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BY E-MAIL

November 29, 2018

Bruce Brandell
Director, Commercial Services
EPCOR Utilities Inc.
2000-10423 101 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5H 0E8
bbrandell@epcor.com

Dear Mr. Brandell:

**Re: EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership
Southern Bruce Leave to Construct (EB-2018-0263) and Southern Bruce
Rate Application (EB-2018-0264)**

This letter is to advise EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (EPCOR) that the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is placing into abeyance the above-noted applications for the Southern Bruce project.

EPCOR filed an application for leave to construct on September 20, 2018, and a rate application on October 3, 2018, for the Southern Bruce project. The applications specifically refer to, and are underpinned by, funding under the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure's Natural Gas Grant Program (NGGP).

On October 3, 2018, EPCOR filed a letter with the OEB stating that it had been informed by the Ministry of Infrastructure that it would not be receiving NGGP funding for the Southern Bruce project. EPCOR also noted that the Province has introduced Bill 32, the proposed *Access to Natural Gas Act, 2018*, which (if passed) would facilitate the expansion of natural gas in Ontario. EPCOR stated that it was working closely with local communities in the Southern Bruce region to confirm that the Southern Bruce project would receive funding through the Natural Gas Expansion Support Program that would be created by Bill 32. EPCOR also stated that it was prepared to continue supporting the project on its current schedule if it receives confirmation from the Province that such funding would be available at some time in the future.

The OEB recognizes the importance of the timing of any necessary OEB approvals for EPCOR's implementation plans. However, given that the applications as filed are currently underpinned by funding that will no longer be available under the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure's NGGP, it appears that the applications cannot proceed as filed. The OEB will therefore hold each above-noted application in abeyance until such time as it is either withdrawn or amended to enable issuance of a Notice of Hearing that accurately reflects the underpinnings of the application. The OEB is committed to resuming the processing of any amended and complete applications in an expeditious manner.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Rudra Mukherji
Acting Manager, Registrar
Office of the Registrar