

## **QUARTERLY RATE ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM**

### **Introduction**

1. The QRAM process approved by the Board for Enbridge now comprises the following components: the calculation of a forecast price for rate-making purposes during a test year ("utility price"); the means of adjusting the utility price for rate-making purposes during a test year; the means of calculating and clearing variances recorded in Enbridge's Purchased Gas Variance Account ("PGVA"); the regulatory framework for approving adjustments and clearances; and the means of providing pricing information to end-use customers, or their marketers, and to other stakeholders as well.
2. The QRAM process is intended to achieve or accommodate the following eight principles:
  - more reflective of market prices on an ongoing basis;
  - enhanced price transparency;
  - regular quarterly review process;
  - customer awareness, customer acceptance, and less confusion in the marketplace;
  - mitigation of large adjustments of customer bills;
  - fairness and equity among all customer groups;
  - implementation in a cost effective manner; and
  - reduced regulatory burden relative to the former "trigger methodology", and the related rate adjustment mechanism, for Enbridge's PGVA.

### **Utility Price**

3. Enbridge calculates the utility price for a test year by using its Board-approved methodology to develop a forecast of its supply (i.e., commodity) costs, including buy/sell as well as system gas, and its transportation costs for the test year. The forecast of supply costs includes the forecast price of natural gas based on a so-called "21-day strip".
4. This 21-day strip represents the simple average of future market prices, as reported by various media and other services, over a 21-day period for a basket of pricing periods, pricing points, and pricing indices that reflects

Enbridge's gas purchase arrangements, both actual and anticipated, during the 12 months subsequent to the 21-day period.

5. Enbridge uses the initial utility price as the basis for calculating the gas supply charges for Sales service, subject to subsequent adjustment(s), during a test year. Sales service is provided to buy/sell gas customers, who are direct purchasers, as well as to system gas customers. Enbridge also uses the initial utility price for PGVA purposes.

### **Price Adjustment**

6. Enbridge recalculates the utility price, using the same methodology, for each of the subsequent three quarters of the test year. The forecast of the price of natural gas, in each case, is based on a 21-day strip. The last day of each 21-day strip precedes the quarter in question by no more than 31 days.
7. Whenever a recalculated utility price comes into effect at the beginning of a quarter, Enbridge calculates the consequential effect of this price on the following commodity-related costs: carrying costs of gas in storage, working cash allowance (gas costs), unbilled and unaccounted for gas, company-use gas, and lost and unaccounted for gas (storage). Enbridge then uses the recalculated utility price, together with the consequential effect on these commodity-related costs, as the basis for adjusting the revenue requirement for a test year and, in turn, the gas supply charges for sales service, transportation charges for Sales and Western T-service, and the delivery charges and gas supply load balancing charges (when discrete) for distribution service, effective as of the beginning of the quarter. Enbridge also begins to use the recalculated utility price for PGVA purposes on the same effective date.
8. The following provisions apply when adjusting the revenue requirement for a test year:
  - (a) The volumetric forecast of Sales service, Western T-service and Ontario T-service is Enbridge's as-filed forecast for the test year, as updated (if any), until there is a Board-approved forecast. The latter is the volumetric forecast thereafter.
  - (b) The capital structure for rate base and rate of return purposes is Enbridge's as-filed capital structure for the test year, as updated (if

any), until there is a Board-approved capital structure. The latter is the capital structure thereafter.

- (c) The cost of equity for rate of return purposes is the Board-approved rate of return on equity ("ROE") for the prior test year, notwithstanding Enbridge's as-filed ROE, until there is a Board-approved ROE for the test year. The latter is the cost of equity thereafter.

### **PGVA**

- 9. Enbridge records in the PGVA the product derived by multiplying the volumes delivered during each month of a test year by the variances between the utility price in effect and Enbridge's actual purchased gas costs per unit during each month of a test year.
- 10. Enbridge shall use the AECO index plus Nova transportation plus fuel costs as the benchmark in calculating the components of the PGVA.
- 11. Whenever a recalculated utility price comes into effect at the beginning of a quarter, the opening balance of gas in storage is adjusted at the same time in order to reflect the recalculated utility price. The resultant debits or credits, as the case may be, are recorded in the PGVA as commodity-related entries.
- 12. For the purpose of developing rate riders (i.e. Rider C unit rates) for clearance of the PGVA balance, Enbridge identifies the balances / amounts attributable to commodity, transportation and load balancing components of the PGVA.
- 13. Each quarter, Enbridge forecasts the balances / amounts attributable to commodity, transportation and load balancing components of the PGVA for the following 12 month period. Enbridge also records variances reflecting the difference between what was forecast to be recovered in the previous quarter from rate riders and what was actually recovered. These variances are included in the establishment of the rate rider unit rates for the next 12 month period. As a result, Enbridge updates quarterly its rate rider unit rates to reflect the updated forecast of PGVA balances and the historical recovery variance.

