



## Meeting Notes

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**Natural Gas Demand Side Management  
Evaluation Advisory Committee  
(EB-2022-0295)  
Meeting #29**

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**Meeting Date:** June 3, 2025

**Time:** 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

**Location:** Virtual Meeting (MS Teams)

### Attendees

| <b>EAC Members</b> | <b>Affiliation</b>                               |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Bailey Kaufman     | Enbridge Gas Inc. representative                 |
| Geoff Chung        | Enbridge Gas Inc. representative                 |
| Robert Wirtsafter  | Non-utility member (Wirtsafter Associates, Inc.) |
| Katherine Johnson  | Non-utility member (Johnson Consulting Group)    |
| Chris Neme         | Non-utility member (Energy Futures Group)        |
| Dan Violette       | Non-utility member (Apex Analytics)              |

| <b>Additional Attendees</b> | <b>Role/Affiliation</b>           |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| DNV Team                    | OEB's Evaluation Contractor       |
| Alice Herrera               | IESO                              |
| Luke Bond                   | IESO                              |
| Enbridge Gas Inc.           | Enbridge Gas Inc. Technical Staff |

| <b>OEB Staff</b>      | <b>Role</b>                                                              |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Christopher Humphries | OEB Staff, Manager, Application Policy and Conservation                  |
| Josh Wasylyk          | OEB Staff/EAC Chair, Senior Advisor, Application Policy and Conservation |
| James Smith           | OEB Staff, Senior Advisor, Application Policy and Conservation           |
| Taiwo Ishmail         | OEB Staff, Advisor, Application Policy and Conservation                  |

*\*\* These notes are for the purposes of the DSM EAC only and do not represent the view of the OEB.*

## Purpose

These notes summarize the discussions of the Evaluation Advisory Committee.

## Meeting Agenda:

- 1. Enbridge's proposed target adjustment methodology in response to NRCan's Energy Efficiency Regulation changes ( Amendment 15 and its impact on Custom Boilers) – Discussion (25 min)**
  - 2. Residential Adaptive Thermostat – Participation Rate Assumptions – Discussion (35 mins)**
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## Welcome

OEB staff welcomed the group and provided an overview of the topics to be discussed.

### 1. Enbridge's proposed target adjustment Methodology in response to Amendment 15 – Discussion

| Item Description                                                                                                                                                                                 | Discussion Comments/Outcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Action Items |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| EAC members discussed the reasonableness of Enbridge's proposed target adjustments that consider the impact on its forecast natural gas savings from custom boilers due to NRCan's Amendment 15. | <p>Enbridge provided an overview of the methodology used to adjust its targets in response to the new efficiency standards introduced through Amendment 15. This amendment raises the minimum efficiency requirement for boilers in Ontario from 83%+ thermal efficiency (TE) to 90%+ TE condensing boilers, necessitating adjustments to Enbridge's 2025 targets. As a result, changes to the code and standards mean that Enbridge must revise its 2025 targets accordingly.</p> <p>EAC raised several questions, including the rationale behind the chosen base case and the potential impact of the new efficiency standards on customer uptake. Enbridge clarified the assumptions of the base case and explained that it is not appropriate to directly factor in customer behaviour and adoption rate in the target-setting methodology. Rather, this is a factor that Enbridge's program design team will consider as part of its delivery strategy.</p> <p>Following the discussion, EAC members expressed general support for the target adjustment methodology.</p> | N/A          |

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## 2 Residential Adaptive Thermostat - Participation Rate Assumptions – Discussion

| Item Description                                                                                                | Discussion Comments/Outcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Action Items                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OEB staff led the group discussion regarding smart thermostat assumptions to be used in the evaluation process. | <p>OEB staff provided an overview of the DNV memo that summarized its review of Enbridge's process evaluation, including an assessment of a reasonable adjustment factor to apply to smart thermostat results in light of feedback from customers that highlighted inaccuracies in the ping test results provided by ecobee that have been historically relied on as part of the OEB's Annual Verification process. DNV also offered recommendations for next steps.</p> <p>EAC members discussed DNV's assessment and recommendations related to an appropriate adjustment factor for residential adaptive smart thermostats. Enbridge clarified that their objective in conducting the process evaluation was not to determine an updated installation rate for the adaptive thermostat offer but to understand why some participants had not installed their smart thermostats. However, the findings revealed that most participants had installed the devices, indicating a potential flaw in the ping test results.</p> <p>The EAC agreed with Enbridge's assessment that the ping results appear unreliable. The EAC suggested that the OEB prioritize a detailed analysis, potentially as part of a residential billing analysis study, to more accurately estimate the true level of installed smart thermostats, as well as conduct an assessment of the level of natural gas savings produced by smart thermostats. In the interim, the EAC agreed with Enbridge's suggestion that additional research and analysis be conducted of available primary research that has been recently conducted, starting with the evaluation studies referenced by DNV in its memo. Enbridge offered to initiate this jurisdictional review and provide the EAC with a summary of recent smart thermostat installation rate evaluation studies and results for consideration.</p> | Enbridge to conduct a jurisdictional scan to assess smart thermostat installation rates and adjustment factors. |

### List of Action Items

| No. | Action Item                                                                                                     | Assignment/Owner | Due Date     |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1.  | Enbridge to conduct a jurisdictional scan to assess smart thermostat installation rates and adjustment factors. | Enbridge         | June 4, 2025 |

**Meeting Adjourned: 2:30 pm.**

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