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**EB-2023-0200 Enbridge Sandford Community Expansion Project Leave to Construct Independent Participant Elizabeth Carswell Letter of Comment**

On November 20th just before noon the technical attachments to the November 16th Interrogatory Responses were finally available. I think first on the Enbridge website and then on the OEB website. My request for a Technical Conference was also due November 20th so I had to submit my request for a conference without having had a reasonable time to review the technical response.

I do have technical questions that could be cleared up in a conference. I am still researching the efficiency-adjusted conversion factors for the Propane to Natural Gas comparison. My expectation is that the existing propane furnace would be converted if the Sandford resident connected to gas. I have not understood why the efficiency would be reduced by 5%. I am waiting for a second discussion with Value Propane but I expect that I will have questions about the reason for the conversion factors. I may have other questions on the spreadsheet as I further review and understand it. It would be useful to have an explanation of the approach to the assumptions in the comparisons.

I am not satisfied with the response to my question about rates after the stability period. I have discussed this risk with the Sustainability Committee of the Township of Uxbridge as they consider my report. I want to answer them whether only Sandford residents would be affected by the rate rebasing if a lower number of their neighbours connected to gas or if all Ontario residents are affected by this risk.

I would like (for all participants) a reasonable time to review the technical information and a second chance to request a technical conference based on specific questions remaining after our review.

I would also like direction on presentation of evidence briefly described below.

**Survey of 100 Sandford Residents:** I am certain that the information I collected after visiting 100 residents in Sandford who are part of the expansion and speaking directly with 50 of them that I have results to share that affect the financial forecast for the project. Unlike previously rejected evidence my results are collected from the specific residents that will have a choice to connect or not and my results are from last month rather than last year.

4 houses are moving out of the 100 I visited over just two Saturdays and not the whole year. If they completed surveys their answers are no longer meaningful.

8 residents of the 50 I spoke to are definite about rejecting gas. 18% of those I surveyed had reasons for having no interest in gas before I provided any information. They had no interest at all in gas so they would not have responded to a survey about gas. One example is a Gentleman that said he valued his independence. He said “Not to my house. I can choose from 10 propane suppliers. How many gas suppliers can I choose from?” 18% of residents that will not connect were missing from the earlier survey. I used the door to door method on two Saturdays to ensure my survey sample reflected the survey population.

Overall, I found far less interest in converting to gas than Enbridge’s survey did. I would like share my tabulated results, my conclusions and answer questions about them. I would also share additional details on the methodology I followed.

**Savings of ccASHP:**

I would like to present evidence of the savings related to Cold Climate Air Sourced Heat Pumps. I realize that similar evidence has previously been rejected. The reason this evidence is relevant is that this evidence has been made available to the residents of Sandford. Many of the 50 residents I spoke to had had interest and planned follow up on the ccASHP option vs gas when they were provided a comparison. An additional 50 residents also received the Ontario Clean Air Alliance pamphlet. I know the pamphlet is compelling because one resident called me to find out where to get a heat pump quote. My presentation to the Township of Uxbridge Council, including this comparison, remains available to all residents on the Town website. My presentation was also covered in the local paper which is widely read by residents and also remains available on the newspaper website. I plan to update my comparison once I understand the Enbridge calculations and I will update in the places available if I need to change my calculations. My Uxbridge presentation has been referred to the Sustainability Committee and I have provided them further information and await a date to present to them. The reason to allow this comparison as evidence is that this comparison is changing the minds of Sandford residents.

**Previous Survey of the very same Residents:**

Cosmin Popp, the owner of Fiberspeed our local internet provider, did a survey in 2017 in advance of investing in the towers to bring high speed internet to Sandford. 90% of Sandford residents said they would use his highspeed internet when it was available. When he went back to actually collect $100 to install the equipment at each home only 20% signed up. Eventually after 2 years 60% had connected but never the whole 90% that said they would connect at the time of the survey. His experience shows that it is too easy to say yes when you do not have to make any investment. These previous survey results are relevant because these were Sandford residents paying too much for a service that they need. These residents then had to make a small upfront cost to convert in order to receive monthly savings. His survey results, similar to the Enbridge survey, required no financial commitment. Survey results without commitment were not valid.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Carswell Independent Participant