

**Elizabeth Carswell - Independent Participant IP**

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Ms. Nancy Marconi, Registrar

Ontario Energy Board

2300 Yonge Street

Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

[registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca)

August 26, 2024

Dear Ms. Marconi:

**EB-2024-0197 Enbridge Sandford Community Expansion Project  
Independent Participant Elizabeth Carswell Submission**

I am writing to add detail to my request for a delay of construction in Sandford until the decision to proceed has had its final review.

The Environmental Report identifies one watercourse crossing, 16.55 ha of wetlands, 18.23 ha of wooded area, 10 threatened or endangered species, 2 km of conservation authority regulated areas crossed, 29.56 ha of heritage areas and 3.71 km of highly vulnerable aquifers all to be affected by the construction if allowed to continue.

Once intervention has taken place in these sensitive areas the damage cannot be undone.

In my opinion this construction is unnecessary and surely not urgent because all in Sandford already have a safe and reliable source of heating for homes and buildings.

I want to emphasize that the timing could not be worse. The construction is planned along Sandford Road right in front of a school where children four years old will very soon have their first day of school. This is a rural area with most children arriving to school by school bus. Imagine the traffic with one lane of the two lane road in front of the school blocked. Almost all the buses will have to pass all of the construction on Sandford Road because the school is close to the western edge of the Township. Any buses from the east will also have to detour around the closure of Sandford road at the nearby bridge reconstruction. First day of school traffic is always dangerous and this construction, if allowed to continue, would be adding to that risk. There are no sidewalks in Sandford and school buses do not have seatbelts to protect the occupants.

This construction is very significant. At my last view there are many parked passenger vehicles along the side of the road, likely belonging to the construction crew and there too many construction vehicles to count. The construction so far is forcing two closures of one direction of 6<sup>th</sup> Concession. An improvement is the temporary traffic light controlling one of the blockages and signal people controlling the other blockage so the drivers, cyclists, joggers and dog walkers are a little safer than when I wrote my first letter. Many safety fences have been installed around the unsafe areas or to identify significant areas and trees. Signs have been installed to warn the construction vehicles of overhead wires including one sign affixed directly to a tree.

I have lived in Sandford for 40 years and appreciate the wildlife and natural habitat around me and I am very unhappy to see and hear and smell the pollution and destruction being caused. I am asking that further damage be prevented at least until the decision has its final review.

I urge all participants to submit early so that a quick decision can be made on a much earlier timetable to protect children on their first day of school September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Carswell

Born 316ppm CO<sub>2</sub> -- Year 2023 421ppm CO<sub>2</sub>