



**Waterloo Region  
District School Board**

**Education Centre**

51 Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener ON N2C 2R5  
phone: 519 570 0003 fax: 519 570 2172  
www.wrdsb.ca

File Number: EB-2012-0430

March 7, 2013

Ms. Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: EB-2012-0430 - Union Gas Limited, Owen Sound Pipeline Replacement Project.**

Following three previous letters to Union Gas, the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) continues to have concerns regarding the *Owen Sound Pipeline Replacement Project* and its impact on planned sites for new public schools in the Rosenberg Secondary Plan, in the City of Kitchener.

As we have previously noted, the Waterloo Region District School Board was involved through extensive stakeholder consultation in the development of the Rosenberg Secondary Plan (2011). The designation and location of three school sites in the City of Kitchener's new Official Plan was based on criteria that included a minimum setback distance from known gas pipelines, and other major facilities. The prospect of a gas pipeline in the Bleams Road right-of-way was not made known by Union Gas, and was therefore not considered during Secondary Plan discussions.

The late introduction of the Bleams Road pipeline by Union Gas into the area makes the location of one of the planned school sites no longer viable for use by the WRDSB. Advancing this through an OEB decision in favour of Union Gas, will put the WRDSB in the untenable position of having to initiate an Official Plan Amendment to relocate one of the planned school sites in order to achieve the same safe minimum setback used to locate the other elementary school sites within the Plan. The potential disruption to the WRDSB and other affected land owners is unacceptable and will have significant consequences; the costs of which should not be the responsibility of the WRDSB.

It is unclear why an alternate route around the proposed Rosenberg developments - either through the agricultural lands or along the rural sections of Huron Road and Trussler Road, south of Bleams Road - has not been explored by Union Gas or encouraged by the OEB. Such an option would avoid the placement of a high pressure gas pipeline through what will be a heavily populated area with three planned schools, versus placement in an area designated as Rural Countryside by the Region of Waterloo, where little further development is to be allowed.

There is significant ambiguity in the proponent's description of the Bleams Road pipeline as a "distribution" pipeline. The Project proposed by Union Gas is to replace a transmission pipeline, yet the new Bleams Road section is deemed to be classified as a local "distribution" pipeline. In their letter of January 28, 2013 Union Gas relies on TSSA and CSA standards for the determination of minimum setback requirements from sensitive uses like schools for "distribution" pipelines. However, we have yet to hear from TSSA as to whether the Bleams Road pipeline is, by definition, a local "distribution" pipeline, or whether this classification materially changes the significance of a minimum setback distance.

The WRDSB has relied on the Rhodes "Rs Safety Setback" Guideline, which applies to both distribution and transmission pipelines. The guideline formula uses the diameter of the pipe and the operating pressure to establish a safe minimum setback from sensitive land uses. We remain unclear as to how the TSSA, CSA and Union Gas have established that a 12 inch pipe operating at 500 psi is safe within 100m of a school (the situation resulting from the proposed Bleams Road pipeline), when the Rhodes formula suggests a minimum setback of over twice that distance (231m).

The Waterloo Region District School Board continues to strongly object to the new pipeline along Bleams Road until other alternate routes have been evaluated, and/or we can be assured that the pipeline proposed will be designed, constructed and operated such that the established locations of our planned new school sites remain at a distance that will ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Sincerely,



Dennis S. Cuomo, MCIP, RPP  
Manager of Planning  
Phone: (519)570-0003 Ext 4461  
Fax: (519)570-2172  
dennis\_cuomo@wrdsb.on.ca

cc: Alain Pinard, City of Kitchener  
Murray Costello, Union Energy  
Norm Dumouchelle, Union Gas Limited  
Grant Osborn, Ontario Ministry of Education  
Kevin Eby, Regional Municipality of Waterloo  
Juliane von Westerholt, City of Kitchener  
Patrick Kraemer, White, Duncan, Linton