



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

BY E-MAIL

June 13, 2024

**TO: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Utilities
All Licensed Gas Marketers
All Parties in EB-2018-0336 and EB-2018-0264
All Parties in the Review of the 2023 EPCOR Natural Gas Limited
Partnership's Gas Supply Plan (EB-2023-0111)**

**RE: Consultation to Review 2024 Annual Update to Natural Gas
Supply Plan of EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership
Ontario Energy Board File No.: EB-2024-0139**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is initiating a consultation to review EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership's (EPCOR) Annual Update to its natural gas supply plan (GSP). The OEB invites participation in this consultation process by all interested and affected parties.

The OEB's [Report of the Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans](#) (Framework) sets out the process for the review of gas distributors' GSPs and the Annual Updates.¹ The Framework was designed to introduce greater transparency, accountability and performance measurement to the review of GSPs to ensure that customers are receiving value from the distributors' gas supply activities.

The five-year (2020-2024) GSP for EPCOR Aylmer was first reviewed in the Aylmer franchise rates proceeding.² EPCOR South Bruce's three-year GSP (2023-2025) was first reviewed in 2023 alongside EPCOR Aylmer GSP's fourth Annual update.³

On May 31, 2024, EPCOR filed its five-year GSP for EPCOR Aylmer for the 2024-2028 period and its first Annual Update for EPCOR South Bruce 2023-2025 GSP pursuant to the Framework. The consultation will include a review of the updates to the outlook section of the GSP, any significant changes from the previous updates and a historical comparison of actuals and outlook.

¹ EB-2017-0129

² EB-2018-0336

³ EB-2023-0111

Consultation

OEB staff and stakeholders can submit written questions on EPCOR Aylmer's five-year GSP and EPCOR South Bruce's Annual Update. The written questions should be forwarded to EPCOR and filed with the OEB by **July 30, 2024**. EPCOR shall respond to the questions in writing by **August 15, 2024**.

Following the responses to the questions, stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit written comments on EPCOR's GSPs by **August 29, 2024**.

EPCOR will then have the opportunity to review the written comments and decide whether to: (i) provide written comments in response, and/or (ii) revise its plan and provide a revision statement that outlines any changes, together with the rationale for those changes. EPCOR shall file its written comments and/or revision statement by **September 12, 2024**.

Following the responses and any revisions to the GSP, OEB staff will prepare and file its recommendations. As set out in the Framework, following consideration of OEB staff's recommendations, the OEB may determine that a proceeding is required. Unless the OEB decides to hold a hearing to consider any component of the Annual Updates, the review process will conclude with the OEB's response to OEB staff's recommendations.

Invitation to Participate

Those interested in participating should indicate their intent by submitting an [Intervention Form](#) found on the OEB's website by **June 27, 2024**, in accordance with the filing instructions set out on the website.⁴

Cost Awards

Cost awards will be available to eligible persons under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for their participation in cost eligible activities as set out in Appendix A. Appendix A also contains information regarding cost eligibility requests and objections. Costs awarded will be recovered from EPCOR.

Filing Instructions

Stakeholders are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB **do**

⁴ https://www.oeb.ca/_html/intervenor/apply/

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 quote file number, **EB-2024-0139**, for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the [OEB's online filing portal](#).

- Filings should clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number and e-mail address.
- Please 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.
- Stakeholders 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. Please visit the [File documents online page](#) of the OEB's website for more information. All participants shall download a copy of their submitted cost claim and serve it on all required parties as per the [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).

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.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Arturo Lau at Arturo.Lau@oeb.ca. The Board's toll-free number is 1-888-632- 6273.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

DATED at Toronto, **June 13, 2024**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar

Appendix A: Cost Awards

Appendix A

To Letter Dated June 13, 2024

EB-2024-0139

COST AWARDS

Cost Award Eligibility

The OEB will determine eligibility for costs in accordance with its [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#). Any person intending to request an award of costs must file with the OEB through the [Intervention Form](#) by **June 27, 2024**. The submission must identify the following:

- The nature of the person's interest in this initiative
- The grounds on which the person believes that they are eligible for an award of costs (addressing the OEB's cost eligibility criteria as set out in section 3 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*)
- An explanation of any other funding to which the person has access
- The name and credentials of any lawyer, analyst or consultant that the person intends to retain, if known
- Whether specific costs for any separate expert submissions are requested, the scope of the retainer, and whether the person intends to combine with other stakeholders for this purpose

If the utility has any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections must be filed with the OEB by **July 4, 2024**. Any objections will be posted on the OEB's website. The OEB will then make a final determination on the cost eligibility of the requesting participants.

Eligible Activities

Cost awards will be available for the following activities:

ACTIVITY	TOTAL ELIGIBLE HOURS PER PARTICIPANT
Review of GSP & submission of written questions, if any	Up to a maximum of 8 hours
Review of responses and written comments on GSP, if any	Up to a maximum of 5 hours

Cost Award Amounts

The OEB will apply the principles set out in section 5 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* when awarding costs. The maximum hourly rates set out in the OEB's Cost Awards Tariff will be applied. The OEB expects that groups representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and coordinate their participation in this process.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards. Therefore, the OEB will act as a clearing house for all payments of cost awards in this process. For more information on this process, please see the OEB's [*Practice Direction on Cost Awards*](#).