



MUNICIPALITY OF SHUNIAH

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File 5

EB-2016-0004

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APR 13 2016

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

April 4, 2016

Ontario Energy Board
P.O Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th floor
Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

Attention: Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Walli:

RE: Expansion of Natural Gas service Municipality of Shuniah

We are writing to express our support for expansion of natural gas service within the Municipality of Shuniah. Due to the significant increases in heating costs for homes without natural gas we believe it is in the public interest and a benefit to extend natural gas services in the rural and remote communities and specifically within our Municipality. Not having this service presents limitations and barriers to land owners in these areas.

We enclose Council Resolution 709 dated March 14, 2016 in support of this request.

Thank you for your attention in this regard and should you require any further information please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Paul Greenwood, CAO
PG/fab
Encl.

c.c. NOMA, NOACC and CVNW

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Date: March 14, 2016

Resolution No.:

709/16

Moved By:

[Signature]

Seconded By:

[Signature]

Whereas there are 21 rural and remote municipalities in Northwestern Ontario and a number of First Nation communities who do not have direct access to piped natural gas, and

Whereas the residents and businesses in those communities without natural gas service must pay significantly more to heat their buildings and homes than communities with natural gas service, and

Whereas we believe there is a public interest and benefit in extending natural gas services to rural and remote communities; and

Whereas we often hear from the residents and businesses expressing their interest in having access to natural gas and the limitations and barriers they face in not having access to natural gas causes; and

Whereas current economic tests and ratemaking mechanisms associated with new connections to the existing natural gas distribution system do not encourage utilities to expand in Northwestern Ontario, and

Whereas currently natural gas expansion in Northwest Ontario requires the new customers to pay. In contrast the vast majority of the existing system was paid for by the rate payers as a whole, and

Whereas the Ontario Energy Board has initiated a hearing on its own motion to consider what mechanisms may be used to recover the costs of expanding natural gas service to Ontario communities that do not currently have access to natural gas, and

Whereas NOMA, NOACC and CVNW (the Coalition) have requested intervenor status on behalf of their member ratepayers (current and future) in Northwestern Ontario, and

Whereas the position of the Coalition is that the cost of expanding natural gas service to communities without it should be shared by all gas rate payers in the Province of Ontario and the OEB implement new ratemaking mechanisms including changes to

current economic tests to expand natural gas distribution on such basis.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Municipality of Shuniah advises the Ontario Energy Board that it supports the position adopted by NOMA, NOACC and CVNW that the expansion of the natural gas distribution system should be paid for by all current and future gas rate payers and the OEB implement new ratemaking mechanisms including changes to current economic tests to expand natural gas distribution on such basis.

CARRIED

DEFEATED

LOST TO A TIE

[Signature]

Mayor