



October 30, 2024

Ms. Nancy Marconi Registrar Ontario Energy Board 2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Marconi:

Re: Enbridge Gas Inc.

**Approval of Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity** 

**Township of Armour** 

Ontario Energy Board File No. EB-2024-0230

In accordance with instructions set out by the Ontario Energy Board's Letter of Direction dated October 29, 2024, enclosed is my Affidavit of Service related to the Decision and Order in regard to the above-noted proceeding.

Yours truly,

Patrick McMahon Technical Manager Regulatory Research and Records patrick.mcmahon@enbridge.com (519) 436-5325

Encl.

**IN THE MATTER OF** the *Municipal Franchises Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c. M.55, as amended;

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** an Application by Enbridge Gas Inc. for an Order approving a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct works to supply natural gas in the Township of Armour.

### **AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE**

- I, Patrick McMahon, of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, in the Province of Ontario, make oath and say as follows:
- 1. I am an employee in the Chatham Office of Enbridge Gas Inc., the Applicant in the matter referred to in the preamble to this my Affidavit and I have personal knowledge of the matters herein deposed to.
- 2. By Courier, at Chatham, Ontario, on October 30, 2024, I did cause to be sent to the Township of Armour a true copy of the Decision and Order issued by the Ontario Energy Board on October 29, 2024, to the above preamble and a covering letter, attached hereto as Exhibit "A".
- 3. The courier bill of lading is attached hereto as Exhibit "B".
- 4. I make this Affidavit in good faith and for no improper purpose.

SWORN BEFORE ME, at the City of Toronto in the Province of Ontario this 30 <sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.	) ) )	Patrick McMahon

A Commissioner, etc.





Exhibit A

October 30, 2024

This is Exhibit "A" to the Affidavit of Patrick McMahon sworn before me this 30th day of October, 2024.

John Theriault, Clerk Township of Armour 56 Ontario Street Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

Dear Mr. Theriault:

A Commissioner, etc.

Re: Enbridge Gas Inc.

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – Township of Armour Ontario Energy Board File No. EB-2024-0230

In accordance with instructions set out by the Ontario Energy Board's Letter of Direction dated October 29, 2024, Enbridge Gas now serves upon you a copy of the Decision and Order approving the new Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity that Enbridge Gas holds for the Township of Armour.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions about the application that resulted in this Decision and Order.

Yours truly,

[Original Signed By]

Patrick McMahon
Technical Manager
Regulatory Research and Records
<a href="mailto:patrick.mcmahon@enbridge.com">patrick.mcmahon@enbridge.com</a>
(519) 436-5325

Encl.



# **DECISION AND ORDER**

EB-2024-0230

# **ENBRIDGE GAS INC.**

**Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Township of Armour** 

By Delegation, before: Theodore Antonopoulos

Vice President Major Applications

October 29, 2024

### 1 OVERVIEW

This Decision and Order of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) approves an application filed by Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) for approval of a certificate of public convenience and necessity (certificate) for the Township of Armour. Enbridge Gas and its predecessor companies have been operating in the Township of Armour without a certificate since the 1980s. With the issuance of a certificate for the Township of Armour, this situation has now been remedied.

### **2 CONTEXT AND PROCESS**

Enbridge Gas filed an application with the OEB on July 16, 2024, under section 8 of the *Municipal Franchises Act*. The application is for an order approving a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct works to supply natural gas in the Township of Armour.

The OEB held a written hearing. A notice of hearing was published in local newspapers between August 9, 2024 and August 16, 2024. The notice of hearing was also posted on Enbridge Gas's website. No persons sought to become intervenors or otherwise participate in the proceeding.

In this Decision and Order, a reference to the Township of Armour or the Village of Burk's Falls is a reference to the municipal corporation or its geographical area, as the context requires.

### 3 APPLICATION

Enbridge Gas is a corporation incorporated under the laws of the Province of Ontario, with its head office in the City of Toronto. Enbridge Gas applied for a certificate for the entirety of the Township of Armour.

The Township of Armour is a municipal corporation incorporated under the laws of the province of Ontario and is a single-tier municipality located in the Parry Sound District.

Enbridge Gas submits that, following the issuance of the Ontario Energy Board's *Natural Gas Facilities Handbook*<sup>1</sup>, it hired a consultant to review its existing certificates to see if there were any required updates due to municipal boundary changes. Enbridge Gas states further that it has undertaken more extensive reviews of municipal boundary changes for franchise agreement renewals and that procedural discussions are taking place within Enbridge Gas to ensure that certificates are included in annual reviews of plant in service and project planning.<sup>2</sup> As a result of these efforts, Enbridge Gas discovered that it, and its predecessor companies, has been serving customers in the Township of Armour without a certificate as is required by section 8 of the *Municipal Franchises Act*. Enbridge Gas states that there are currently 50 customers being served in the Township of Armour and that it has placed a hold on additional requests for service attachments within the Township pending the issuance of a certificate by the OEB.<sup>3,4</sup> Enbridge Gas notes that it is not aware of any other areas in Ontario where it is operating without a certificate or franchise agreement in place.

Enbridge Gas indicates that it has come to serve customers in the Township of Armour without a certificate inadvertently. It states that one of its predecessor companies, the former Northern and Central Gas Corporation, first entered into a franchise agreement with the Township of Armour dated May 6, 1980.<sup>5</sup> Over the years, customers living within the Township of Armour were tied into the existing distribution system within the Village of Burk's Falls (which is located within the Township of Armour) for which Enbridge Gas, through its predecessor companies, holds a certificate.

Another of Enbridge Gas's predecessor companies, the former Union Gas Ltd., had also been found by the OEB, in 2016, to be operating without a certificate. At that time, the OEB issued a letter directing the former Union Gas to review its service area to

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Report of the Ontario Energy Board, "Natural Gas Facilities Handbook", EB-2022-0081, March 31, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Enbridge Gas Response to OEB Staff Question 2-b), October 17, 2024

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Enbridge Gas Response to OEB Staff Question 1-b), October 17, 2024

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Application, page 1, para 4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> By-Law No. 12-80

ensure that it was not operating in any other parts of Ontario without a certificate.<sup>6</sup> The Township of Armour was part of the former Union Gas's service area.

Enbridge Gas submits that the proposed certificate for the Township of Armour does not overlap with any other person's certificate and that it is not aware of any other natural gas distributor in the area.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> EB-2015-0296, OEB Letter, January 25, 2016

### 4 FINDINGS

I find that it is in the public interest to approve Enbridge Gas's application for approval for a certificate covering the entirety of the Township of Armour. I find in this instance that allowing the certificate to cover the entire municipality is an efficient means of facilitating connections where and when needed and does not preclude other potential natural gas distributors from seeking to serve the same municipality in future. The *Natural Gas Facilities Handbook* notes that that OEB may amend an existing certificate to remove authorization to serve a specific geographic area and grant that authorization to another person, if public convenience and necessity require that such authorization be given. In so doing, the OEB would seek to ensure that the two certificates would cover mutually exclusive areas.

Enbridge Gas filed a complete application, provided notice of the hearing in the manner instructed by the OEB, and responded to interrogatories from OEB staff. I note that no party intervened or otherwise objected to the application.

A certificate, attached as Schedule A to this Decision and Order, is granted to Enbridge Gas for the Township of Armour. I note that there are no other natural gas distributors within the certificate area.

Enbridge Gas, and its predecessor companies, have been operating in the Township of Armour without a certificate since the 1980s. With the issuance of a certificate for the Township of Armour, this situation has now been remedied.

### 5 ORDER

### IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- 1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity, attached as Schedule A, is granted to Enbridge Gas Inc. to construct works or supply natural gas in the Township of Armour. A current map of the Township of Armour is attached as Schedule B.
- 2. Enbridge Gas Inc. shall pay the OEB's costs incidental to this proceeding upon receipt of the OEB's invoice.

