

March 14, 2023

To: Ontario Energy Board

Attention: Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>

Subject: Letter of Comment for Case Number EB-2022-0156

According to the David Suzuki Foundation:

Canada and 150 other countries have pledged to reduce their use of natural gas by 2030. Methane is the main component of natural gas. It is a potent greenhouse gas with a global warming potential that is more than 80 times greater than carbon dioxide. It is responsible for at least a quarter of today's global warming. Reducing its use is one of the fastest, most cost-effective ways to slow global warming.

Prior to writing to you today, individually and with other area residents, I have:

- Met with representatives from Enbridge and from my township. I have also requested to meet with my newly elected Councilor and our new recently acclaimed Mayor.
- Sent a request to both my MPP Dave Smith and MP Michelle Ferrari, asking for a public meeting to discuss the costs and benefits of the Ontario government's plan to build some two dozen new gas plants plus new pipelines throughout the province.
- Spoken with many area residents who weren't aware that in March, 2020, as the Province shut down for Covid, our Council sent a support Resolution for this project without any meaningful notification or public meeting. Only residents on the 8th line were notified and were surveyed/ approached by Enbridge. Enbridge has not shared the materials they used or the results of their efforts.

Now, I am writing you. You have the authority to reject the application for a new gas pipeline in my community. A project that, if allowed to proceed, will negatively impact the goals set out in Selwyn's own Climate Action Plan (passed November, 2016) to reduce GHG emissions by 39% by 2031 as 47% come from residential and commercial buildings. Similar projects in other communities will have similar impacts. Collectively, all of us in Ontario will pay a heavy price for the planned expansion of natural gas.

Today there are other heating options; ones less harmful to the atmosphere and more economical. The sale of new gas furnaces is to be phased out in Canada in a few years and carbon taxes will increase the cost of gas to consumers. Ontario and Selwyn are heading in the opposite direction from the rest of the world and using our tax dollars to subsidize these plans; locking people into burning fossil fuels for years.

Please, use your power to help people transition from their current heating situation to a solution that meets their needs in a sustainable way rather than expanding the use of fossil fuels. These could be solar, geothermal or as I did in my log home (that had no furnace) - the installation of a cold climate heat pump rated to -30 degrees Celsius. This has freed me from heating with natural gas in 3 fireplaces.

We all have a lot riding on your decision on this application. I'm counting on you to look and to help others move forward. Please note that I would like to receive notification of updates on this application.

Best Regards,

Patricia Macdonald - Selwyn Resident and Rate payer