

Elson Advocacy

April 11, 2025

BY RESS

Ms. Nancy Marconi

Registrar

Ontario Energy Board

2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700, P.O. Box 2319

Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Marconi:

**Re: Enbridge – Approval to Construct Gas Works in Tay Valley Township
EB-2024-0342**

I am writing on behalf of the Climate Network Lanark to submit this late request for intervenor status in the above proceeding. As this is a late intervention request, I have included the details required by the OEB's intervention form in this letter followed by submissions on why the Climate Network Lanark should be granted intervenor status despite this request being submitted past the deadline.

1. Intervenor Information

The Climate Network Lanark seeks to intervene in this proceeding regarding the request of Enbridge Gas to expand the geographic area in which it has approval to construct gas works in Tay Valley Township (EB-2024-0342).

Mandate and Objectives

The mission of the Climate Network Lanark is to connect, coordinate, facilitate, initiate and support collaborative efforts and actions by and for the community to address the impacts of climate change through both mitigation and adaptation.

Membership of the Intervenor and Constituency Represented

The Climate Network Lanark's supporters, staff, board members, and volunteers are predominantly members of the County of Lanark. The Climate Network Lanark represents County residents who are interested in practical strategies to reduce their impacts on the climate and the environment.

Tay Valley Township is one of the eight municipalities that make up the County of Lanark. The Climate Network Lanark has worked extensively on environmental issues in the Township and it has many supporters who reside in the Township. Residents of the Township have been involved

in and benefitted from Climate Network Lanark initiatives. For example, residents of the Township have participated in the Neighbourhood Climate Concierge Program and the Electrify Lanark Forum and workshops held by the Climate Network Lanark.

The co-founder of the Climate Network Lanark also played a key role in developing the Township's Climate Action Plan, which is at issue in this proceeding as Enbridge's requested approvals are contrary to the Climate Action Plan.

Programs or Activities Carried Out by the Intervenor:

The Climate Network Lanark brings people together to act on climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). They focus on practical strategies like promoting the use of renewable energy instead of fossil fuels; using natural systems to absorb carbon emissions; improving energy efficiency; and expanding organic waste composting. They also help the local community prepare for the impacts of climate change by advocating for measures to mitigate the social, psychological, and economic risks of extreme weather and the loss of nature.

The Climate Network Lanark's initiatives include the Neighbourhood Climate Concierge. This program connects community members who own single-family homes with tailored resources, information, and expertise specific to Lanark County and Smiths Falls. The initiative supports residents in navigating and implementing climate action in their homes, empowering them to make informed decisions about sustainable practices and reduce their environmental impact. The offerings include:

- Personalized Guidance: Tailored advice on energy efficiency and sustainable practices;
- Expert Knowledge: Details on the latest trends and information regarding building and home retrofits;
- Peer Support: Connections with fellow community members who care about the environment and saving money; and
- Resource Hub: Access a variety of materials, including guides, videos, and local resources to help participants implement sustainable practices in their homes.

The Climate Network Lanark also pursues initiatives relating to:

- Composting and waste reduction;
- Helping to make public events more environmentally friendly; and
- Promoting nature-based climate solutions.

More details can be found at <https://www.climatenetworklanark.ca/>.

Governance Structure

The Climate Network Lanark is governed by a Board of Directors. Instructions will be provided by the Chair of the Board, Scott Hortop and the co-founder of Climate Network Lanark, Susan Brandum, who is also a current member of the Board.

Representatives

The Climate Network Lanark would be represented by Kent Elson and Kate Siemiatycki of Elson Advocacy. Our contact details are as follows:

1062 College Street
 Toronto, Ontario
 M6H 1A9
 416 906-7305
 Kent@ElsonAdvocacy.ca; Kate@ElsonAdvocacy.ca

The contact information for the Climate Network Lanark and its instructing board members will be provided in a separate email to the Registrar to protect their privacy.

2. OEB Proceedings

The Climate Network Lanark has never applied for intervenor status in OEB proceedings.

3. Issues

The Climate Network Lanark opposes Enbridge’s request to expand the geographic area in which it has permission to construct gas infrastructure in the County of Lanark and the Township. Expanding this area is inconsistent with the goals and mandate of the Climate Network Lanark to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions.

The Climate Network Lanark wishes to address whether “public convenience and necessity” require approval to expand the area in which Enbridge Gas is allowed to construct gas works in the relevant area. The Climate Network Lanark will argue that this approval is not in the public interest and is certainly does not meet the prerequisite in section 8 of the *Municipal Franchises Act* of being a “necessity.”

4. Policy Interests

The Climate Network Lanark represents the interests of residents of the County of Lanark and Tay Valley Township who are concerned about climate impacts. The Climate Network Lanark’s interests include reducing carbon emissions in the County of Lanark and Tay Valley Township. This proceeding engages those interests because it would expand the area in which fossil fuel infrastructure can be built within the County of Lanark and Tay Valley Township, directly contrary to goals of the Climate Network Lanark. The requested approval would also run contrary to Tay Valley Township’s Climate Action Plan, which the co-founder of the Climate

Network Lanark helped to develop, and the Lanark County's Climate Action Plan, for which the Climate Network Lanark was also a major contributor.

5. Hearings

The Climate Network Lanark requests an opportunity to provide submissions on the form of hearing following receipt of interrogatory responses.

6. Evidence

The Climate Network Lanark intends to file evidence to support its contention that expanding the geographic area in which Enbridge Gas has permission to construct gas works is not a necessity and is not in the public interest. They request an opportunity to provide additional details regarding the proposed evidence at a future date.

7. Coordination with Other Intervenors

The Climate Network Lanark has worked with Tay Valley Township in the past and expects that it would be able to coordinate with the Township in this proceeding.

If Environmental Defence were to be granted intervenor status, the Climate Network Lanark would seek a joint intervention under one counsel to avoid any potential for duplication.

8. Cost award

The Climate Network Lanark is eligible for a cost award primarily under s. 3.03(b) of the Practice Direction as it primarily represents an interest or policy perspective relevant to the Board's mandate and to the proceeding for which cost award eligibility is sought, namely environmental and climate protection. In addition, the Climate Network Lanark also represents the interests of local residents who oppose the construction of long-lived fossil fuel infrastructure in the County and the Township.

9. Language Preference

The Climate Network Lanark intends to participate in English.

Late Intervention Request

The Climate Network Lanark should be granted intervenor status even though this request is being submitted after the deadline set out in the notice for this proceeding. Although that deadline has passed, the proceeding is still in the early stages and no significant steps have taken place. Also, there is no evidence that this proceeding is urgent in any way. There is no prejudice to allowing the Climate Network Lanark to participate in light of this lack any evidence of urgency.

The Climate Network Lanark is not a frequent intervenor at the OEB and it would be unduly restrictive to prohibit them from participating due to the timing of its intervention application. The Climate Network Lanark only very recently became aware of this OEB proceeding and that Environmental Defence had applied and was denied intervenor status. Had that not occurred, the Climate Network Lanark would have been satisfied that environmental concerns would have been adequately represented and would not have sought intervenor status.

Although the Climate Network Lanark is new to OEB proceedings, it would be represented by counsel with over 15 years of experience in energy law and OEB proceedings. The Climate Network Lanark would act responsibly and provide an important and unique perspective that would benefit the OEB's consideration of the issues in this proceeding.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Elson', written over a horizontal line.

Kent Elson

cc: Parties in the above proceeding