

MUNICIPALITÉ · EAST FERRIS · MUNICIPALITY

390 Hwy. 94
CORBEIL, ONTARIO
P0H 1K0



TEL.: 705-752-2740
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email:municipality@eastferris.ca

March 18, 2016

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

Attention: Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Walli:

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

Thank you for acknowledging the Municipality of East Ferris as an intervenor regarding the above noted hearing. We are pleased to provide the following information which summarizes our evidence on this matter.

The Municipality of East Ferris is a bilingual rural community located in the District of Nipissing and situated to the east of the City of North Bay. The Municipality has a population of approximately 5,000 and an approximate household count of 2200. The development pattern within our municipality includes three villages – Astorville, Corbeil and Derland and additional development in the rural area and along the waterfront of our two lakes – Trout Lake and Lake Nosbonsing. Our community is a growing community adding approximately 25 new homes (60 new residents) per year. It boasts an impressive list of businesses, a nursing home, senior housing, two churches, two elementary schools, a public library, a post office, a community centre, a curling club and the list goes on! We are one of the growing communities in the north.

The Municipality has invested substantial time, effort and money in various economic development initiatives in the past five years. These initiatives have helped us to realize continued growth in our community however; access to natural gas would greatly assist us in our endeavours.

The Municipality is in favour of the expansion of the natural gas network into our community. The Trans Canada Pipeline (mainline) runs along the west side of the Municipality both within our boundary and within the abutting Municipality of Callander but we are predominantly not serviced by natural gas. The Municipality has residents, businesses, industries and institutional users which are interested in having access to natural gas. Access to natural gas will provide many benefits to our community including annual energy savings, reduced costs for our businesses and residents and the removal of an economic development barrier for our community.

In addition to the many residents that would benefit from the introduction of natural gas into our community the following is a sample of the businesses and institutions that would also benefit:

- The East Ferris Community Centre
- The East Ferris Arena
- The Nosbonsing Curling Club
- St. Thomas d'Aquin School
- Bernard Rochefort Plumbing and Heating Ltd.
- East Ferris Bus Lines
- Perron's Timbr-Mart
- Canada Post
- The East Ferris Public Library
- The Seniors Villas of East Ferris
- The Nosbonsing Hunters and Anglers Inc.
- East Ferris Auto
- Perron Freshmart
- The East Ferris Fitness Centre
- St. Thomas d'Aquin Church

Union Gas has proposed to bring natural gas into a part of our community – the Village of Astorville. The Municipality of East Ferris has supported and will continue to support Union Gas in its application to the OEB. Council, at their meetings of August 11th 2015 and February 29th 2016 passed resolutions of support for this initiative (see attached).

In addition, as you will see from the attached letters, our community is very supportive of the expansion initiative. Additional letters of support are forthcoming and will be submitted when received.

In Procedural Order No.1, reference is made to 29 projects as submitted by Union Gas to service 18,000 homes and businesses in 34 communities at an estimated cost of \$135 million. The project entitled "Astorville" is included as one of these 29 projects, and is therefore directly affected by the application's delay or by modifications to the funding model as proposed by Union Gas.

For years the residents of East Ferris have watched natural gas being transported south via transmission lines that cross to the west of its municipal lands. On a number of occasions the community tried to connect to the main lines. But to no avail! This past September, Astorville's *École St. Thomas D'Aquin* moved into a new \$10M school due to the growing demand for Francophone education. It is our understanding that the school's heating system was designed to facilitate conversion to natural gas. In addition the Municipality funded from its reserves a \$5M renovation to its Community Centre, which also included expenditures to the heating and cooling systems to ease conversion to natural gas.


These are but two examples of the impact the OEB's decision will have on our community. We welcome the opportunity to provide you with further information regarding what natural gas will mean from both an economic and environmental perspective for East Ferris. That is why we requested intervenor status.

The Municipality has been patiently awaiting the arrival of natural gas for several years now. Time is of the essence and we therefore urge the Ontario Energy Board to act as quickly as possible in the approval of the Union Gas proposal.

On behalf of our residents and businesses, the Municipality of East Ferris is determined to bring natural gas to our community - we need natural gas and we want natural gas.

