



File 19

EB-2016-0004

May 17, 2016

RECEIVED

MAY 27 2016

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne:

Please be advised that Elgin County Council adopted the following resolution at its meeting held on May 10, 2016:

"THAT the Corporation of the County of Elgin support the resolution from the Township of North Stormont requesting that the Ontario Energy Board expand natural gas services to Eastern Ontario rural areas.

- Carried.
(signed) Warden Bernie Wiehle"

Additionally Elgin County Council respectfully requests that the same natural gas services be extended to all of rural Ontario.

Natural gas is the most reliable, efficient, and economical form of energy and many rural areas remain underserved or not serviced at all. Extending natural gas infrastructure into rural areas will provide significant economic opportunities for the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of rural Ontario.

The original resolution is attached for ease of reference.

Yours truly,

Katherine Thompson,
Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Enclosure

cc **Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary, Ontario Energy Board**
Hon. Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Hon. Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure
Hon. Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy
Peter Emon, Chair, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

County of Elgin
Administrative Services
450 Sunset Drive
St. Thomas, ON N5R 5V1
Phone: 519-631-1460
www.elgincounty.ca



The Corporation of the Township of
NORTH STORMONT
RESOLUTION

Date: April 12, 2016

Page 1

Resolution No. 609

MOVED BY:

Deputy Mayor Bill McGimpsey ☐
Councillor Jim Wert ☒
Councillor François Landry ☐
Councillor Randy Douglas ☐

SECONDED BY:

Deputy Mayor Bill McGimpsey ☐
Councillor Jim Wert ☐
Councillor François Landry ☐
Councillor Randy Douglas ☒

WHEREAS the OEB file **EB-2015-0179** (dated July 23, 2015) application and pre-filed evidence from Union Gas Limited is seeking approval of its proposed Community Expansion Program with intent to support the expansion of infrastructure necessary to provide natural gas to communities that would otherwise not receive natural gas service (Rural areas);

WHEREAS the Ontario Energy Board issued a Notice for Public Hearing **EB-2016-004** (dated January 2016) regarding OEB's intent to review the following issues in May 2016:

1. Should the OEB implement new ratemaking mechanisms including changes to current economic tests to encourage utilities to expand natural gas distribution service to new communities? If so, what should these new mechanisms be?
2. Should the OEB consider imposing conditions or making other changes to Municipal Franchise Agreements and Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity to reduce barriers to natural gas expansion?
3. Does the OEB have the authority to require the ratepayers of one utility to subsidize the costs of another utility to expand into new communities? If so, under what circumstances (if any) would this be appropriate?

WHEREAS the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus's letter of comment (dated April 6, 2016) regarding the Ontario Energy Board's Generic Proceeding EB-2016-004 with intent for the Warden Caucus to support the initial application from Union Gas (EB-2015-0179) and also similar entities that wish to expand natural gas service to rural and remote communities;

WHEREAS the Township of North Stormont has signed a 20 year Franchise Agreement with Enbridge and has attempt many communications with them to have natural gas service in the ~~West~~ ^{East} part of our Township without any responses or actions being taken by Enbridge;

Recorded Vote:

	FOR	AGAINST
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

CARRIED:

James R. B.
Mayor

DEFEATED:

Mayor

Declaration of Conflict of interest: _____

- ☐ Disclosed His/Her/Their interest
☐ Vacated His/Her/Their Seat
☐ Deferred

CAO/Clerk



The Corporation of the Township of
NORTH STORMONT
RESOLUTION

Date: April 12, 2016

Part 2

Resolution No. 609

MOVED BY:

Deputy Mayor Bill McGimpsey ☒
Councillor Jim Wert ☒
Councillor François Landry ☐
Councillor Randy Douglas ☐

SECONDED BY:

Deputy Mayor Bill McGimpsey ☐
Councillor Jim Wert ☐
Councillor François Landry ☐
Councillor Randy Douglas ☒

WHEREAS the West part of the Township of North Stormont is being served by Union Gas and that the separation is even made on the West side of a road (**served by Union Gas**) versus the East side of the same road (**unserved by Enbridge**);

WHEREAS the Township of North Stormont made representation with Union Gas to endeavor possible development of the natural gas services on the East side of the Township;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of Township of North Stormont that the OEB examine the proposal to expand natural gas services and make it available to all of Eastern Ontario rural areas such as the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry and the United Counties of Prescott-Russell as it is vital to our Economic Development and to Business expansion and retention as well as the increase of employability in our sector.

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT this resolution supports the letter of comment sent to the Ontario Energy Board by the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipal and regional councils in Ontario requesting that they endorse and support this resolution and communicate their support to the Premier, the OEB and the Ministers of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure, Energy, and Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Passed by the Council of the Township of North Stormont on April 12, 2016

FOR

AGAINST

Recorded Vote:

CARRIED:

Mayor

DEFEATED:

Mayor

Declaration of Conflict of interest: _____

- ☐ Disclosed His/Her/Their interest
☐ Vacated His/Her/Their Seat
☐ Deferred

CAO/Clerk

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE

The Ontario Energy Board is holding a hearing to consider what mechanisms may be used to recover the costs of expanding natural gas service to Ontario communities that are currently not served.

