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From: Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 3:38 PM

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

Subject: Redacted - Letter of Comment - EB-2022-0111

- Name --

Eric Tonks

-- Do you reside in the impacted service area? -- Yes

-- Comments --

Re: EB 2022-0111 Bobcaygeon Community Expansion Project.

Objection to Abeyance of Proceeding!

On June 14th, 2023, Enbridge Gas re-submitted a Leave To Construct (LTC) Application to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) for the Bobcaygeon Community expansion project.

I am writing to you to express my disappointment that the OEB has placed this proceeding into abeyance while it reviews a motion filed by Environmental Defence (EB-2023-0313) related to natural gas alternatives outside of the intent of the natural gas expansion program. I recognise that natural gas has been given a lot of bad press in regard to carbon emissions and other claims of greenhouse warming emissions. While this may be true, virtually everything we do emits some polluting emissions, the important thing is how much. Look at the alternatives that we have to live with, at the present time I have to use propane, some neighbours are using oil and others are either using wood or supplementing heating with wood. Are these environmentally better than natural gas?

Also, much press is given to heat pumps, as good as they are, they will require an improved electrical grid to replace all the current heating systems. As I look around, it is apparent that Hydro One grid in this area is woefully inadequate to take on this load with the lightweight gauge of the cabling and with long runs through this rural territory. Plus heat pumps contain a toxic greenhouse gas, FREON or other substitutes, during manufacturing, installation and servicing, there is a very real risk of leakages. So they are not carbon nor environmental neutral.

Access to dependable, cost-effective energy is a priority to Ontario families, which the Government of Ontario committed to providing, and is something our community has been waiting on for years. We purchased a house recently with the expectation of having natural gas being available within a year, to replace propane that we are currently using. We are feeling that the OEB has let us down by allowing the abeyance to stall the process of constructing the pipeline.

We fully support the natural gas expansion project and request your approvals to secure timely access to natural gas in this community by advancing the project through the regulatory process.

We look forward to your approval to bring this matter to a prompt resolution and providing businesses and our homes with the energy source of their choice.

Eric Tonks,
Daniel Tonks,
Elisha Tonks,