Ontario Energy Board

Christine E. Long

Registrar and Board Secretary

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Via Email: boardsec@oeb.ca

Via Web Portal: <https://pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/>

Regarding EB-2019-0255 Letter from the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and Associate Minister of Energy under section 35 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998

Ms. Long;

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) takes this opportunity to officially indicate our intention to provide comments related to the draft *Guidelines for Potential Projects to Expand Access to Natural Gas Distribution.* We also reserve the right to submit a request for an award of costs.

OFA is Canada’s largest voluntary general farm organization, representing more than 38,000 farm family businesses across Ontario. These farm businesses form the backbone of a robust food system and rural communities with the potential to drive the Ontario economy forward.

Our member farmers and farm businesses rely on affordable, reliable and clean energy sources to successfully produce agricultural products. Natural gas is a critical fuel that is not available to most of rural Ontario homes and businesses. We encourage government to consider long-term smart development of natural gas infrastructure throughout rural farm communities.

OFA primarily represents the direct interests of our members in relation to EB-2019-0255 as regulated by the Board; primarily represents an interest or policy perspective relevant to proceedings related to EB-2019-0255; and represents our membership having interest in lands that may be impacted through this process.

As becomes applicable during procedures related to EB-2019-0255, OFA will prepare and present an intervention, submission or additional written comments.

Thank you for these considerations,

Ian Nokes

Energy, Waste Resource and Environmental Economic Policy Analyst

Ontario Federation of Agriculture