Learn more. Have your say.

The Ontario Energy Board is commencing a hearing on its own motion to consider what mechanisms may be used to recover the costs of expanding natural gas service to Ontario communities that do not currently have access to natural gas.

In July 2015, Union Gas Limited filed an application (EB-2015-0179) to expand natural gas service to certain rural and remote communities. That application included a proposal to have existing Union Gas Limited customers pay a portion of the costs to connect new customers. The Ontario Energy Board has determined that the requests made by Union Gas Limited in that application raise issues that may be common to any entity that wishes to provide natural gas service to communities that do not currently have access to natural gas service. The Ontario Energy Board will therefore address these issues through a generic proceeding.

The Ontario Energy Board will put the hearing of Union Gas Limited's application (EB-2015-0179) on hold until the generic hearing is complete.

In the generic proceeding, the Ontario Energy Board will consider possible alternative ratemaking frameworks to provide natural gas service to Ontario communities that do not currently have access to natural gas. The OEB plans to seek input from intervenors on exactly what the issues should be. However, broadly speaking the OEB intends to review the following issues:

1. Should the OEB implement new ratemaking mechanisms including changes to current economic tests to encourage utilities to expand natural gas distribution service to new communities? If so, what should these new mechanisms be?
2. Should the OEB consider imposing conditions or making other changes to Municipal Franchise Agreements and Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity to reduce barriers to natural gas expansion?
3. Does the OEB have the authority to require the ratepayers of one utility to subsidize the costs of another utility to expand into new communities? If so, under what circumstances (if any) would this be appropriate?

To see the detailed draft issues list, please select the file number EB-2016-0004 on the OEB website: www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider the kind of cost recovery mechanisms that may be appropriate for rural and remote community expansion projects in Ontario. We will hear arguments from parties involved in the process and will decide what, if any, new mechanisms are appropriate.

The OEB will adopt into the record of this proceeding, all evidence filed in EB-2015-0179 that is relevant to the issues to be determined for the generic hearing. The OEB will provide an opportunity for the filing of further evidence in subsequent procedural orders.

The OEB will deem the intervenors in the EB-2015-0179 case to be intervenors in this generic hearing and grants to any such intervenors the same cost eligibility status as was granted in EB-2015-0179.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review this Notice and related documents on the OEB's website now.
- You can sign up to observe the proceeding by receiving OEB documents related to the hearing.
- You can file a letter with your comments which will be considered during the hearing.
- You can become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by **February 22, 2016** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website.

LEARN MORE

Our file number for this case is EB-2016-0004. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case (including the draft issues list), please select the file number EB-2016-0004 from the list on the OEB website at www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice. You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

ORAL HEARING

The OEB intends to proceed with an oral hearing for this case.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This hearing will be held under sections 19 and 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998.





Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

c/o County of Renfrew, 9 International Drive, Pembroke, ON K8A 6W5

Pembroke, April 6, 2016

Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge St.
PO Box 2319
Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

Re: Ontario Energy Board Generic Proceeding EB-2016-004

Dear Ms. Walli,

Regarding the Ontario Energy Board's Generic Proceeding EB-2016-004, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus would like to provide the following submission as a letter of comment.

As an organization representing the interests of municipal taxpayers in rural Eastern Ontario, the EOWC supports the initial application from Union Gas (EB-2015-0179) to expand natural gas service to rural and remote communities. Beyond that, however, the EOWC also supports any similar efforts from other entities, such as Enbridge Gas, that wish to provide natural gas services to rural and remote communities that do not currently have access to such services.

The expansion of the infrastructure required to provide natural gas to rural communities that would otherwise not receive this service would allow for significant economic benefits for every sector; residential, commercial and industrial. Natural gas is the most reliable, efficient, and economical form of energy, but due to the dispersed nature of our population – coupled with our geography and geology – many areas remain underserved or are simply not serviced at all.

As the economic development of our region is a priority issue, the expansion of the natural gas network is of great importance to everyone who lives and does business in rural Eastern Ontario. If certain conditions were put into place, such as those being considered by the Ontario Energy Board, it may become financially feasible to extend natural gas to the EOWC region.

The EOWC is an incorporated non-profit organization comprised of the elected Wardens of the 13 County Councils in rural Eastern Ontario, stretching from Northumberland in the west to the Quebec border in the east, with a combined population of 750,000. In closing, on behalf of the EOWC, I strongly encourage the Board to consider and approve any measures raised in the Generic Proceeding EB-2016-004 that may allow for the provision of natural gas in our region.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Emon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Emon
Chair, 2016, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus