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February 19, 2026

VIA RESS AND EMAIL

Ritchie Murray
Acting Registrar
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ritchie Murray:

**Re: Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas)
Ontario Energy Board (OEB) File: EB-2025-0271
Washago Community Expansion Project – Enbridge Gas Reply Submissions**

In accordance with Procedural Order No. 1 in the above-noted proceeding, please find attached the reply submissions of Enbridge Gas.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Patricia Squires

Patricia Squires
Manager, Regulatory Applications – Leave to Construct

Cc: Richard Lanni (Enbridge Gas Counsel)
Zora Crnojacki (OEB staff)
Michael Millar (OEB Counsel)

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*,
S.O. 1998, c. 15, Schedule B; and in particular sections 90(1)
and 97 thereof;

AND IN THE MATTER OF an application by Enbridge Gas
Inc. for an order granting leave to construct natural gas
distribution pipelines that make up a Community Expansion
Project to serve the community of Washago and surrounding
areas in the Township of Severn and the Town of Gravenhurst
in Ontario.

ENBRIDGE GAS INC.

REPLY SUBMISSION

Reply Submissions of Enbridge Gas Inc.

1. These are the reply submissions of Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas or the Company) in respect of its application (the Application) to the Ontario Energy Board (the OEB) under sections 90(1) and 97 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) for an order granting leave to construct natural gas distribution pipelines to serve the community of Washago and surrounding areas in the Township of Severn and the Town of Gravenhurst in Ontario (the Project). Enbridge Gas also asks that the OEB approve the form of temporary land use agreements and easement agreements contained within the Application.¹
2. The Project is a “Community Expansion Project” intended to support the Government of Ontario’s Natural Gas Expansion Program. The municipal governments of the communities directly impacted by the Project have each expressed their support for the Project and their strong desire to make natural gas available to their constituents.²
3. Enbridge Gas notes that no person applied to the OEB to intervene in the proceeding, and that the written submissions filed by OEB staff demonstrate overall support for the Project. In this light, the purpose of these reply submissions is threefold.
4. First, Enbridge Gas confirms that the relief sought in this proceeding remains materially as set out in the Application, as originally filed. Second, Enbridge Gas hereby acknowledges that OEB staff’s summary of the record is accurate and provides an appropriate characterization of the Application, the evidence, and the issues before the Board. Third, and as set out in more detail below, these reply submissions are intended to: (i) summarize Enbridge Gas’s past and ongoing commitment to meaningful engagement in support of the Project with Indigenous communities, in light of comments received from two Indigenous communities,

¹ Exhibit G, Tab 1, Schedule 1, Attachments 1 and 2.

² Exhibit B, Tab 1, Schedule 1, Attachments 2 and 3.

and OEB staff's comments in respect of the role of the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) in relation to this Application; (ii) address the proposed Conditions of Approval for the Project, as supported by OEB staff; and (iii) add a point of clarity in respect of the Project description.

(i) Indigenous Consultation

5. Enbridge Gas was delegated the procedural aspects of Indigenous consultation by the Ministry of Energy and Electrification (now the MEM)³ and has carried out (and will continue to carry out) Project engagement with the ten Indigenous communities (the Communities) identified in the Ministry's delegation letter. Enbridge Gas intends to file the MEM's letter of opinion upon receipt.
6. Consistent with the direction provided by the MEM, Enbridge Gas implemented an expansive consultation program with the Communities that involved: providing Project notification early on in Project development; offering capacity funding; sharing Project information including the Environmental Report (ER); inviting each Community to share comments and information, including information about any Indigenous rights practiced in the Project area; and responding to any expressed concerns and explaining how those concerns would be addressed, through mitigation or otherwise, moving forward. Enbridge Gas engaged with the Communities in a variety of ways, including written communications and in-person meetings with a Community's representatives.
7. Each of the Communities was given the opportunity to review and comment on the ER, which was completed in accordance with the OEB's *Environmental Guidelines for the Location, Construction and Operation of Hydrocarbon Projects and Facilities in Ontario, 8th Edition (2023)* (the OEB Guidelines) and ask questions about the Project. Correspondence related to the review of the ER is

³ Exhibit H, Tab 1, Schedule 1, Attachment 2.

included in the Indigenous Consultation Report (ICR).⁴ Enbridge Gas is committed to undertaking the mitigation and protection measures identified in Section 6.0 of the ER.⁵

