

## **ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

**IN THE MATTER OF** the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, Sched. B, as amended;

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** an application by Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. for an order or orders approving its proposal for open billing services;

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** an application by Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. for an order or orders amending or varying the rates charged to customers for the sale, distribution, transmission, and storage of gas commencing as of January 1, 2019

### **APPLICATION**

1. The Applicant, Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. ("Enbridge" or the "Company"), is an Ontario corporation with its head office in the City of Toronto. It carries on the business of selling, distributing, transmitting and storing natural gas within Ontario.
2. Enbridge hereby applies to the Ontario Energy Board (the "OEB" or the "Board"), pursuant to section 36 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* as amended (the "Act"), for an Order or Orders approving its proposal for the financial terms associated with offering Open Bill Access ("OBA") services for 2019 and 2020, including the sharing of net revenues from those services with ratepayers. The approval sought in this Application relates to the Enbridge Gas rate zone, and not to the Union Gas rate zone.
3. In the EB-2011-0354 proceeding, the Company and interested parties (Billers and ratepayers groups) reached a full settlement of issues related to OBA services for 2013, which was approved by the OEB as Issue D11 within the

Amended Settlement Agreement and the Supplementary Settlement Agreement in that proceeding (the “2013 OBA Settlement”).

4. In the EB-2013-0099 proceeding, the Company and interested parties agreed to the continuation of the terms of the 2013 OBA Settlement, with some adjustments, for Enbridge’s 2014 to 2018 Custom IR term (the “2014 OBA Settlement”). The 2014 OBA Settlement was approved by the OEB in September 2013. Among other things, the 2014 OBA Settlement set out the pricing and costing for OBA services for 2014 to 2018, and continued the approach to sharing of net revenues with ratepayers (which includes an embedded \$5.389 million credit to ratepayers each year). The 2014 OBA Settlement also provided that Enbridge may continue to offer OBA services indefinitely (no future approvals are required).
5. Enbridge has recently updated its Open Bill Access Billing and Collection Services Agreement (“OBA Contract”) with its Billers. The amendments were made in accordance with the prescribed process set out in that agreement. A copy of the updated OBA Contract (which is provided for information purposes, and not for approval) is being filed with the pre-filed evidence.
6. The Company has determined that it wishes to continue OBA services in the Enbridge Gas rate zone beyond the end of 2018.
7. As part of the EB-2017-0306/0307 MAADs Application Decision and Order, the OEB approved the continuation of the embedded \$5.389 million credit to ratepayers each year during the deferred rebasing term (since that is part of the approved base rates for the Enbridge Gas rate zone) and the continuation of the OBA-related deferral and variance accounts. However, the pricing that will apply for OBA services and the costs to be used to determine net revenues was not addressed in the EB-2017-0306/0307 Decision and Order.

8. In this Application, Enbridge requests a two-year extension of the existing financial terms of the OBA program that are set out in the 2014 OBA Settlement. This means that the 2019 and 2020 prices for OBA services will continue to increase by inflation (Consumer Price Index) each year, to a maximum of 2.5% per year. The costs used to determine net revenues for the OBA program will be adjusted in the same way each of those years. The sharing of net revenues between Enbridge and ratepayers will continue in the same manner as set out in the 2014 OBA Settlement.
9. Enbridge is not yet in a position to propose a longer extension of the OBA program, because there are several unknown items at this time. These include the impacts of integration of Enbridge and Union Gas (including the potential integration or updating of customer billing services), as well as the impacts of the OEB's proposed changes to customer service rules for gas distribution companies (EB-2017-0183). Enbridge expects to file a proposal related to the continuation of OBA services beyond December 2021 after some of these unknown items are more clear.
10. Enbridge therefore applies to the Board for such final and interim Orders and deferral and variance accounts as may be necessary to implement its proposal for OBA services. The Company further applies to the Board pursuant to the provisions of the Act and the Board's *Rules of Practice and Procedure* for such final and interim Orders and directions as may be necessary in relation to the Application and the proper conduct of this proceeding.
11. The persons affected by this Application are Billers under the OBA program and Enbridge's customers. It is impractical to set out the names and addresses of these persons because they are too numerous.

12. Enbridge Gas Distribution requests that a copy of all documents filed with the Board by each party to this proceeding be served on the Applicant and the Applicant's counsel as follows:

Mr. Kevin Culbert  
Regulatory Affairs  
Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.

Address for personal service: 500 Consumers Road  
Willowdale, Ontario M2J 1P8  
Mark Mailing address: P.O. Box 650  
Scarborough, Ontario M1K 5E3  
Telephone: 416-495-5499 or 1-888-659-0685  
Fax: 416-495-6072  
E-mail: [egdregulatoryproceedings@enbridge.com](mailto:egdregulatoryproceedings@enbridge.com)

The Applicant's counsel:

Mr. David Stevens  
Aird & Berlis LLP

Address for personal service and mailing address: Brookfield Place, PO Box 754  
Suite 1800, 181 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5J 2T9

Telephone: 416-865-7783  
Fax: 416-863-1515  
E-mail: [dstevens@airdberlis.com](mailto:dstevens@airdberlis.com)

DATED December 4, 2018 at Toronto, Ontario.

ENBRIDGE GAS DISTRIBUTION INC.

Per: \_\_\_\_\_