



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

DECISION ON COST AWARD ELIGIBILITY

EB-2024-0139

EPCOR NATURAL GAS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

**Consultation to Review EPCOR's Natural Gas Supply
Plan: Aylmer's 2024-2028 Natural Gas Supply Plan and
South Bruce's 2024 Annual Update**

BY DELEGATION, BEFORE : Theodore Antonopoulos
Vice President
Major Applications

July 11, 2024

INTRODUCTION

On June 13, 2024, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) announced in its Initiation Letter¹ a consultation to review EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership's (EPCOR) natural gas supply plans (GSP) in keeping with the GSP assessment process contemplated in the OEB's *Report of the Board: Framework for the Assessment of Distributor Gas Supply Plans* ([Gas Supply Framework](#)).²

In accordance with the Gas Supply Framework, EPCOR filed its Gas Supply Plans (GSPs) on May 31, 2024. EPCOR filed its 2024-2028 GSP for its Aylmer franchise area and its 2024 annual update for its South Bruce franchise area.

Parties interested in participating in the consultation were asked to indicate their intent by filing the Intervention Form with the OEB by June 27, 2024. If EPCOR had any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections were to be filed with the OEB by July 4, 2024.

Pollution Probe requested to participate in the consultation and sought approval for cost eligibility. On June 28, 2024, EPCOR emailed the OEB indicating no objections to cost eligibility.

This cost eligibility Decision is being issued by delegated authority under section 6 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

OEB FINDINGS

The OEB has reviewed Pollution Probe's request for cost eligibility to ensure that it is compliant with section 3 of the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#). Pollution Probe's request for cost eligibility is granted. Pollution Probe is reminded that any awards of costs will be dependent on the extent to which its questions and written comments relate directly to EPCOR's GSPs and are within the scope of the consultation (i.e., to the extent Pollution Probe assesses EPCOR's GSPs against the guiding principles and criteria outlined in the Gas Supply Framework).

A decision and order on cost awards will be issued at a later date, typically at the end of the consultation. The OEB reminds Pollution Probe that the maximum hours

¹ [Initiation Letter to 2024 Review Annual Update to Natural Gas Supply Plan, June 13, 2024](#)

² EB-2017-0129

allocated for each activity are per party. As provided in Appendix A of the Initiation Letter, cost awards will be available for the following activities:

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

Filing Instructions

Stakeholders are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB **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](#).

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.

DATED at Toronto, July 11, 2024

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar