



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

DECISION AND ORDER ON COST AWARDS
EB-2015-0117

UNION GAS LIMITED
ENBRIDGE GAS DISTRIBUTION INC.

Natural Gas Conservation Potential Study

BEFORE: Cathy Spoel
Presiding Member

Christine Long
Vice Chair and Member

September 20, 2016

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

On June 29, 2015, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a [letter](#) announcing the formation of a Demand Side Management Technical Working Group (DSM TWG) to provide input and advice throughout the development of the natural gas conservation potential study.

The following persons were granted cost award eligibility:

- Marion Fraser, Fraser & Company (Marion Fraser Enterprises)
- Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group
- Ian Jarvis, Enerlife Consulting
- Jay Shepherd, Jay Shepherd Professional Corporation

The maximum number of cost eligible hours per DSM TWG member is:

Activities Eligible for Cost Awards	Maximum Number of Hours
Preparation for, attendance at, and reporting on DSM Technical Working Group meetings	Actual Meeting Time multiplied by 1.5
Work performed from March 16 until the completion of the study	24 hours

As noted above, in the letter the OEB indicated that costs awarded would be apportioned among rate-regulated natural gas distributors based on their respective distribution revenues. That apportionment was consistent with the methodology that was in place at the time for allocating costs for cost assessment purposes under section 26 of the OEB Act. On February 9, 2016, the OEB issued a [letter](#) giving notice of changes to its Cost Assessment Model. Specifically, under the revised Cost Assessment Model cost assessments for distributors are now based on customer numbers rather than distribution revenues. The OEB considers it appropriate to apportion cost awards for this initiative in a manner consistent with the revised Cost Assessment Model, and has therefore determined that costs awarded will be apportioned within the distributor class based on customer numbers. This revised apportionment is reflected in Schedule A.

On July 27, 2016, the OEB issued its [Notice of Hearing for Cost Awards](#) (Notice) in which it set out the process for participants to file their cost claims, for rate-regulated

natural gas distributors to object to the claims and for participants to respond to any objections raised.

The OEB received cost claims from Fraser & Company, Energy Futures Group, Enerlife Consulting and Jay Shepherd Professional Corporation. On August 18, 2016, Enbridge filed a letter stating that it has no objection to the claims. On August 23, 2016, Union filed a letter stating that it also has no objection to the claims.

OEB Findings

The OEB finds that the cost claims filed by Fraser & Company, Energy Futures Group, Enerlife Consulting and Jay Shepherd Professional Corporation are in accordance with the Notice referenced above.

The OEB notes that in its cover letter, Jay Shepherd Professional Corporation requested cost awards for an additional 13.6 hours above its filed cost claim amount. In an email, Enerlife also requested cost awards for an additional 19 hours spent by data analysts above its filed cost claim amount. Both of these requests, if granted, would cause the participants' cost claims to exceed the limits specified in the Notice. The OEB will not award the extra time because it does not find a compelling reason to exercise its discretion to do so. Instead, participants will receive their filed cost claim amounts, which are in accordance with the Notice.

The approved cost awards for each of the eligible participants are as follows:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • Fraser & Company (Marion Fraser Enterprises) | \$21,534.98 |
| • Energy Futures Group | \$21,450.00 |
| • Enerlife Consulting | \$30,090.49 |
| • Jay Shepherd Professional Corporation | \$30,316.77 |

Process for Paying the Cost Awards

The amount payable by each rate-regulated natural gas distributor in relation to costs awarded to each eligible participant is listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order. However, the amounts will not be paid directly by the distributor to the eligible participant.

The OEB will use the process set out in section 12 of the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards. Therefore, the OEB will act as a

clearing house for all the payment of cost awards relating to this consultation process. Invoices will be issued to distributors at the same time as the invoices for cost assessments are made under section 26 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act). The practice of the OEB is to issue to each distributor one invoice that covers all cost awards payable by the distributor for the relevant period. As a result, the invoice may cover cost awards payable in relation to a number of consultations, including this one.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:

1. Each distributor listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order shall pay the amounts set out in Schedule A in relation to the costs awarded to each eligible participant.
2. Each distributor listed in Schedule A to this Decision and Order shall pay the OEB's costs of, and incidental to, this consultation.
3. The payments referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be made to the OEB in accordance with the invoice issued to each distributor, and shall be due at the same time as cost assessments under section 26 of the OEB Act are due.

DATED at Toronto September 20, 2016

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

Schedule A

OEB's Decision and Order on Cost Awards

Dated September 20, 2016

EB-2015-0117

Natural Gas Conservation Potential Study

Gas Distributor	Marion Fraser Enterprises Inc.	Energy Futures Group	Enerlife Consulting	Jay Shepherd Professional Corporation	Total
Enbridge Gas Distribution	\$ 12,854.18	\$ 12,803.45	\$ 17,960.94	\$ 18,096.01	\$ 61,714.58
Union Gas	\$ 8,631.18	\$ 8,597.12	\$ 12,060.21	\$ 12,150.91	\$ 41,439.42
Natural Resource Gas	\$ 49.62	\$ 49.42	\$ 69.33	\$ 69.86	\$ 238.23
TOTAL	\$ 21,534.98	\$ 21,450.00	\$ 30,090.49	\$ 30,316.77	\$ 103,392.24