

Ontario | Commission Energy | de l'énergie Board | de l'Ontario

EB-2017-0108

Enbridge Gas Inc.

Application for certificates of public convenience and necessity for Norfolk County, the County of Elgin, and the County of Middlesex

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 11 July 23, 2019

On October 11, 2018, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a Decision and Order (Decision) indicating it would amend each of Enbridge Gas Inc.'s (Enbridge Gas) and EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership's (ENGLP) certificate of public convenience and necessity (certificate) authorizations within Norfolk County, the County of Elgin and the County of Middlesex (the Counties) such that the service territories of the two utilities will be exclusive of each other. The Decision instructed each of the utilities to, among other things, file with the OEB draft orders for certificates for each of the Counties based on the areas in which each utility currently has authorization, but excluding areas of overlap, as well as customer density maps with boundaries delineating each area of authorization.

Although progress had been made towards resolving a number of inconsistencies and overlap issues, the OEB found that it was unable to issue a final decision granting amended certificates to the utilities for the Counties, based on the evidence provided by the parties to date.

The OEB issued Procedural Order No. 9 on June 17, 2019, which ordered the utilities to provide further infrastructure maps to assist the OEB in making a determination as to the metes and bounds of the areas to be granted in their respective certificates, and scheduled a technical conference to be held on August 12, 2019. Procedural Order No. 10, issued on July 12, 2019, rescheduled the technical conference to August 19, 2019 in response to a request from ENGLP due to the unavailability of key members of ENGLP's mapping team on August 12, 2019.

On July 15, 2019, the OEB received a letter from Ms. Shannon Lammers, an individual residing in the Municipality of Thames Centre in the County of Middlesex. Ms. Lammers states that, despite her efforts, she has been unable to obtain gas service from either ENGLP or Enbridge Gas. Ms. Lammers indicates that she had initially requested service from ENGLP, as she believed there to be ENGLP infrastructure located on the same road as her residence. ENGLP directed Ms. Lammers to contact Enbridge Gas, as the area in which she resides is within Enbridge Gas' existing service territory. At Enbridge Gas' instruction, Ms. Lammers subsequently provided the utility with a cheque in the amount of \$14,351.01 as a capital contribution towards the connection of her residence. Ms. Lammers states that Enbridge Gas initially accepted the cheque and informed her that she could expect an in-service date of mid-July 2019 but that, since then, Enbridge Gas has advised that it is unable to provide service pending the outcome of this proceeding. Ms. Lammers requested that the OEB ensure that her residence will have natural gas service in time for the next heating season.

From the evidence filed on the record of this proceeding, it appears that Ms. Lammers' residence is located in an area of the County of Middlesex for which each of Enbridge Gas and ENGLP hold overlapping certificate rights. The OEB notes that on page 12 of ENGLP's reply submission filed on April 26, 2019, there appears to be an ENGLP pipeline running along the same road upon which Ms. Lammers' residence is located. However, Schedule E2 of Enbridge Gas' submission, filed on March 29, 2019, also indicates that Enbridge Gas serves customers on the same road.

The OEB has determined that the public interest requires that this particular matter be resolved as soon as possible. To assist the OEB in determining which utility will be best suited to serve Ms. Lammers, the OEB requires Enbridge Gas and ENGLP to each file evidence identifying the earliest feasible in-service date and the costs to serve Ms. Lammers, including any capital contribution that may be required.

The OEB recognizes that, pending the final resolution of this proceeding, there may also be other requests for natural gas service in areas in which Enbridge Gas and ENGLP may currently have overlapping certificate authorization in the Counties. Such instances should be brought to the OEB's attention in this proceeding, together with the utility's proposed resolution. The OEB considers it necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. The OEB may issue further procedural orders from time to time.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- Each of Enbridge Gas Inc. and EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership shall file with the OEB a proposed in-service date and a cost assessment for serving Ms. Lammers, by July 30, 2019. The information shall include a description and schematic diagram of the infrastructure required to connect the customer to the distribution system including a bill of materials for any required main extension, service line and meter set. The information should also include an annual bill calculation assuming an annual consumption of 2,200 cubic meters using rates currently in effect (as of July 1, 2019). Any final capital contribution required to provide natural gas service should also be identified.
- 2. Each of Enbridge Gas Inc. and EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership will have an opportunity to submit written comments by August 2, 2019 on each other's information provided under Item 1 of this Order.

All filings with the OEB must quote the file number **EB-2017-0108**, and be made through the OEB's web portal at <u>https://www.pes.oeb.ca/eservice/</u>, and consist of two paper copies and one electronic copy in searchable / unrestricted PDF format. Filings must be received by the OEB by 4:45 p.m. on the stated date. Parties should use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at <u>www.oeb.ca</u>. If the web portal is not available, parties may e-mail their documents to the attention of the Board Secretary at <u>BoardSec@oeb.ca</u>.

ADDRESS

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

E-mail: registrar@oeb.ca Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free) Fax: 416-440-7656

DATED at Toronto, July 23, 2019

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary