



NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF PAPER HEARING

Eastward Energy Incorporated (formerly named Heritage Gas Ltd.) has applied for the approval of a Customer Retention Program (CRP) Recovery Rate, effective January 1, 2025. The CRP started in 2016 to provide flexibility to Eastward Energy in setting its Base Energy Charge rates. The CRP ended December 31, 2023, and has a balance of \$49.9 million deferred for later collection. The purpose of the application is to start the recovery of the CRP deferral balance. More details of the application are as follows:

- The CRP Recovery Rate is proposed to be on a sliding scale from \$0/GJ up to \$2/GJ for the period of January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026. Eastward Energy proposes to adjust the CRP Recovery Rate within the range of \$0/GJ up to \$2/GJ, with appropriate notice to customers and the Board. The CRP Recovery Rate will apply in addition to existing rates.
- Until December 31, 2026, the Recovery Rate is proposed to only apply to the newly established General Service Class (GSC) customer class and the Rate Class 3 (RC3) customer class. Eastward Energy proposes that the Recovery Rate not apply to the RSC (residential) class customers. Any future changes to the rate, including to which customers it applies, must be approved by the Board.

After reviewing the application, the Board, in its decision, may find that the proposed application should be approved as requested, or higher, or lower. The Board does not regulate the cost of the natural gas commodity nor the cost of carbon.

The Board has determined it will allow Information Requests (IRs) to Eastward Energy and input by parties by way of a paper hearing process and the following timetable will apply:

Notices of Intervention	Wednesday, September 25, 2024
Technical Conference by Eastward Energy	TBD (no later than September 25, 2024)
Information Requests (IRs) to Eastward Energy	Thursday, October 3, 2024
Responses to IRs from Eastward Energy	Tuesday, October 15, 2024
Letters of Comment by the public	Tuesday, October 22, 2024
Evidence by Intervenors and Board Counsel Consultants	<u>Thursday, October 31, 2024</u>
IRs to Intervenors and Board Counsel Consultants	<u>Tuesday, November 5, 2024</u>

Responses to IRs by Intervenors and Board
Counsel Consultants

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Rebuttal Evidence by Eastward Energy

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Hearing for Oral Arguments (9:00 A.M.)

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Full details of the application and any timetable applying to this matter can be found on the Board's website <http://nsuarb.novascotia.ca>, by clicking on "Matters & Evidence", and in the "Go To Files and Documents" search box, enter Matter No. **M11877**.

This is a public process, and you may participate as follows:

- You may file a letter of comment by Tuesday, October 22, 2024.
- You may request formal standing as an Intervenor, subject to Board approval. This will allow you to file evidence and make submissions. Your request must be received by the Board by **Wednesday, September 25, 2024**, and a copy of your evidence by **Thursday, October 24, 2024**.
- Contact information for the Board is as follows: Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, PO Box 1692, Stn. "M", Halifax, NS, B3J 3S3. Fax (902) 424-3919. Email board@novascotia.ca.

To assist the Board in using correct forms of address and pronouns in our hearings and decisions, we invite all parties, lawyers, and all other participants to share their pronouns and titles with the Board and each other if they are comfortable doing so. There is no requirement to provide this information.