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Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 6:32 PM

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

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Subject: Enbridge Application to construct gas pipelines in Neustadt

To the Ontario Energy Board

Earth Works, West Grey is writing to you to ask you to refuse this application. We are a local climate action group that represents a significant community of concerned residents in West Grey where the town of Neustadt is located. We have several reasons for our request:

There is a global climate crisis and we urgently need to act quickly to reduce our Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs) as fast as possible.

Building new fossil gas infrastructure will add fuel to the fire, literally. The purpose of this application is to build more new homes that heat with fossil gas, thus locking new homeowners into high GHG emissions and higher costs for years to come.

Heat pump technology is available and popular. Many residents in West Grey are converting to heat pumps although they are expensive. But we know that in the long term they are cheaper to run and have much lower GHG emissions than fossil gas heating. Alternately, an even better solution for a new subdivision would be a community-wide geothermal heating system. Again this technology is available to West Grey and there are skilled local installers.

Costs to existing fossil gas customers would be reduced if they do not have to subsidize new infrastructure. Subsidies from governments could be put into the lower GHG alternatives.

Costs to heat and cool new homes with heat pumps would be significantly lower than with fossil gas and the gap would grow over time as the cost of fossil fuels rise. New homeowners who want to reduce their carbon footprint would save the large investment required to convert their homes to heat pumps in the future.

The existence of stranded assets – unused pipelines – would be reduced, as more homes will convert to lower GHG and cheaper alternatives.

Grey County is in the process of developing Green Development Standards. If these are

put in place the infrastructure may never be used.

We also support the detailed report on this subject that was submitted by Environmental Defense on March 25th of this year.

Sincerely

The Earth Works Team

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