

February 5, 2026

Mr. Ritchie Murray
Acting Registrar
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Mr. Murray:

**Re: Enbridge Gas Inc.
Application for Approval of Franchise Agreement and New CPCN - City of Guelph
Ontario Energy Board (OEB) File No. EB-2025-0058**

Enbridge Gas is filing this letter to address the issues raised in the letters of comment in this proceeding prior to the record being closed, pursuant to Rule 23.05 of the OEB's [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#) (Rules).

In response to Enbridge Gas' February 28, 2025 letter that, among other things, objected to the eMerge Guelph Sustainability ("eMerge Guelph") request for intervenor status, eMerge Guelph initiated a letter writing campaign to the OEB to generate support for their participation in the review of the renewal of the franchise agreement between the City of Guelph and Enbridge Gas.¹

478 letters of comment were submitted as emails to the OEB's Registrar between March 3, 2025 and May 3, 2025 and one letter of comment was submitted to the public record of this proceeding by Mike Schreiner, MPP. On March 12, 2025, Enbridge Gas submitted preliminary comments on the letters of comment that had been submitted and posted to the public record to that date.

As noted in our March 12, 2025 submission on the letters of comment, there are some peculiarities in the content and submissions of the letters of comment that call into question the weight that can be assigned to them. Notably, it is not clear whether these letters of comment (which all have the same wording) were actually submitted by the persons identified on the emails or were in effect submitted by eMerge Guelph as part of its coordinated letter writing campaign.

Enbridge Gas does not have access to the email addresses or municipal addresses of the submitters of the emailed letters of comment, so we cannot verify their origin, whether more than one submitter is located at the same address, and how many, if any, of the submitters are part of the nearly 48,000 residents and businesses served by Enbridge Gas within the City of Guelph. In any event, in most instances these form letters do not appear to comply with Rule 23.02 of the Rules because they do not include the submitter's full name, mailing address, email address and phone number, unless the OEB has this information separate from what is posted or has been provided to Enbridge Gas.

¹ [Enbridge asks to shut out local environmental advocates from hearing - Guelph News](#)

478 of these emailed letters of comment use the same template letter requesting the OEB to reject Enbridge Gas' request to renew the franchise agreement with the City of Guelph for another 20-year term because it allows "no-fee access" to municipal lands, is "an unfair fossil fuel subsidy" and imposes a franchise agreement which the City of Guelph's council opposes.

The letter of comment submitted March 13, 2025 by Mike Schreiner, MPP, makes reference to his private member's bill submitted to the Ontario Legislative Assembly which proposes amendments to [Ontario Regulation 584/06 \(Fees and Charges\)](#) under the *Municipal Act* to allow municipalities to charge gas pipeline companies for the use of public lands. Mr. Schreiner's first attempt to allow for these amendments (*Bill 219 - No Free Ride for Fossil Fuels Act, 2024*) never proceeded past its initial reading before the provincial election was called and the Legislative Assembly was dissolved. Mr. Schreiner's second attempt to allow for these amendments ([Bill 50 - No Free Ride for Fossil Fuels Act, 2025](#)) is again not expected to proceed past its initial reading of June 4, 2025 given the Minister of Energy's recent indication that he is not contemplating changing the Fees and Charges regulation to allow municipalities to charge fees to Enbridge Gas for the use of municipal lands and the Ontario government's determination of the need to maintain natural gas as part of a diverse energy supply.²

As has already been determined by the OEB³, the potential amendment of *Ontario Regulation 584/06 (Fees and Charges)* and its potential consequences would not be material to the specific circumstances of a municipality such that it could justify deviation from the terms of the Model Franchise Agreement. [Procedural Order No. 1](#) to this current proceeding also confirmed that a detailed discussion regarding generic changes to the Model Franchise Agreement is not in scope in the review of this Application.

With respect to the claims in the emailed letters of comment that not collecting fees for use of municipal properties by Enbridge Gas is "an unfair fossil fuel subsidy" and "exactly the kind of fossil fuel subsidy that needs to be eliminated", Enbridge Gas notes that the City of Guelph's administrative staff confirmed at the November 5, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting that there is no direct subsidy paid to Enbridge Gas to operate within the City of Guelph.⁴

Enbridge Gas pays property taxes in every municipality in which it has facilities based on linear infrastructure and is also subject to permit fees in several municipalities to cover the administrative costs of those municipalities issuing permits, as municipalities are entitled to charge under *Ontario Regulation 584/06 (Fees and Charges)*. In 2024, Enbridge Gas paid \$1,113,661 in property taxes for all buildings and pipelines located within the City of Guelph and required minimal municipal services in return. In this sense, Enbridge Gas is a passive taxpayer (i.e., the pipelines and other assets in place do not require municipal funding for activities like snow removal or garbage pick-up), resulting in a net benefit to the municipality.

Mr. Schreiner claims that "it is not reasonable for Enbridge to decline to work with Guelph on the important points raised by the municipality and the Ontario Energy Board should not condone this by imposing an agreement on the municipality against the will of its Council and residents". Enbridge Gas notes that we initially contacted the City of Guelph on May 10, 2024 about the need to renew the franchise agreement and subsequently (as confirmed by the City of Guelph in its submissions⁵) held several meetings with City of Guelph administrative staff to discuss the franchise agreement renewal process and the City of Guelph's proposed amendments.

² [Minister Lecce News Conference – January 7, 2026](#); video at 26:45 – 31:16

³ [EB-2024-0134, Procedural Order No. 4](#)

⁴ City of Guelph Committee of the Whole meeting, November 5, 2024, video at 1:48:00 – 1:48:20 (<https://pub-guelph.escribemeetings.com/Players/ISISStandAlonePlayer.aspx?Id=99dad340-87ab-46cb-a53b-326b8e57b9af>)

⁵ City of Guelph Submission dated January 14, 2026, paragraph 23

As a result of these discussions, the City of Guelph's administrative staff recommended to the City of Guelph's Committee of the Whole that the municipality move forward with the renewal based on the Model Franchise Agreement without amendments. City of Guelph council ultimately did not agree with the recommendation of the municipality's administrative staff. After that determination, further discussions took place between the City of Guelph administrative staff and Enbridge Gas during which it was made clear that the City of Guelph would not agree to any renewal of the franchise agreement unless Enbridge Gas agreed to the amended terms the City of Guelph is now seeking in the review of this Application. Accordingly, it became obvious that an agreement could not be reached between the parties and so this Application needed to be brought. By that point (and after that), neither side was suggesting that further discussion should take place or would be productive, and Enbridge Gas therefore commenced this Application.⁶

Should you have any questions on this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

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cc (email only):

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Matthew Irish, City of Guelph
Dylan McMahon, City of Guelph
Natalya Plummer, OEB

⁶ EB-2025-0058 - Exhibit EGI-EMG-4