

February 12, 2026

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

Dear Mr. Murray:

**Re: Enbridge Gas Inc.  
Application for Approval of Franchise Agreement and New CPCN  
Town of Cobourg  
Ontario Energy Board (OEB) File No. EB-2025-0329**

This letter is in response to the intervention request of the Town of Cobourg (Cobourg). Pursuant to Rule 22.04 of the OEB's [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#), an applicant may file an objection to a person applying for intervenor status within five (5) calendar days from the intervention deadline, which in this case was February 9, 2026.

While Enbridge Gas does not object to the OEB granting intervenor status to Cobourg, given they are a party to the franchise agreement, Enbridge Gas does object to Cobourg's proposed "Issues" and any amendments to the franchise agreement related to generic issues that would be of interest to other Ontario municipalities. These submissions are intended to help inform the OEB's determination of the procedural schedule and scope of this proceeding.

### ***Nature of Proceeding***

This is a matter for the OEB to determine in accordance with its authority under section 10 of the *Municipal Franchises Act* to renew or extend the term of the existing franchise agreement with Cobourg if public convenience and necessity appear to require it. As described in the [Application](#), Enbridge Gas has an existing franchise agreement in place with Cobourg in the form of the OEB's Model Franchise Agreement (MFA) and we currently serve approximately 8,100 customers in Cobourg.<sup>1</sup> Renewal or extension of the franchise agreement is required for Enbridge Gas to access municipal highways to continue serving these customers. There has been no suggestion that these customers do not wish to continue receiving services from Enbridge Gas.

### ***"Issues" List of Cobourg***

Enbridge Gas objects to the OEB considering in this proceeding the "Issues" Cobourg has set out in its intervention form, namely:

1. The appropriate term for the agreement – Cobourg is requesting a term less than the standard 20-year term accepted for purposes of the MFA.

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<sup>1</sup> The Application states Enbridge Gas has approximately 7,860 customers in Cobourg, based on 2023 customer data. More recent 2024 information indicates a customer count of approximately 8,100 in Cobourg.

2. The appropriate approach to cost sharing for Enbridge Gas works on municipal property, including relocations. In particular, Cobourg is seeking to amend the MFA to require Enbridge Gas to require coordination of work on its infrastructure with Cobourg's work on its infrastructure, at the instance of either party.
3. Cobourg is considering concerns regarding Enbridge Gas' services and will advise if it has further issues to bring forward in this proceeding.

The OEB is clear in its [Natural Gas Facilities Handbook](#) that it adopted the MFA following significant input from interested stakeholders, including municipalities, and has applied it consistently in efficiently administering the many franchise agreements in place across the province (including 344 Enbridge Gas franchise agreements). Further, the OEB has consistently stated its expectations that franchise agreements will be based on the MFA “unless there is a compelling reason for deviation”. Cobourg has not provided any such reasons in its intervention request, citing only the fact that it “has an obligation to its residents to ensure that the provision of such services is governed in accord with Town Council's view of the appropriate protection of the interests of its residents”.<sup>2</sup>

Regarding Cobourg's item #2 about cost apportionment for relocations and work coordination, the former is clearly a generic issue and the latter is already addressed in the accompanying [Gas Franchise Handbook](#) to the MFA (Handbook) that is “meant to serve as a consolidated guide to deal with operating issues that sometimes require a greater level of detail than appears in the Franchise Agreement itself”.<sup>3</sup> For instance, the Handbook states at page 4:

#### *PLANNING FOR CONSTRUCTION*

*To facilitate proper system expansion and maintenance, the Gas Company will actively participate in each Municipality's Public Utilities Coordinating Committee (PUCC). One of the mandates of the PUCC will be to develop an approved highway cross-section that outlines a standard pipeline location within the highway for each utility's plant.*

*The Gas Company will adhere to the standard line location wherever feasible, and will acquire approval from the Engineer/Road Superintendent prior to deviating from the standard location. In addition the PUCC will act as a forum to minimize construction conflicts between the road authority and various utilities including cable companies and municipal water and sewer works.*

Enbridge Gas requests that the OEB determine an appropriate scope for this proceeding to avoid regulatory delays and lengthy filings about matters beyond local municipal interests that would impact all Enbridge Gas customers and municipalities that Enbridge Gas serves. Cobourg should have to satisfy the OEB that its “Issues” are not in the category of what the OEB has repeatedly stated it considers inappropriate for franchise proceedings – i.e., broad issues that may have implications for communities and natural gas consumers across Ontario, which are not specific to the municipality.<sup>4</sup>

The OEB should make every effort to avoid regulatory inefficiency and comply with the Minister of Energy and Mine's directions to enhance efficiency and clarity within the OEB's processes.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [Town of Cobourg Intervention Form dated February 9, 2026](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Gas Franchise Handbook](#), page 1

<sup>4</sup> OEB's [Procedural Order No. 1](#), EB-2025-0058

<sup>5</sup> Minister of Energy and Mines December 18, 2025 [direction letter](#) to OEB Chair, page 5

The Minister has also directed the OEB to implement the Ontario government's [Integrated Energy Plan](#) and strategy to leverage all energy resources to provide affordable, secure, reliable and clean energy to support economic growth and job creation. Timely and efficient adjudication of municipal franchise agreements with an aim to maintaining reliability and affordability of gas services to existing and new customers is an important part of the OEB's role in this regard.

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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