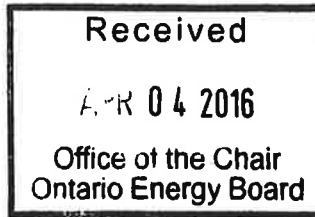




Ted Doherty, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board



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March 24, 2016

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

Attention: Rosemarie T. Leclair, Chair and Chief Executive Officer

RE: Natural Gas Service Expansion Application EB-2015-0179

Dear Mrs. Leclair:

This letter is written to express support for the submission made in 2015 by Union Gas to expand natural gas service to Milverton and 4 other rural under serviced communities in 2016. It is our understanding that the application has been placed on hold by the Ontario Energy Board while a generic review is undertaken to explore regulatory, economic, and ratepayer issues regarding projects such as this, causing a delay of approximately a year.

On behalf of the Avon Maitland District School Board and in support of the Municipality of Perth East, we would urge the review process to reach a quick conclusion in favour of expansion. Of specific concern for the Board is our school in the Town of Milverton serving students in kindergarten through grade 8. Milverton PS is currently serviced by bulk propane tanks, a situation which has both economic and operational complications as follows:

- Propane is simply a more expensive method of heating. We estimate that it could save the board approximately \$20,000 to operate Milverton PS with natural gas compared to the current propane use.
- Longevity of the multiple HVAC gas fired roof top units is reduced because of propane use compared to natural gas, resulting in ongoing greater capital costs for the Board which could be avoided with natural gas.
- In addition, low tank volumes reached during extreme cold or weather events cause gas fired roof top units to fire improperly to the extent that heat exchangers are damaged and require expensive repairs or complete replacement.
- During winter weather events that result in deteriorated road conditions and possible closures, which are frequent, we are unable to receive propane deliveries which in-turn affects our ability to maintain the integrity and continued operation of the facility.

Yours truly,

Ted Doherty
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board