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ONTARIO ENERGY BD

2/16/11
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319, 27th floor
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

2011/02/15

EB-2011-0024

Letter of Comment

Attached are the 7 copies of my Letter of Comment regarding file EB2011-0024.

Trusting this is satisfactory.

Sincerely,



Cathi Gooch Blackett



Tom Blackett



(February 15, 2011
EB-2011-0024

Cathi Gooch Blackett & Tom Blackett submits a Letter of Comment

We are resident on the [REDACTED] and support a hearing in favour of re-routing the planned pipeline Enbridge is proposing to construct in Pottageveill. Enbridge chose our road as the preferred route for the construction of a high pressure 16inch 650psi gas pipeline, despite the negative socio-economic impacts and safety hazards. This pipe will connect the Gate Station at 4955 Lloydtown-Aurora Road and the power plant at 18781 Dufferin Street. If this pipeline project is to proceed, it is imperative that a re-routing, away from our homes, be ordered.

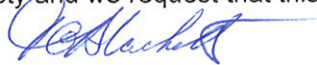
This pipeline poses serious risks to all Pottageville residents, in particular Lloydtown-Aurora Road residents. Of the 17.5km total route of the pipeline, the section of Lloydtown-Aurora Road between the Gate Station and Weston road is densely populated with homes on both sides of the road, a public school, a nursery school, a group home and two gas stations. There are many additional homes on the adjacent streets. Some of these homes are less than 30m from the proposed pipeline. Safety Hazards reports presented in January 2010 (*Natural Gas Pipeline Rupture/Fire, Dr. Charles Rhodes, P.Eng., Ph.D.*) outlined the risks the pipeline presents to residents with a 100% casualties rate should an explosion occur. It was also noted that in the event of an explosion, fire, emergency personnel would not be able to approach the site. The Private Member's Bill introduced to the Ontario Legislative Assembly in 2010 as Bill 8 refers to the Separation Distances for Natural Gas Power Plants Act, 2010 and prohibits construction of a natural gas power plant within 1,500m of land zoned residential or a school, day nursery or health care facility. The same principle should apply to a high pressure gas pipeline of 16in in diameter with a delivery rate of 650psi.

In the proposed route selection, Enbridge screened 10 alternate routes, and then narrowed it down to Route4 and Route5. As per Enbridge's pipeline project website, in their route selection summary: *"Based on the criteria laid out in section 5.2.2 Route4 has the least socio-economic impact on the surrounding area. Route4 will traverse the least number of driveways. In addition, Route4 parallels the least amount of potentially contaminated area and has the least amount of groundwater wells within 200, of the proposed pipeline route"*. Despite these facts, however, Lloydtown-Aurora Road (Route5) was chosen as the preferred route, because, as per the same section on the Enbridge website, *"Route 5 has the least amount of specimen trees along its route and crosses the least amount of known municipal/agricultural drains"*. It appears that human lives and public safety have been pushed aside in favour of specimen trees and municipal/agricultural drains.

Many factors could compromise the integrity of this pipe, putting our lives at risks. Lloydtown-Aurora Road is a heavily populated and traveled road. Commuters use it. School buses use it. Farm equipments use it. Additionally, road maintenance, snow ploughing, hydro repairs, weather conditions, pipe shifting, water table can affect the pipeline and lead to disaster. Accidents, as we know, happen, such as the San Bruno disaster, the Milton explosion and others. If loss of lives, injuries and damages occur where only a small pipe delivering gas to the homes is involved then it is obvious that the proposed pipeline on the Lloydtown-Aurora Road, being a high pressure poses much higher risks to residents.

The Pottageville community is very concerned about the risks this pipeline poses and does not want this pipeline on their road. We have a right to safety and we request that this pipeline be re-routed.





[REDACTED]