

December 16, 2019

**Re: EB-2019-0159-Enbridge Gas Inc. – 2021 Dawn Parkway Expansion Project**

Ms. Christine Long  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge St., 27<sup>th</sup> Floor BOX 2315  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Long:

The 600-member Hamilton Naturalists' Club has major environmental concerns regarding the proposal by Enbridge Gas Inc. to construct a large, 48-inch natural gas pipeline across rural Flamborough. We share the view of a growing number of concerned citizens and organizations who believe the pipeline would have a serious detrimental impact on an area dominated by the Beverly Swamp, one of the largest and most environmentally significant wetlands in Ontario, and the headwaters of major streams including Spencer, Fairchild and Grindstone creeks.

The 10-kilometre pipeline, with a right of way of approximately 30 metres, would pose the risk of damaging habitat for wildlife, including endangered species. It would be entirely within the protected Greenbelt and cross three large properties purchased by the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) for the purpose of protecting these ecologically sensitive lands.

The HNC has repeatedly given monies to help the HCA to secure ecological sensitive lands and has a right to expect that those lands will be permanently protected. Our club has also worked with Conservation Halton on land purchases such as the Cartwright Nature Sanctuary.

The pipeline proposal to move fracked gas also comes at a time when a growing number of municipalities, including Hamilton and Burlington, have declared climate emergencies and are developing strategies for rapid reductions in the use of fossil fuels such as gas, oil and coal.

Given our concerns, the Hamilton Naturalists' Club respectfully requests that the Ontario Energy Board hold an open and transparent oral hearing on the Dawn Parkway Expansion Project. The public should be invited to attend the hearing, especially in light of mounting criticism of the project as shown by a December 12 column in The Hamilton Spectator by the Honourable Thomas A. Beckett, QC, retired Superior Court of Ontario judge who is a founder and former chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

There is an obvious need for a thorough review of the issues raised by the project, including the drawbacks of expanding the supply of gas when governments at all levels are trying to reduce fossil fuels to deal with the climate emergency.

A comprehensive oral hearing is clearly the best way for the OEB to examine all of the issues at stake. We urge the Board to act accordingly as it aspires to ensure that Ontario has an environmentally sustainable energy future.

Sincerely,

Gord McNulty,  
Conservation & Education Director,  
Hamilton Naturalists' Club

*"Protecting Nature Since 1919"*