



Norfolk County
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March 16, 2016

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Young Street – 27th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Attention: Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: Submission of Evidence for OEB Hearing EB-2016-0004

We are pleased that Norfolk County has been acknowledged as an intervenor in the above matter and can provide the following information as a summary of our input and evidence.

Parts of Norfolk County are serviced with natural gas by Union Gas and other service providers. Where natural gas is available to residents, businesses, farm operations and industry, it provides an economical and relatively "green" source of heat and in some cases, fuel that contributes greatly to the financial security of residents and the viability of the business, farm or industry in question. However, there are many rural and hamlet areas of our County that are not yet serviced by natural gas, and that are suffering accordingly. Of particular note in this regard is the lakeshore resort community of Turkey Point. This community is home to approximately 100 year-round residential properties, more than 600 seasonal cottage residences, a number of small commercial/retail businesses and a large marina operation, the MacDonald Turkey Point Marina. The farming area surrounding Turkey Point is a thriving agricultural area of the County, also featuring new businesses such as wineries and eco-adventure venues. This entire region of Norfolk County is un-serviced with natural gas and has suffered economically as a result. Cottage and home owners are faced with high heating costs (electricity, heating oil or propane), which also affects property values. Tourism and service businesses in and near Turkey Point also face higher energy costs, and are less able to afford expansions to their businesses. The MacDonald Turkey Point Marina and its patrons face very significant costs for heating (propane) and energy (electricity), including reliability issues for electricity supply, and have been prevented from expanding its business due to limited electricity supply from Hydro One.

Union Gas has proposed to bring natural gas services in the context of its application to the OEB (EB-2015-0179). The Corporation of Norfolk County supported, and continues

to support Union Gas in its application to the OEB, and on August 25, County Council passed the following motion:

“THAT Norfolk County support the application of Union Gas to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) seeking approval for new approaches for expanding access to natural gas to rural and small communities, particularly Turkey Point (and Forestville) within Norfolk County, including support for the use of an incremental tax equivalent mechanism to facilitate municipal support for a project,

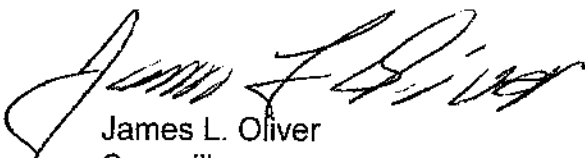
AND FURTHER THAT Norfolk County provide comments to the provincial government on the proposed “natural gas access loan and natural gas economic development grant program” prior to the September 18 deadline”.

While Norfolk County acknowledges the intention of the OEB to address matters relating to the Union Gas application in a “generic sense” as it relates to all potential service providers, we urge the OEB to act as quickly as possible in returning to the specific application by Union Gas and to approve same. Time is of the essence for the residents, cottage owners and small business owners of the Turkey Point area. Indeed, the MacDonald turkey Point Marina has plans to undertake an electricity co-generation project using natural gas as a fuel source, to serve its needs, the needs of its patrons, and the provincial grid, as soon as natural gas becomes available.

Norfolk County has no objection to the list of issues included in Schedule B for EB-2016-0004 (March 9/16), and in fact supports the addition of Issues 10, 11 (Ontario’s proposed cap and trade program) and 12 (the recently announced loan and grant program).

Norfolk County appreciates being part of this hearing process and will look forward to the upcoming hearing. We will wish to address the OEB at the pre-hearing day on April 26/16. We would require approximately 10 minutes to address the OEB.

Yours truly,



James L. Oliver
Councillor
Norfolk County
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JLJ:mc