

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street
27th Floor, Suite 2701
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Telephone: 416 481-1967
Facsimile: 416 440-7656

Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario
C.P. 2319
2300, rue Yonge
27^e étage, bureau 2701
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Téléphone : 416 481-1967
Télécopieur : 416 440-7656



For Immediate Release

August 25, 2006

OEB Issues Decision on Framework for Natural Gas Conservation Programs

Toronto – Today, the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board”) issued a Decision related to the filing and evaluation of certain Demand Side Management (DSM) initiatives undertaken by natural gas utilities.

According to the Decision, over the past decade the regulatory requirements for DSM programs have been challenged, requiring interpretation and scrutiny of the Report on DSM issued by the Board in 1993. In addition, the Board has frequently been required to make decisions on similar issues for the province’s two main natural gas utilities, Union Gas Limited (“Union”) and Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. (“Enbridge”), in separate proceedings. This led to increased regulatory burden for all parties and to inconsistent practices by the two utilities.

These concerns and the heightened focus on conservation and demand side management for the energy sector as a whole were the impetus for the Board to re-examine the DSM regime as it relates to Union and Enbridge.

The Decision establishes to a large degree a rules-based approach where natural gas utilities will be submitting for approval, DSM plans that span a three-year period starting January 2007. Many of the major elements of the three-year DSM plans will essentially be locked in for the term of the plan and will not require further review by the Board. This should result in significant regulatory savings for the parties, the Board and, ultimately, for ratepayers.

The Ontario Energy Board regulates the province’s electricity and natural gas sectors in the public interest. It envisions a healthy and efficient energy sector with informed consumers, and works towards this vision through regulatory processes that are effective, fair and transparent.

For more information on the Board, please visit our Web site at www.oeb.gov.on.ca or contact the Consumer Relations Centre at 416-314-2455 or toll-free at 1-877-632-2727.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Paul Crawford
416-440-7607