The Municipality appreciates being provided with the opportunity to be involved in this process and we look forward to the upcoming hearing. We respectfully request to be given 15 minutes (preferably in the morning) to address the Board on Tuesday April 26th 2016 at the pre-hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Fior". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John B. Fior
CAO, Municipality of East Ferris

Encl.

March 18, 2016

Rosemarie T. Leclair
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Young Street
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Re: OEB Hearing - EB-2016-004 Union Gas Application

Dear Ms. Leclair:

It is our understanding that the Municipality of East Ferris is requesting intervenor status to the above-noted application.

As a not-for-profit organization, The Nosbonsing Anglers and Hunters strive to ensure protection of our natural heritage. We have been active over the years with many activities such as stream rehabilitation work, duck nesting boxes, tree planting, winter deer feeding program and fish stocking efforts.

We are proud to support the Municipality of East Ferris' request for the expansion of natural gas to our community, as the benefits to our businesses and to our residents would include:

- The ability to operate appliances during power outages (as a rural community, we suffer from numerous, and often lengthy, outages every year);
- Cost savings to residents and businesses; and
- Access to a safe and efficient alternative energy source.

We encourage the Ontario Energy Board to support the Union Gas Request and the expansion of natural gas to our community.

Sincerely,



Paul Emile Perron
President, Nosbonsing Anglers and Hunters Inc.

Rosemarie T. Leclair
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1E4

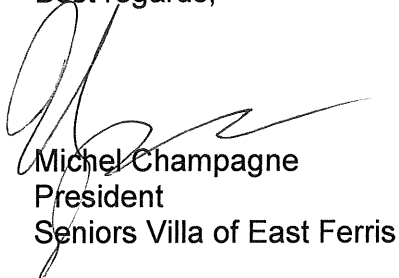
RE: EB-2016-0004 / Union Gas - Astorville Project

Dear Mrs. Leclair,

We understand the Municipality of East Ferris has requested to intervene in the above noted application in order to ensure that natural gas expands to our community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the residents of Seniors Villa Astorville, we wish to express support for natural gas expansion into Astorville. Our Villa is an affordable housing complex with ten residences designed for seniors. Residents are individually billed for their heating. We believe natural gas would provide residents with safe, cozy and cost-effective heating. That is why your endorsement of the "Union Gas - Astorville Project" would be appreciated.

Best regards,



Michel Champagne
President
Seniors Villa of East Ferris

March 18, 2016

Rosemarie T. Leclair
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Young Street
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Re: OEB Hearing - EB-2016-004 Union Gas Application

Dear Ms. Leclair:


It is our understanding that the Municipality of East Ferris is requesting intervenor status to the above-noted application.

East Ferris Auto is a proud supporter of the Municipality of East Ferris' request for the expansion of natural gas to our community, as the benefits to our business and to our residents would include:

- The ability to operate appliances during power outages (as a rural community, we suffer from numerous, and often lengthy, outages every year);
- Cost savings to residents and businesses; and
- Access to a safe and efficient alternative energy source.

We encourage the Ontario Energy Board to support the Union Gas Request and the expansion of natural gas to our community.

Sincerely,



Kelly Brown
Owner, East Ferris Auto



March 15, 2016

Rosemarie T. Leclair
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Young Street
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Re: EB-2016-004 Union Gas – Astorville Project

Dear Ms. Leclair:

It is our understanding that the Municipality of East Ferris is requesting intervenor status to the above-noted application.

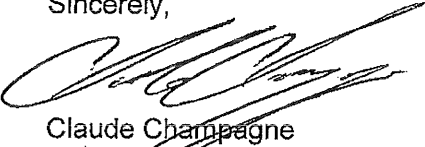
East Ferris Bus Lines Ltd. is a third generation school transportation company.

We have been proudly serving the Nipissing Parry Sound Student Transportation Service and our four local school boards since our inception in 1977. We are a family run business employing 100 employees and service Astorville, Bonfield, Chisholm, Callander, Corbeil, Powassan and North Bay:

East Ferris Bus Lines transports on average 3500 passengers on a daily basis and travel more than 2 million Kilometers per year with a fleet of more than 110 vehicles.

We endorse the Municipality's quest for natural gas, and in turn we hope that you will provide your support of the "Union Gas – Astorville Project".

