

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, Schedule B; and in particular sections 90(1) and 97 thereof;

AND IN THE MATTER OF an application by Enbridge Gas Inc. for an order granting leave to construct natural gas distribution pipelines and ancillary facilities that make up a Community Expansion Project to serve the community of Neustadt in the Municipality of West Grey.

APPLICATION

1. Enbridge Gas Inc. ("Enbridge Gas" or the "Company") hereby applies to the Ontario Energy Board ("OEB") pursuant to section 90(1) of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c. 15, Schedule B (the "Act"), for an order granting leave to construct natural gas pipelines and facilities, as described herein, in the Town of Hanover and the Municipality of West Grey, Ontario ("Project"). The specific pipeline facilities for which the Company is seeking OEB approval through this Application consist of:
 - (i) Approximately 4.8 km of Nominal Pipe Size ("NPS") 2 polyethylene ("PE") natural gas distribution pipeline, and
 - (ii) Approximately 7.6 km of NPS 6 PE natural gas pipeline, consisting of approximately 6.7 km of supply lateral and 0.9 km of reinforcement pipeline.
2. For ease of reference and to assist the OEB with preparation of the notice of application for the Project, a map of the proposed facilities is included as Attachment 1 to this Exhibit.

3. On June 9, 2021, the proposed Neustadt Community Expansion Project was approved to receive funding assistance as part of Phase 2 of the Government of Ontario's Natural Gas Expansion Program ("NGEP"), which provides financial support to help utilities expand natural gas distribution in communities that are not currently connected to the natural gas system. The Project will provide approximately 230 forecasted customers located in the community of Neustadt in the Municipality of West Grey with access to safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas distribution services.¹
4. Enbridge Gas has Franchise Agreements with the Municipality of West Grey,² and Town of Hanover.³ Enbridge Gas also holds a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") for any project work within the Municipality of West Grey⁴ and Town of Hanover.⁵ These agreements allow the Company to construct, operate and add to the natural gas distribution system within all parts of the Municipality and Town.
5. With leave to construct approval from the OEB:
 - (i) Construction of the NPS 2 PE distribution pipeline and NPS 6 PE supply lateral is planned to commence in June 2024 and be placed into service by December 2024.
 - (ii) Construction of the NPS 6 PE reinforcement pipeline is planned to commence in January 2025 and be placed into service in January 2025.

¹ 230 customers including: 201 residential, 26 commercial and 3 industrial customers.

² Municipality of West Grey Franchise Agreement - EB-2007-0818 (expires February 4, 2028).

³ Town of Hanover Franchise Agreement - Franchise Agreement - EB-2007-0944 (expires March 17, 2028).

⁴ Municipality of West Grey CPCN – EB-2021-0269-H (dated February 17, 2022).

⁵ Town of Hanover CPCN – EBC 29 (dated May 1, 1963).

6. To meet construction timelines, Enbridge Gas respectfully requests the approval of this application as soon as possible and ideally not later than May 2024. The proposed construction schedule can be found at Exhibit D, Tab 2, Schedule 1.
7. Enbridge Gas intends to charge a System Expansion Surcharge (“SES”) to all new customers taking gas distribution service from the Project. In accordance with the OEB’s EB-2020-0094 Decision and Order, the SES will be a fixed volumetric rate of \$0.23 per cubic metre of gas to be charged in addition to Enbridge Gas’s base distribution rates as approved by the OEB. The SES is proposed to be charged to all customers taking gas distribution service from the Project for a term of 40 years. Detailed information about the proposed SES and its applicability to the Project can be found in Exhibit E.
8. If the OEB determines that it will conduct a hearing for this application, then Enbridge Gas requests that it proceed by way of written hearing in English.
9. Enbridge Gas requests that the OEB make the following orders:
 - (i) pursuant to section 90(1) of the Act, an Order granting leave to construct the Project; and
 - (ii) pursuant to section 97 of the Act, an Order approving the form of temporary land use agreements and easement agreements found at Exhibit G, Tab 1, Schedule 1, Attachments 1 and 2.
10. Enbridge Gas requests that copies of all documents filed with the OEB in connection with this proceeding be served on it and on its counsel, as follows:

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DATED at the City of Chatham, Ontario this 15th day of September 2023.

ENBRIDGE GAS INC.

Evan Tomek
Advisor, Leave to Construct Applications