

Elson Advocacy

February 15, 2023

BY RESS

Nancy Marconi

Registrar
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700, P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Marconi:

Re: EB-2022-0249 – Enbridge Gas Inc. – Hidden Valley Community Expansion Project

We are writing on behalf of Environmental Defence to request intervenor status and costs eligibility in the above proceeding as a leading environmental organization that represents both the public interest in environmental protection and the interests of consumers whose energy bills can be reduced through measures that reduce costs and environmental impacts, such as least-cost planning that accounts for the potential financial impacts of decarbonization.

Nature and Scope of Intended Participation and Interest in Proceeding

Environmental Defence wishes to file interrogatories, participate in the hearing, review and test the evidence, make submissions, file evidence, and seek a cost award. Environmental Defence's interest in this proceeding is in promoting both the public interest in environmental protection and the interests of consumers whose energy bills can be reduced through measures that lower both costs and environmental impacts.

Environmental Defence wishes to address important issues relating to this mandate, such as:

- Whether the customer attachment forecast is reasonable;
- Whether customers are adequately protected from financial risks, revenue shortfalls, and cost overruns (e.g., the risk that fewer customers convert to gas than forecast);
- Whether Enbridge has appropriately accounted for the potential impact of gas prices, the new federal \$5,000 incentives for cold-climate heat pumps, and the relative cost-effectiveness of high-efficiency cold climate heat pumps on the customer attachment forecast, project economics and project design;
- Whether Enbridge is providing appropriate details to customers on the cost-effectiveness of gas versus alternatives;

- Whether the application complies with the *Access to Natural Gas Act, 2018* and related government policy;
- Whether the application complies with Board directions and guidelines; and
- Whether the legal tests under sections 36 and 90(1) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act* have been met.

Evidence

Environmental Defence wishes to file evidence in this proceeding and can provide a letter outlining that evidence and the expected cost in short order.

Oral Hearing and Technical Conference

Although Environmental Defence does not request an oral hearing in this matter, we believe a technical conference would likely be of assistance in providing a more complete factual picture for the OEB's consideration. We therefore request that a technical conference be scheduled in the next procedural order or that parties be given the opportunity to comment on the need for a technical conference following the receipt of interrogatory responses.

Environmental Defence

A. Mandate and Objectives of Environmental Defence

Environmental Defence has been working since 1984 to protect Canadians' environment and human health. Environmental Defence's mandate and objective is to challenge, and inspire change in government, business and people to ensure a greener, healthier and prosperous life for all. Its vision is to create a world Canadians are proud to pass on to their children.

B. Membership and Constituency

Environmental Defence is supported by many thousands of donors across the province and country. It sees its constituency as Canadians who are concerned about the environment and the legacy that we will pass on to our children.

C. Types of Programs and Activities that Environmental Defence Carries Out

Environmental Defence has been highly successful in its public interest advocacy on energy issues. Environmental Defence's environmental work, on issues ranging from toxic chemicals to clean beaches, has led to concrete improvements in the lives of Canadians. For example, the dangerous chemical Bisphenol A ("BPA") is now banned in baby bottles in Canada due to concerns first raised by Environmental Defence in 2007. For many years, Environmental Defence has participated in the federal government's Chemicals Management Plan.

Environmental Defence is also the coordinator of Blue Flag Canada, which certifies beaches so that Ontario families can enjoy this public resource. It also co-founded Blue Green Canada with

the United Steelworkers, which promotes green energy initiatives that have positive employment and economic impacts.

Environmental Defence also publishes reports and guides in the area of energy conservation, efficiency, and policy. For example, it has created an interactive online tool to help energy consumers reduce their bills through energy efficiency initiatives. Some further publications include:

- *Building an Ontario Green Jobs Strategy*
- *Ontario's Electricity System, a Background*
- *Canada's Methane Gas Problem: Why strong regulations can reduce pollution, protect health, and save money*
- *Powering up efficiency to get the conservation framework right*
- *The \$2 Billion Question - How Can Ontario Reinvest Cap-and-Trade Proceeds to Meet its Climate Challenge and Grow the Economy?*
- *What to Look for in the Canadian Energy Strategy*
- *Background - Coal and Renewable Energy in Ontario*
- *Building Ontario's Green Economy: A Road Map*
- *Ontario Feed-In Tariff: 2011 Review*
- *The Global Clean Energy Jobs Race: Ontario's Opportunity*
- *Blowing Smoke: Correcting Anti-Wind Myths in Ontario*
- *Faces of Transformation: Jobs, economic renewal and cleaner air from Year*
- *One of Ontario's Green Energy Act*
- *Falling Behind: Canada's Lost Clean Energy Jobs*
- *Greening Canada's Building: Report Card*

These and other reports can be found at <http://environmentaldefence.ca/reports/>.

Requests for Evidence and Addresses of Representative

Environmental Defence requests that electronic copies of the pre-filed materials and all other documents in the proceeding be delivered to the following consultant and counsel:

Electronic copies to:

Jack Gibbons
 Ontario Clean Air Alliance
 160 John Street, Suite 300
 Toronto, Ontario M5V 2E5
 Tel: (416) 260-2080 ext. 2
 E-mail: jack@cleanairalliance.org

Electronic copies to:

Elson Advocacy

Kent Elson

Amanda Montgomery

1062 College Street, Lower Suite

Toronto, Ontario M6H 1A9

Tel: (416) 906-7305

Fax: (416) 763-5435

E-mail: kent@elsonadvocacy.ca / amanda@elsonadvocacy.ca

We also request that the above individuals be listed on the intervenors' list under Environmental Defence.

Address of Environmental Defence

Environmental Defence's full name and address is:

Environmental Defence Canada Inc.

33 Cecil St, 1st Floor

Toronto, Ontario M5T 1N1

Tel: (416) 323-9521

Fax: (416) 323-9301

However, please send correspondence and any other materials to both Jack Gibbons and to counsel as the authorized representatives.

Service on other Parties

Environmental Defence requests the Board's directions as to whether this letter should be served on any other parties.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if anything further is required.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Montgomery', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda Montgomery