



Ontario  
Energy  
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**BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING**

March 27, 2025

**TO: All Rate-Regulated Natural Gas Distributors  
All Intervenors in the Integrated Resource Planning Proposal (EB-2020-0091), Integrated Resource Planning Pilot Project (EB-2022-0335), and Enbridge Gas Phase 3 Rebasing (EB-2025-0064) Proceedings  
IRP Technical Working Group Members and Observers  
All Other Interested Stakeholders**

**RE: Review and Evaluation of the Integrated Resource Planning Framework for Enbridge Gas  
OEB File Number: EB-2025-0125**

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The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is launching a consultation to support a review and evaluation of its [Integrated Resource Planning Framework for Enbridge Gas](#). The review will be informed by challenges and progress in implementing the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Framework, an assessment of the impacts to date of the IRP Framework (including benefits to ratepayers), the IRP Pilot Project application (EB-2022-0335), and IRP-related evidence and submissions received during the other proceedings.

## **Background**

On July 22, 2021, the OEB issued its [Decision](#) on Enbridge Gas' Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Proposal (EB-2020-0091) which established a first-generation [IRP Framework for Enbridge Gas](#). This Decision and the IRP Framework, among other things, provided direction to Enbridge Gas to consider IRP alternatives to traditional pipeline infrastructure to meet natural gas system needs. The OEB also established an IRP Technical Working Group to support the implementation of the IRP Framework.

## Consultation Scope

As part of the consultation, the OEB intends to consider several key items including:

- How the IRP Framework would be best constituted to allow for broad, flexible implementation that can adapt at a pace that supports innovation while providing regulatory certainty,
- The OEB's expectations and approach to oversight of innovation-related IRP proposals,
- Expectations for natural gas distributors regarding electrification as an IRP alternative, including how electricity availability issues should be considered if electrification is being proposed as an IRP alternative, and
- Opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Framework.

Other topics may also be considered during the consultation.

## Consultation Timelines

An OEB Staff report assessing progress implementing the IRP Framework and proposed updates to the IRP Framework are targeted for release in **September 2025**.

OEB staff will host a stakeholder meeting in **October 2025** to discuss the proposed updates and solicit verbal comments from stakeholders. Following this meeting, the OEB will provide stakeholders an opportunity to file written comments on the proposed updates. Further details regarding the meeting and written comment process will be provided alongside the release of the staff IRP Framework report.

## Participation

Stakeholders who intend to participate are asked to email [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca) by **May 2, 2025**. Emails should include "EB-2025-0125 Evaluation of the IRP Framework" in the subject line and provide the following information:

- Participant/organization name,
- Name(s) of attendees to be registered,
- A contact name, telephone number and email address, and
- If requesting cost awards, the information required by Appendix A.

### **Cost Award Matters and Filing Instructions**

Cost awards will be available to eligible participants under section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* for participation in the consultation. Costs awarded will be recovered from each rate-regulated natural gas distributor.

Information regarding cost awards and instructions for filing materials with the OEB is included in Appendix A to this letter.

Any questions relating to this letter should be directed to Michael Parkes at [michael.parkes@oeb.ca](mailto:michael.parkes@oeb.ca). The OEB's toll free number is 1-877-632-2727.

Yours truly,

Nancy Marconi  
Registrar

# Appendix A

## Cost Awards Matters and Filing Instructions

### 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 a written submission to that effect by **May 2, 2025**. The submission must identify the grounds on which the person believes that it is eligible for an award of costs (addressing the OEB's cost eligibility criteria as set out in section 3 of the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*). An explanation of any other funding to which the person has access must also be provided, as should the name and credentials of any lawyer, analyst or consultant that the person intends to retain, if known. All requests for cost eligibility will be posted on the OEB's website.

If any rate-regulated natural gas distributor has any objections to any of the requests for cost eligibility, such objections must be filed with the OEB by **May 16, 2025**. 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 persons.

### Eligible Activities

Details on activities eligible for cost awards will be provided at a later date.

### Cost Awards

When determining the amount of the cost awards, the OEB will apply the principles set out in section 5 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. The maximum hourly rates set out in the Cost Awards Tariff will also be applied. The OEB expects that groups representing the same interests or class of persons will make every effort to communicate and co-ordinate their participation in this process. In accordance with section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*, 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*.

### How to File Materials

All written materials sent to the OEB in response to this letter will be placed on the public record and posted on the OEB's website. If the written materials are from a private citizen (i.e., not a lawyer representing a client, not a consultant representing a client or organization, not an individual in an organization that represents the interests of consumers or other groups, and not an individual from a regulated entity), the OEB

will remove any personal (i.e., not business) contact information (e.g., address, phone number and e-mail address) before placing the materials on the public record and posting the materials on the OEB's website. However, your name and the entire content of your materials will be placed on the public record and posted on the OEB's website. If the written materials are from a person acting in a professional or business capacity, all information in the written materials will be publicly available.

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-2025-0125** 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](mailto: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.

Email: [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca)

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