DATED October 29, 2024

### **ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Theodore Digitally signed by Theodore Antonopoulos Date: 2024.10.29 17:25:43 -04'00'

Theodore Antonopoulos Vice President Major Applications

# SCHEDULE A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY ENBRIDGE GAS INC.

EB-2024-0230

**OCTOBER 29, 2024** 

# **Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity**

The Ontario Energy Board grants

# **Enbridge Gas Inc.**

approval under section 8 of the *Municipal Franchises Act,* R.S.O. 1990, c. M.55, as amended, to construct works to supply natural gas in the

# **Township of Armour**

as it is constituted on the date of this Decision and Order.

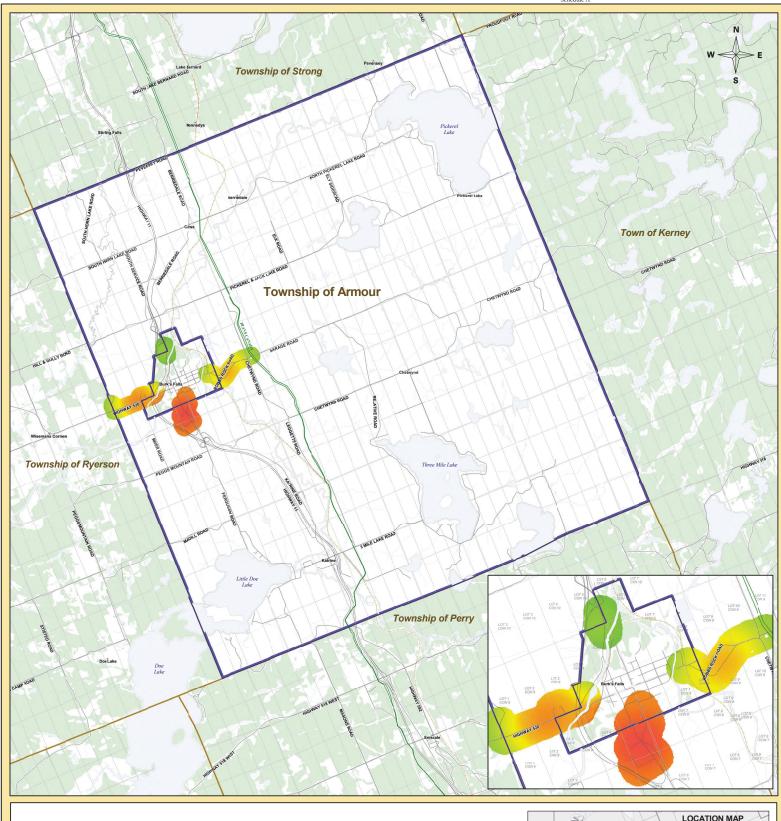
DATED at October 29, 2024

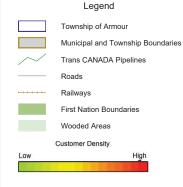
### **ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Theodore Digitally signed by Theodore Antonopoulos Date: 2024.10.29 17:26:08 -04'00'

Theodore Antonopoulos Vice President Major Applications

# SCHEDULE B MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR ENBRIDGE GAS INC. EB-2024-0230 OCTOBER 29, 2024





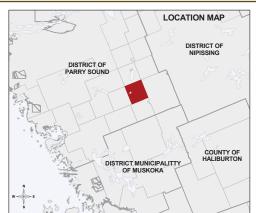
### **Township of Armour**

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### Disclaimer:

Enbridge Gas Inc.
The map is provided with no warranty express or Implied and is subject to change at any time. Any Person using the Map shall do so at its own Risk and the Map is not intended in any way As a tool to locate underground infrastructure for the purposes of excavation.





Township of Armour 56 Ontario Street Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0

(705) 382-3332

Attention:

John Theriault, Clerk

This is Exhibit "B" to the Affidavit of Patrick McMahon sworn before me this 30th day of October, 2024.

A Commissioner, etc.

10/30/24, 9:50 AM

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