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

EB-2026-0149

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership

Application for natural gas distribution rates and other charges effective January 1, 2027

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1
September 18, 2026

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (EPCOR Natural Gas) filed a custom incentive rate-setting application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on July 31, 2026, under section 36(1) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, *1998*, seeking approval for changes to its natural gas rates in its Southern Bruce service area effective January 1, 2027.

The application will be heard by commissioners: David Sword (presiding), Allison Duff, and Julia McNally.

A Notice of Hearing was issued on August 24, 2026. School Energy Coalition (SEC) and Consumers Council of Canada (CCC) applied for intervenor status and eligibility to apply for an award of costs.

No objection was received from EPCOR Natural Gas.

Intervenors and Cost Awards

SEC and CCC are approved as intervenors and are eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards. The list of parties in this proceeding is attached as Schedule A. Cost eligible intervenors should be aware that the OEB will not generally allow the recovery of costs for the attendance of more than one representative of any party unless a compelling reason is provided when cost claims are filed.

Consistent with the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards, parties are reminded that, in determining the amount of a cost award, the OEB will consider (among other things) whether the cost eligible party has demonstrated through its participation and documented in its cost claim that it has made reasonable efforts to: (a) combine its intervention with that of one or more similarly interested parties and to co-operate with all other parties, and (b) ensure that its participation was not unduly repetitive and was focused on relevant and material issues.

Bifurcation

The OEB has determined it is appropriate to divide the application into two phases:

- Phase 1 will address all requested approvals in the application, except those related to the COVID-19 deferral account (Account 179)
- Phase 2 will address the approvals requested in relation to Account 179

The proposed disposition of Account 179 raises complex and material issues that will require additional review. These issues are likely to take longer to assess than the other matters raised in the application. EPCOR Natural Gas acknowledged this complexity in its application and indicated that it would be open to a bifurcated process if the OEB considered it appropriate.

The OEB finds that this phased approach could enable the adjudication of EPCOR Natural Gas's distribution rates prior to the proposed effective date of January 1, 2027. The OEB is directing EPCOR Natural Gas to file the bill impacts (and other related calculations) associated with its Phase 1 requests.

This Procedural Order sets out the procedural steps for Phase 1 of the proceeding. The OEB also requests that parties, in its Phase 1 submission, address whether it would be appropriate for the OEB to issue a decision on interim rates in Phase 1, pending the outcome of Phase 2, which will address Account 179.

Phase 2 of the proceeding will commence after the OEB issues its Phase 1 rate order.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. EPCOR Natural Gas shall file updated bill impacts, draft rate schedules, proposed customer notice and associated Excel workbooks, scoped to Phase 1 by **September 24, 2026.** If still applicable, details on a rate mitigation option shall also be included along with the associated updated bill impacts, draft rate schedules, proposed customer notice and Excel workbooks.

2. Pertaining solely to Phase 1, OEB staff and intervenors shall request any relevant information and documentation from EPCOR Natural Gas that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **October 9, 2026**.

3. Pertaining solely to Phase 1, EPCOR Natural Gas shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on OEB staff and all intervenors by **October 26, 2026**.

4. Pertaining solely to Phase 1, any written submissions by OEB staff and intervenors shall be filed with the OEB and served on EPCOR Natural Gas by **November 6, 2026.**

5. Pertaining solely to Phase 1, EPCOR Natural Gas may file a written reply submission with the OEB by **November 19, 2026.**

Direction for preparing materials

- 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** (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.
- Filings should clearly state the filing date and the sender's name, postal address, telephone number and e-mail address.
- Other than for applications or as otherwise required or directed by the OEB, 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 OEB 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.
- 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 OEB

- Parties are required to quote file number (i.e., **EB-2026-0149)** 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 OEB's online filing portal.
- Parties should 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 OEB'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 OEB's online filing portal. Parties are encouraged to visit the File documents online page of the OEB'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 by the OEB. 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, Randy Doradat at Randy.Doradat@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Michael Millar at Michael.Millar@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca
Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

DATED at Toronto, **September 18, 2026**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

By delegation, before: Ritchie Murray

Ritchie Murray

Digitally signed by Ritchie Murray
Date: 2026.09.18 15:46:54 -04'00'

Ritchie Murray
Registrar

Schedule A

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership

EB-2026-0149

Applicant and List of Intervenors

September 18, 2026

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership

EB-2026-0149

APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

September 18, 2026

APPLICANT	Rep. and Contact Information for Service
EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership	**Tim Hesselink** Associate Director, Regulatory Affairs, Ontario EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership Tel: 249-225-5104 thesselink@epcor.com
APPLICANT COUNSEL	
	Tayler Meagher Legal Counsel EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership Tel: 780-412-3720 tmeagher@epcor.com
INTERVENORS	**Rep. and Contact Information for Service**
Consumers Council of Canada	**Julie Girvan** Consultant Consumers Council of Canada Tel: 416-322-7936 jgirvan@uniserve.com
	Lawrie Gluck Consultant North End Consulting Inc. Tel: 647-222-7743 lawrie.gluck@northendconsulting.ca

EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership

EB-2026-0149

APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

September 18, 2026

Consumers Council of Canada	**Cori Ferguson** Consumers Council of Canada Tel: 416-483-2696 cori.ferguson@consumerscouncil.com
School Energy Coalition	**Mark Rubenstein** Counsel Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation Tel: 647-483-0113 mark@shepherdrubenstein.com
	Jay Shepherd Counsel Shepherd Rubenstein Professional Corporation Tel: 416-804-2767 jay@shepherdrubenstein.com
	Brian McKay Ontario Education Services Corporation Tel: 416-340-2540 SEC@oesc-cseo.org