

From: Sylvia Miedinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 1:03 PM
To: BoardSec <BoardSec@oeb.ca>
Cc: Jeff.Yurek@pc.ola.org
Subject: Comments to OEB due Feb. 10 at 1645

To the Ontario Energy Board (OEB)

re. OEB's request for comments:

- “i. impacts related to the methods of upstream natural gas extraction (such as hydraulic fracturing) for natural gas that will be transported through the pipeline
- ii. impacts related to the ultimate downstream consumption of the natural gas transported through the pipeline.”

February 10, 2020

To Members of the OEB:

As you are aware, and as the scientific consensus has made clear, the greatest existential threat to humanity is climate change, the result of fossil fuel combustion in energy and transportation, causing 36 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) to be released into our atmosphere globally every year. CO₂, however, is not the only emission leading to a global temperature warming. Other greenhouse gases (GHG) contribute to this problem, including methane. Methane, in fact, is 86 times more powerful than CO₂ in its global warming potential. Hydraulic fracturing causes large amounts of “fugitive” methane to be released into the air. This potentiates the already existing problem of increased CO₂ emissions from yet another project to extract and burn natural gas, a fossil fuel.

CO₂ levels in our atmosphere, prior to the industrial revolution, were about 280 parts per million (ppm). They are currently 400 ppm and growing. The earth's temperature, as a result, has increased by 1.5 degrees Celsius. In order to avoid complete ecosystem collapse caused by climate change, the warming must be limited to 2 degrees Celsius. Rather than reducing our use of fossil fuels and emissions, however, emissions continue to rise, as will the effects (increasingly violent storms, uncontrollable forest fires, etc).

It is imperative that OEB consider these impacts and do their part to safeguard humanity's future. Projects to consider include implementing end-of-pipe carbon capture and storage technologies and diverting funds to support intensified energy conservation measures and investment in renewables. Ideally, the very notion of extracting and transporting more fossil fuels at all, given our climate crisis, should be recognized as ludicrous and abandoned altogether.

Within the context of society's carbon lock-in, making it extremely difficult (but absolutely crucial) to transition our energy sources, this will require extreme resolve and leadership on your part. I implore you to rise to the challenge. A fully transparent oral hearing is required as the first step. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Miedinger

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