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## **For immediate release**

March 27, 2006

### **OEB approves rate changes for Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.**

**Toronto** – Today the Ontario Energy Board approved changes to natural gas commodity and delivery rates charged by Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. effective April 1, 2006. These changes will decrease total costs for a typical residential customer.

Rate changes were made to reflect a decrease in the forecast average price of natural gas over the next 12 months, and to capture associated adjustments to the delivery costs of natural gas in Ontario. An average residential system gas customer using 3,064 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) of natural gas per year will see a decrease of about \$250 annually on their bill, reflecting a \$237 decrease to the Gas Supply Charge and a decrease of about \$13 in delivery-related charges. Consumers will also see a one time charge of less than \$1 on their April bill that reflects the net impact of the clearance of a number of variance accounts and the new delivery rates for the January to March 2006 period.

The OEB has also approved a change to the gas cost adjustment for system gas customers for the period of April 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006. A typical residential customer will now see a refund of 1.6354 ¢/m<sup>3</sup>. It replaces the existing refund of 1.9301 ¢/m<sup>3</sup> which was applicable through to December 31, 2006. The reimbursement is due to differences between actual and forecasted cost of natural gas.

The combined effect of the decrease to the Gas Supply Charge and the refund means consumers will pay 33.7606 ¢/m<sup>3</sup>.

Consumers purchasing their natural gas from a marketer (direct purchase customers) will see an adjustment on their bill reflecting the changes in the delivery charge, a decrease of about \$13 annually to their bill. These consumers will also see a one time charge on their April bill of less than \$1 that reflects the net impact of the clearance of a number of variance accounts and the new delivery rates for the January to March 2006 period.

Natural gas commodity rates are approved by the Board and can change every three months to reflect a forecast of market prices. The market price of natural gas varies depending on supply and demand and quarterly rate adjustments help reduce the risk of large, one-time adjustments to the consumer.

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](http://www.oeb.gov.on.ca) or contact the Consumer Relations Centre at 416-314-2455 or toll-free at 1-877-632-2727.

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