

**Ontario Energy
Board**

P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street
27th Floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Telephone: 416-481-1967
Facsimile: 416-440-7656
Toll free: 1-888-632-6273

**Commission de l'énergie
de l'Ontario**

C.P. 2319
2300, rue Yonge
27^e étage
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Numéro sans frais: 1-888-632-6273



BY E-MAIL

April 19, 2017

Mayor Ken Lamming
Township of Prince

Mayor Bob McMillan
Township of Perth East

Mayor Bill Weber
Municipality of Lambton Shores

Dear Mayors Lamming, McMillan, Weber:

**Re: Union Gas Limited (Union)
OEB File Number EB-2015-0179**

Thank you for your letters.

The OEB appreciates that the Township of Prince, the Township of Perth East, and the Municipality of Lambton Shores are anxious to proceed with Union's application for natural gas expansion, and will endeavor to keep the process moving as expeditiously as possible.

Union's original application was in response to an invitation from the OEB. The application raised numerous significant generic public policy issues and it has taken time to hear from all affected parties and have the OEB decisions reflected in the renewed application.

The OEB would like to take this opportunity to clarify some of the issues raised in your letters. As mentioned in Procedural Order No. 5, which was issued on March 21, 2017, while Union holds a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for your municipality, the OEB has found that the Municipal Franchises Act does not prevent the Board from issuing multiple Certificates within a defined geographic area following a competitive process. The OEB is cognizant of your community's support of Union Gas

as your preferred service provider. However, as an outcome of the generic hearing, the OEB is of the view that it has both the authority and the responsibility to conduct a process designed to identify the entity best suited to serve the public need when more than one entity wishes to do so. The OEB established terms of acceptance it would apply to any party indicating an interest in serving your communities in Procedural Order No. 5. March 28, 2017 was set as the deadline for other parties to express their interest in serving your communities. The OEB has not received any indication of interest.

In accordance with its previously identified intent and date, Union filed its updated application on March 31, 2017. The OEB has reviewed the updated application and is presently preparing its next procedural instructions.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary