of the documents, when possible.

- Parties should refrain from quoting material from documents unless it is essential to support their interrogatories or arguments.
- Parties are not required to provide a summary of the procedural history of a proceeding but may refer to that history where and to the extent needed for context to orient an issue or discussion.
- Pursuant to rule 9.03 of the Ontario Energy Board's [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#), parties must: (a) disclose where generative artificial intelligence was used to generate content included in a filing and (b) confirm that the accuracy of the portion of the filing generated by generative artificial intelligence has been verified by the party or its representative without the assistance of generative artificial intelligence.

How to file documents with the ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

- Parties are required to quote file number (i.e., **EB-2026-0009**) for all materials filed and submit them in **searchable/unrestricted PDF format** (i.e., no printing or copying restrictions) with a digital signature through the [Ontario Energy Board's online filing portal](#).
- Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the [Regulatory Electronic Submission System \(RESS\) Document Guidelines](#) found at the [File documents online page](#) on the Ontario Energy Board's website.
- Parties are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet [set up an account](#), or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact registrar@OEB.ca for assistance.
- Cost claims are filed through the Ontario Energy Board's online filing portal. Parties are encouraged to visit the [File documents online page](#) of the Ontario Energy Board's website for more information. Parties that are eligible for a cost award and that do not currently have an account in the cost claim portal should create an account as soon as their cost award eligibility has been confirmed. All parties shall download a copy of their submitted cost claim for the purposes of

service on the party(ies) paying cost awards as per the [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).

- All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar and be received by **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, Natalya Plummer at Natalya.plummer@OEB.ca and Board Counsel, Tobias Hobbins at Tobias.Hobbins@OEB.ca and Stephanie Pope at Stephanie.Pope@OEB.ca.

Email: registrar@OEB.ca

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

DATED at Toronto, **July 16, 2026**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Ritchie
Murray

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Date: 2026.07.16
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Ritchie Murray
Registrar