Sincerely,



Claude Champagne
Owner, East Ferris Bus Lines

BERNARD ROCHEFORT LIMITED

Plumbing - Heating - Electrical Contracting - Supplies

P.O. Box 129

411 Astorville Road, Astorville, Ontario – POH 1B0

Phone (705)752-1080 – Fax (705)752-4235

March 2, 2016

Rosemarie T. Leclair
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1E4

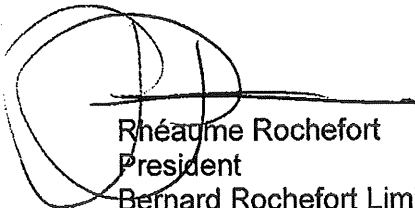
RE: EB-2016-0004 / Union Gas - Astorville Project

Mrs. Leclair,

I am writing on behalf of Bernard Rochefort Limited. (www.brlochefort.ca) located in the Village of Astorville, Municipality of East Ferris. We are a proud, second generation company that has been serving the North Bay and Nipissing area for over 50 years in residential, commercial and industrial construction. Our company specializes in mechanical and electrical contracting and is well-known for its ability to deliver design-build projects on time and on budget. Over the years we have worked with all types of heating, cooling and ventilations systems and fuels. We use leading-edge technology and have top-notch project managers to give our customers the confidence and comfort that their projects will be completed to the highest standards.

We endorse the Municipality's quest for gas and in turn we hope that you will provide your support of the "Union Gas - Astorville Project."

Sincerely,



Rhéaume Rochefort
President
Bernard Rochefort Limited
Tel. 705-752-1080 x235

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SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD
February 29th, 2016

2016-069

Moved by Councillor Voyer

Seconded by Councillor Kelly

WHEREAS the Ontario Energy Board has been accepting proposals for natural gas expansion projects;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris is predominantly not serviced by natural gas;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of East Ferris is in very supportive of the expansion of the natural gas network into our community;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris has residents, businesses, industries and institutional users which are interested in having access to natural gas;

AND WHEREAS access to natural gas would provide many benefits to our community including annual energy savings, reduced costs for our businesses and the removal of an economic barrier for our community;

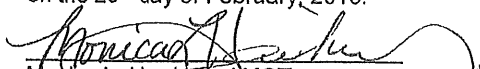
AND WHEREAS Union Gas Limited has filed an application (EB-2015-0179) seeking approval to provide natural gas service to certain communities that are not currently being served;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Energy Board has placed the Union Gas proposal and Hearing EB-2015-0179 on hold in order to proceed with a Generic Hearing (EB-2016-0004) in order to establish a common framework and provide guidance to all entities that wish to provide gas distribution services in communities across Ontario;

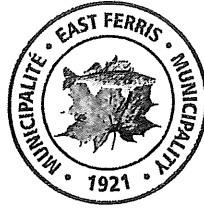
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris agrees to submit a request to the Ontario Energy Board for intervenor status for Hearing EB-2016-0004;

Carried Deputy Mayor Rochefort

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of
Resolution No. 2016-069 passed by the
Council of the Municipality of East Ferris
on the 29th day of February, 2016.


Monica L. Hawkins AMCT

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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

HELD

August 11th, 2015

No. 2015-224

Moved by Councillor Rochefort

Seconded by Councillor Champagne

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has announced a \$200M Natural Gas Access Loan Program and a \$30M Natural Gas Economic Development Grant Program for natural gas expansion initiatives;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Energy Board is accepting proposals for natural gas expansion projects;

AND WHEREAS the Province is encouraging communities to partner with utilities to bring forward projects;

AND WHEREAS the Province is requesting that communities provide input on the design of the natural gas loan and grant programs, as well as supporting mechanisms that can help municipalities gain access to natural gas;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris is supportive of the initiative and is in favour of the expansion of the natural gas network into our community;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris is in the process of researching and considering various initiatives to assist with the expansion of natural gas into our Community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Provincial Government be requested to consider the Municipality of East Ferris for expansion of the natural gas system into our community;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Victor Fedeli, MPP (Nipissing), the Hon Brad Duguid Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Immigration (MEDEI), the Hon Bob Chiarelli Minister of Energy and the Ontario Energy Board.

Carried Mayor Vrebosch

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of
Resolution No. 2015-224 passed by the
Council of the Municipality of East Ferris
on the 11th day of August, 2015.


Monica L. Hawkins, AMCT
Clerk