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## **VIA EMAIL and RESS**

February 1, 2024

Nancy Marconi Registrar Ontario Energy Board 2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700 Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1E4

Dear Nancy Marconi:

Re: Enbridge Gas Inc. ("Enbridge Gas" or the "Company") Ontario Energy Board ("OEB") File No. EB-2022-0285 Panhandle Regional Expansion Project – Early Access

Submission re: Need for Oral Hearing

Pursuant to Procedural Order No. 2 dated January 8, 2024, this is the submission of Enbridge Gas regarding the need for an oral hearing in the above-noted proceeding.

In a letter dated July 27, 2023, Enbridge Gas set out its position that it did not support the need for an oral hearing, but that the OEB may wish to revisit the question upon completion of the discovery phase of the proceeding. For the reasons that follow, Enbridge Gas remains of the position that an oral hearing is not warranted.

The discovery phase of the proceeding concluded on January 26, 2024, upon Enbridge Gas filing its responses to all interrogatories. This consisted of just five interrogatories, all of which were submitted by OEB Staff. Courey Corporation, which is the only other party to the proceeding and the party that initially requested an oral hearing on July 24, 2023, did not file any interrogatories. The updated application filed by Enbridge Gas on December 8, 2023 included clear, comprehensive and detailed evidence to support the requested relief. In addition, the interrogatory responses filed by Enbridge Gas were complete and fully responsive.

On January 30, 2024, OEB Staff filed its submission regarding the need for an oral hearing and stated that it did not require further discovery through an oral hearing. Accordingly, as no party has expressed any need for further discovery through an oral hearing or otherwise, the Company submits that there is no basis for an oral hearing and the OEB should proceed to written submissions.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Haris Ginis Technical Manager, Leave to Construct Applications

c.c. Jonathan Myers (Torys LLP) Charles Keizer (Torys LLP) Zora Crnojacki (OEB Staff) Intervenors (EB-2022-0285)