

719

December 21, 2017

Ontario Energy Board
Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto ON
M4P 1E4

RECEIVED

JAN 08 2018

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Re: Ontario Energy Board - Case # EB-2017-0147
Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.
Natural Gas Pipeline expansion from Sunderland to Fenelon Falls
Brock Township, Regional Municipality of Durham

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is in receipt of the Ontario Energy Board Notice for a natural gas pipeline project connecting Sunderland to Fenelon Falls.

It is our understanding that the proposal is to construct a 4-6 inch gas pipe along existing road allowances to service the community of Fenelon Falls. The project is divided into two segments: the Sunderland Segment which consists of 8 kilometres in the MNRF Aurora District, and the Fenelon Falls Segment consisting of 29 kilometres in the MNRF Peterborough District.

Within the Aurora District area, the proposed pipeline crosses two Provincially Significant Wetlands: the Beaverton River Wetland Complex and the Layton River Wetland Complex. Works within these and other Provincially Significant Wetlands occurring within the Peterborough District, as well as all other and hazard lands typically require authorizations from the Lake Simcoe and Region Conservation Authority and Kawartha Conservation (LSRCA and KC). MNRF recommends contacting LSRCA and KC for specific recommendations regarding erosion and sediment mitigation, particularly given the numerous Snapping Turtle records found in the subject area.

Aurora District has reviewed the proposal in relation to our Species at Risk (SAR) records. Additional recommendations related to SAR include:

- All bridges should be surveyed for Barn Swallow nests prior to works commencing.
- Any trees removed must first be screened for Species at Risk bats; impacts to bats can likely be mitigated using a timing window (i.e. trees removed between: October 1st - Mar 31st only).
- Butternut trees must be evaluated using the Butternut Health Assessment protocol.

- Appropriate breeding bird timing windows should be applied as Eastern Wood Pewee has been recorded in the area
- Potential impacts to turtle nests and eggs must be avoided; any disturbance to gravel roads or shoulders within 250 meters of a wetland (any type) should be avoided between May 15 and September 31, unless the gravel/work area has turtle exclusion fencing erected prior to May 15th and has been in place and maintained until at least June 30th.

Since the proposed pipe is to remain within the road allowance, Aurora district believes that the impacts to the surrounding area can be reasonably mitigated.

Should you require any further information, please contact the undersigned at: (905)713-7367.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Maria Jawaid', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Maria Jawaid
District Planner – Aurora District
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

cc: Cara Hernould, MNRF Peterborough District