

April 10, 2024

Nancy Marconi
Registrar
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4 (delivered by email)

Dear Nancy Marconi:

Subject: EB-2023-0343 Letter of Comment

I am an Ontario resident that lives just over the border between East Gwillimbury and The Township of Uxbridge. I am also an intervenor in OEB eb-2023-0200 Sandford Gas Expansion Project. I participated yesterday in the Ontario Standing Committee of the Interior study of Bill 165 to overturn the OEB December ruling.

It was very alarming to listen to the presentation, by Unifor, about the treatment of gas leaks within the Enbridge system. We heard that less serious leaks are simply monitored until they become more serious and are eventually repaired.

I ask that, if you do approve this application, that you also investigate the project budget and ensure that adequate funds are included for monitoring but also for immediate repair of even small leaks. I think that all participants in this proceeding would agree that even small leaks are dangerous to human and climate health.

I find it very interesting to compare the survey results from this June 2023 survey with the September 2022 results for the Sandford project. The East Gwillimbury survey found 22 heat pumps which is many more than were found in the earlier survey in nearby Sandford. Interest in heat pumps is growing quickly and before this project comes on line it seems likely that many of the 50 oil furnaces will have joined those that have converted. Heat pump acquisitions this year and next will reduce the number of customers available to invest in conversion to gas. The news about Bill 165 has created recent publicity about the 40 year amortization and stranded assets to be paid for by all remaining gas customers.

This news has the potential to reverse some of the enthusiasm for gas that existed in June 2023.

The risk that fewer customers will still have interest in gas in 2025 when this project is planned to be completed is a risk to the financial forecast.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Carswell

