

From: Beata Domanska <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 10:24 AM
To: BoardSec <BoardSec@oeb.ca>; Jeff.Yurek@pc.ola.org
Cc: nature@conservationhamilton.ca; mayor@hamilton.ca
Subject: Oral public hearing for the Enbridge 2021 Dawn Parkway Expansion Project
Importance: High

Attn: Board Members of the Ontario Energy Board

The mandate of the Ontario Energy Board includes 'thinking about the long-term needs of the energy sector and developing regulatory policy to meet emerging challenges'. Its mission includes 'strengthening and sustaining the confidence of consumers during a period of accelerating change'. The Ontario Energy Board has the potential to take a leadership role in safeguarding the public interest and confidence in the context of Climate Change -in particular the long term interests of our children and grandchildren- by rejecting the Enbridge proposal to build a new fracked gas pipeline through Ontario, rejecting new gas infrastructure in general, and investing in alternative energy sources instead. At a minimum, the OEB should hold a fully transparent oral hearing into the Enbridge 2021 Dawn Parkway Expansion Project.

Enbridge is justifying its proposal by projecting annual increases in gas consumption, ignoring and undermining national and international commitments that have already been made to REDUCE CO2 emissions in the face of climate change. Any comprehensive cost-benefit analysis that includes the reality of climate change would show that the long term damage and costs associated with climate change far outweigh any short-term benefits involved in prolonging our unsustainable dependence on cheap gas.

Given all we know, the transition to sustainable forms of energy in our province can and must happen now. In Berkeley, California, a ban on natural gas hook-ups in all new construction came into effect on Jan 1 (link below). According to Brian van Mathiesen, a researcher specialized in smart energy systems at the University of Aalborg who recently led an EU-wide study to decarbonise the heating and cooling sector throughout Europe: *"If we are still installing natural gas boilers by 2030, then we should ask ourselves whether we're really serious about the transition to low-carbon energy. You have to remember that gas boilers have a lifetime of 12-15 years so any ban would have to be set within the next few years to make a difference – and to prepare citizens for a new paradigm."* (link below). By rejecting the Enbridge proposal to build new gas infrastructure and by considering options such as thermal infrastructure instead (which is the basis for van Mathiesen's model to decarbonize heating and cooling in Europe), the Ontario Energy Board can demonstrate leadership in North America, sustain public confidence and safeguard what is truly in the public interest in the face of climate change.

I trust that you will do the right thing and see beyond whatever narrowly prescribed roles that may have guided your decision-making in the past respect, and to use your decision-making power to honour the overarching commitment to emissions vital to our own future and the future of our children.

Respectfully,

Beata Domanska

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/23/berkeley-natural-gas-ban-environment>

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/climate-strategy-2050/interview/academic-oil-and-gas-boilers-should-be-banned-across-europe-by-2030/>