

# MICHAEL R. BUONAGURO

Barrister and Solicitor

24 HUMBER TRAIL  
TORONTO, ONTARIO, M6S 4C1  
P: (416) 767-1666  
F: (416) 767-1666  
EMAIL: [mrb@mrb-law.com](mailto:mrb@mrb-law.com)

---

March 5, 2018

Ms. Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319  
26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON  
M4P 1E4

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

Dear Ms. Walli,

**RE: EB-2017-0319 - Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. Application for Renewable Natural Gas Enabling Program and Geothermal Energy Service Program**

We are writing on behalf of the Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers ("OGVG") in regard to the referenced Application.

The Ontario greenhouse vegetable sector is a major contributor to the Ontario economy, generating over \$820 million in farm gate receipts and accounting for approximately 10,000 jobs annually. OGVG, as an organization, represents over 200 greenhouse pepper, tomato and cucumber growers in the province. Given the nature of greenhouse production systems, OGVG members are heavily reliant on energy, particularly natural gas. Over one third of greenhouse production costs are energy-related and as such rate increases and pricing adjustments serve to threaten the global competitiveness of the sector.

The Ontario greenhouse sector is growing. In fact, in evidence filed by Union Gas in its 2013 rate case, the greenhouse sector was shown to be the fastest growing sector of Union Gas Ltd.'s (Union's) business markets exhibiting a doubling of volume between the 2007 Board-approved and the 2013 Forecast volumes. OGVG members' natural gas consumption is important to Union Gas and greenhouse production in general is important to the Ontario economy.

With respect to this particular application, OGVG's members, although not currently, for the most part, directly customers of Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. (Enbridge) are nevertheless interested in the application for the following reasons:

- a) Enbridge is proposing a merger with its affiliate Union, the gas distributor for

- most of OGVG's members, such that OGVG's members already have an indirect interest and, if the merger is approved, a direct interest in the manner in which Enbridge, as part of the merged entity, is regulated,
- b) Enbridge's proposal, it appears to OGVG, seeks to expand the scope of the regulated assets of natural gas distributors in Ontario, such that OGVG is interested in whether and how such assets are incorporated into a regulated natural gas distributor's business activities,
  - c) OGVG has a particular interest in the RNG proposal, as a group representing entities that may participate in the RNG market both as consumers and participants to at least some degree,
  - d) OGVG's members have large Cap and Trade obligations, including obligations managed by their gas distributor, such that Enbridge's proposal regarding RNG and Geothermal as abatement technologies used to reduce the Cap and Trade obligations of its customers is of direct interest to OGVG.

If OGVG is granted intervenor status it intends to participate fully in all aspects of the application process, including but not limited to the preparation of interrogatories, participation in any settlement conference and/or oral hearing, and in the submission of argument.

With respect to a preference as between an oral or written hearing, OGVG respectfully submits that it is premature to determine which is appropriate in the circumstances. OGVG would respectfully suggest that such a determination is more appropriately made subsequent to a discovery process, i.e. the filing of responses to interrogatories.

As a not-for-profit organization, OGVG does not have other funding sources to ensure experienced representation to participate in and assist the Board with these regulatory proceedings. Therefore OGVG would respectfully request a determination of eligibility for cost award in this consultation. OGVG retains professionals who have experience representing intervenor interests and, OGVG respectfully submits, have assisted the Board in previous proceedings in an efficient and responsible manner.

## **REPRESENTATION**

If the intervention requested is granted, OGVG asks that further communications with respect to this matter be sent to the following:

Nathan Warkentin  
Energy and Environment Analyst  
Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers  
32 Seneca Road, Leamington, Ontario  
N8H 5H7

Phone 519-326-2604

Email: [n.warkentin@ontariogreenhouse.com](mailto:n.warkentin@ontariogreenhouse.com)

AND

Michael Buonaguro  
Counsel, Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers  
24 Humber Trail  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6S 4C1

Phone 416-767-1666

Email: [mrb@mrb-law.com](mailto:mrb@mrb-law.com)

If any further information is required please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours very truly,



Michael R. Buonaguro