



December 15, 2023

Ms. Marconi
OEB Registrar
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319, 27th Floor
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

via email only Registrar@oeb.ca

Dear Ms. Marconi,

Re: Motion to review decisions in EB-2022-0156

I am writing today to express my disappointment that the OEB has elected to accept additional reviews of motions filed by Environmental Defence (EB-2022-0156) related to natural gas alternatives that in our view are outside of the intent of the Natural Gas Expansion Program (NGEP).

At its meeting of December 13, County Council passed the following motion:

That the correspondence from Donna Popovic of Enbridge Gas related to the natural gas expansion project in Selwyn Township be received for information; and

That the County of Peterborough send correspondence to Ministry of Energy and the Ontario Energy Board urging for a timely resolution and recommencement with respect to the (County Road 18) project in support of the many local residents and businesses who have been financially impacted by this project and are relying on the provision of services.

On September 21, 2023, the OEB determined that these three projects were in the public interest and granted leave to construct.

As stated in the [decision](#), the approval of the applications does not restrict customers in these communities from obtaining electric heat pumps either before or after an extension of natural gas service to these communities. Nor would it exclude Enbridge Gas's energy conservation program responsibilities in the communities.

Businesses, farms and residents in the Selwyn Community Expansion Project are missing out on the opportunity to choose cost-effective heating options for their homes and businesses, something that the Government of Ontario has committed to and identified as a priority. Previous procedural delays have already resulted in our constituents not obtaining timely access to natural gas potentially leading to another winter of higher energy costs.



These additional steps now have once again extended timelines, placed the approved leave to construct decisions at risk, and created regulatory uncertainty. I fully support the Selwyn natural gas expansion project and request your assistance in securing timely access to natural gas by advancing the project through the regulatory process. These ongoing delays for residential, business, and Indigenous communities waiting for access to reliable, affordable natural gas under Phase Two of Ontario's NGEP are unacceptable.

The objective of these projects, and the NGEP, is to help lower the cost of energy for families, businesses and farmers and provide them with customer choice. These projects were selected by the Ministry of Energy, along with 25 other expansion projects, to receive NGEP funding on June 15, 2021. Every month and year that passes represents lost savings and a lack of choice for Ontario families and businesses.

From the perspective of adjudicative efficiency, I urge you to dismiss the motion filed by Environmental Defence and not delay access to affordable heating options any further.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Clark

Warden

Peterborough County

warden@ptbocounty.ca

705-743-0380 x2115

Copy: Local MPP, Minister of Energy, All Parties in EB-2022-0156/0248/0249