8. Only one Community, Curve Lake First Nation (CLFN), submitted substantive comments or questions in respect of the ER. Enbridge Gas met with CLFN and also provided written responses to their questions and concerns, as more particularly detailed in the ICR.⁶ To help address issues raised by CLFN, Enbridge Gas has committed to CLFN in respect of the Project to: (i) implement certain wildlife mitigation measures; (ii) provide figures showing ecological land classifications and temporary laydown areas; (iii) provide certain notifications; (iv) provide post construction monitoring reports and other information related to restoration; (v) implement certain contingency plans; and (vi) offer an opportunity to participate in post construction site visits.
9. On December 12, 2025, Wendat Nation (WN) filed a letter of comment⁷ with the OEB. WN specifically requested that the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment (AA) be completed before the finalization of the ER and that WN be given a minimum of 30 days to review the report and provide their comments, with the option to extend the review period if needed.
10. On January 22, 2026, Enbridge Gas filed a response to WN's letter of comment,⁸ acknowledging the importance WN places on ensuring the protection of archaeological resources. In its letter, Enbridge Gas explained how its approach to protecting archaeological resources, including the timing of any Stage 2 AA: (i) adheres to the applicable requirements set out in the OEB Environmental Guidelines; (ii) allows for early input from Indigenous communities; (iii) protects

⁴ Exhibit H, Tab 1, Schedule 1, Attachment 8, and updated in response to OEB staff interrogatory at Exhibit I.OEB STAFF-11 Attachment 1.

⁵ Exhibit F, Tab 1, Schedule 1, Attachment 1, pp 161-220.

⁶ Exhibit I.OEB STAFF-11 Attachment 1, line items 4.17, 4.19, 4.20, and 4.22. Also see Exhibit I.OEB STAFF-11 part c).

⁷ <https://www.rds.oeb.ca/CMWebDrawer/Record/925791/File/document>

⁸ <https://www.rds.oeb.ca/CMWebDrawer/Record/930596/File/document>

archaeological resources by avoiding unnecessary disruption of land through more invasive assessments; and (iv) ensures that assessments are meaningful, defensible, and protective of cultural resources.

11. In this instance, a Stage 2 AA will be undertaken on all areas that retain archaeological potential, prior to construction. Each of the Communities will be provided the opportunity to participate in the fieldwork for the Stage 2 AA and be provided the Stage 2 AA for review.
12. In its submission, OEB staff shared its view that Enbridge Gas is adhering to the OEB Environmental Guidelines in addressing the assessment of archaeological resources.
13. Enbridge Gas is committed to maintaining an open, respectful, and constructive dialogue with the Communities, and to supporting a consultation process that allows for the thorough identification and management of potential impacts to archaeological heritage and Aboriginal and treaty rights throughout the life of the Project.

ii) Conditions of Approval

14. The OEB's *Natural Gas Facilities Handbook* includes standard conditions of approval⁹ that are typically imposed in leave to construct approvals. The pre-filed evidence noted that Enbridge Gas has reviewed these standard conditions and is prepared to adhere to them in respect of the Project. The written submissions of OEB staff also contend that (upon receiving and considering the MEM's Letter of Opinion) the OEB should approve the Project subject to the OEB's standard conditions of approval for natural gas leave to construct applications.

⁹ Ontario Energy Board. Natural Gas Facilities Handbook EB-2022-0081, Appendix D.
https://www.oeb.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/regulatorycodes/2024-04/OEB_Natural%20Gas%20Facilities%20Handbook_2024.pdf

15. Enbridge Gas hereby confirms that it has not identified any need to propose modifications to the standard conditions of approval, or to propose additional conditions relating to the Project.

(iii) Project Description

16. A brief review of the record reveals that the term “Project” is used in slightly different ways across the Application and through the course of the proceeding, and that this may give rise to the impression of a discrepancy regarding whether “ancillary facilities” form part of the facilities for which leave to construct is being sought. Both the Application and the introductory description in OEB staff’s written submissions refer broadly to natural gas distribution pipelines together with “associated” or “ancillary” facilities. This broad framing reflects the overall Community Expansion Project for Washago and the surrounding areas, but it does not articulate with precision the elements of that initiative that require OEB approval under section 90 of the OEB Act and those that do not.
17. At page 5 of OEB staff’s filing, there is a clearer articulation of this distinction. Here, OEB staff explain that the total estimated Project cost of \$28.1 million consists of \$22.9 million for the pipeline facilities “for which the approval is sought,” and \$5.2 million for ancillary facilities that “are not subject to this application.” This more precise characterization appropriately reflects the scope of the relief being requested: leave to construct is sought only in relation to the pipeline facilities. The ancillary components—such as customer service lines, meters, regulators, and the distribution station—are part of the broader Community Expansion Project but do not require leave to construct under section 90.

Conclusion

18. Based on the foregoing, Enbridge Gas submits that the Project is in the public interest and respectfully requests that the OEB issue an Order granting leave to construct for the Project pursuant to section 90(1) of the OEB Act, and an Order

approving the form of temporary land use agreements and easement agreements contained within the Application pursuant to section 97 of the OEB Act.