14. Based on the amounts attributable to commodity, transportation and load balancing components of the PGVA, individual riders are determined and applied to Sales service, Western T-service and Ontario T-service. The unit rates are derived based on the 12 month test year forecast of volumes (i.e. 12-month rolling rider methodology). The rate riders (i.e. Rider C unit rates) become effective at the beginning of the quarter and specify, by rate class, the unit rates for Sales, Western T-service and Ontario T-service customers.
15. Whenever there is a change in upstream transportation tolls during a quarter, Enbridge records the consequential effect of the change in the PGVA. Enbridge also adjusts the transportation charge for all Sales and Western T-service customers at the beginning of the next quarter, in order to account for the consequential effect of the changes in upstream transportation tolls.

#### **Regulatory Framework (Including Cost Awards)**

16. Enbridge maintains and updates, from time to time, a list of interested parties for the purposes of the QRAM process; for example, serving documents filed with the Board. An "interested party" is Board staff, an intervenor in Enbridge's most recent rates proceeding, and any other stakeholder in Enbridge's franchise area who advises Enbridge of its interest in the QRAM process. The list of interested parties includes the name of each interested party and, as each of them indicates, the name(s) of their respective representative(s) and any limitation(s) on service (e.g., application only). Enbridge also maintains and updates the address(es) for service of each such representative.
17. Each quarter, Enbridge files a corresponding application and supporting evidence with the Board, and serves one or both on each interested party's representative(s), no fewer than 19 calendar days prior to the quarter in question. The application seeks approval of the applicable utility price for PGVA purposes, the corresponding gas supply charges for sales service, the corresponding transportation charge for Sales and Western T-service and delivery charges and gas supply load balancing charges (when discrete) for distribution service, and the rate rider to be used to clear the PGVA balance. The application will include an executive summary of the application in a tabular format or otherwise.

18. Interested parties may file with the Board, and serve on Enbridge and the other interested parties, comments in response to each application. The deadline for filing and serving responsive comments is five calendar days after Enbridge files and serves its application. Enbridge may file with the Board, and serve on the interested parties, comments in reply to any responsive comments. The deadline for reply comments is two calendar days after the interested parties file and serve their respective responsive comments.
19. The Board thereafter issues an order, prior to the quarter in question if possible, approving the applicable utility price for PGVA purposes, the corresponding gas supply charges for sales service, the corresponding gas distribution, transportation and load balancing charges (when discrete) for distribution service, and the rate rider to be used to clear PGVA, or modifying them as required, effective as of the beginning of the quarter.
20. Due to the mechanistic nature of the QRAM application, the Board does not anticipate awarding costs. Parties that meet the Board eligibility criteria contained in the Board's Practice Direction on Cost Awards may submit costs with supporting rationale as to how their participation contributed to the Board's ability to decide on this matter.
21. Any party eligible for an award of costs must file a claim with the Board and Enbridge no later than ten days from the date of the Board's decision and order. Should Enbridge have any comments concerning any of the claims, these concerns shall be forwarded to the Board and to the claimant within seven days of receiving the claims. Any response to Enbridge's comments must be filed with the Board and Enbridge within seven days of receiving the comments.

### **Pricing Information**

22. Enbridge's monthly bill displays the gas supply charges for Sales service and the rate rider (if any) in effect for the month, and the total of the two when there is a rate rider, expressed in ¢/m<sup>3</sup> in each case. Enbridge ensures that customers are given a clear explanation, by means of a message on the bill or a bill insert, of the pricing information displayed on the bill and, whenever the pricing information changes, of the significance of the changes.

23. Enbridge posts on its website, promptly after receiving the Board's order in this regard, information on the gas supply charges for Sales service and the rate rider (if any), and the total of the two when there is a rate rider, expressed in ¢/m<sup>3</sup> in each case. Enbridge provides on its website a meaningful description of the posted information so as to inform customers of its significance, in plain language, and of the significance of changes in the posted information whenever change occurs.
24. Enbridge's website provides links to other websites, such as [energyshop.com](http://energyshop.com), that provide prices and other information on competitive gas services in Enbridge's franchise area.
25. Enbridge also makes similar information available, through an additional branch, on Enbridge's Curtailment and Buy/Sell Information Line on a timely basis.