Olatunbosun Ishola
Advisor, Regulatory Applications
Regulatory Affairs

Tel: (416) 495-5499 x5737
olatunbosun.ishola@enbridge.com
EGIRegulatoryProceedings@enbridge.com

Enbridge Gas Inc.
500 Consumers Road,
North York, ON M2J 1P8
Canada

March 31, 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-2025-0323
Merrickville-Wolford Community Expansion Project
Interrogatory Responses

In accordance with OEB's Procedural Order No.1 dated March 3, 2026, enclosed please find Enbridge Gas's interrogatory responses for the Merrickville-Wolford Community Expansion Project.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Olatunbosun Ishola

Olatunbosun Ishola
Advisor, Regulatory Applications – Leave to Construct

c.c. Arturo Lau (OEB Case Manager)
Stephanie Pope (OEB Counsel)
Richard Lanni (Enbridge Gas Counsel)

ENBRIDGE GAS INC.

Answer to Interrogatory from
OEB Staff

Interrogatory

Reference:

Updated Application, March 10, 2026 -Exhibit H, Tab 1, Schedule 1, Attachment 2: Delegation Letter, April 14, 2023; Attachment 11: Indigenous Consultation Report: Summary Tables and Attachment 12: Indigenous Consultation Log (as of March 2, 2026)

Preamble:

One Indigenous community has been identified by the Ministry of Energy and Mines[1] (MEM) as potentially impacted by the Project:

- Algonquins of Ontario (AOO)

In addition, as a result of additional communications from the MEM, Enbridge Gas engaged two additional Indigenous communities:

- Mohawks Council of Akwesasne (MCA)
- Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation (AOPFN)

Enbridge Gas has stated that it provided the following project information to each of the Indigenous communities identified by the MEM as potentially impacted by the Project:

- Notification Letter provided an overview of the proposed Project, a list of potential authorizations required, and contact information for the Ministry of Energy
- Maps of the Project location
- Open House and Virtual Open House information for the Project, which contained information on the environmental process for the Project.
- Environmental Report providing information about the potential effects of the Project on the environment and related mitigation measures.

[1] Formerly the Ministry of Energy

As required by the OEB's Environmental Guidelines on Hydrocarbon Projects and Facilities in Ontario, Enbridge Gas filed an Indigenous Consultation Report (ICR) and a Log of its consultation activities with its application. Enbridge Gas provided an updated ICR on March 10, 2026, as required by Procedural Order No. 1.

Question(s):

1) Please discuss any outstanding concerns raised by Indigenous communities after March 2, 2026. How is Enbridge Gas addressing these concerns?

2) Please describe Enbridge Gas's plans for continued engagement with Indigenous communities. Which channels of communication will be used and what information regarding the Project construction, operation or any other aspect of the Project will be conveyed?

Response:

1) There are no concerns that Enbridge Gas is aware of that have been raised by Indigenous groups related to the Project that remain outstanding.

2) Enbridge Gas will continue to actively engage with Indigenous groups to ensure meaningful ongoing dialogue concerning the Project. Enbridge Gas is willing to meet with each Indigenous group for the purpose of exchanging information regarding the Project, and to respond to inquiries in a timely manner. Enbridge Gas will endeavor to address concerns to ensure any potential Project related impacts on Aboriginal or treaty rights can be mitigated. Enbridge Gas conducts its engagement generally through phone calls, in-person meetings, mail-outs, open-houses, and email communications. New and material information about the Project construction and operation will be conveyed as appropriate to Indigenous groups. In addition, Enbridge Gas will ensure that additional commitments made to Indigenous groups through the engagement process, including invitations for participation in field studies, will be fulfilled.

ENBRIDGE GAS INC.

Answer to Interrogatory from
OEB Staff

Interrogatory

Reference:

Exhibit H, Tab 1, Schedule 1, Attachment 11: Indigenous Consultation Report: Summary Tables (as of March 2, 2026)

Preamble:

Regarding capacity funding, Enbridge Gas noted that it offered funding to AOO, MCA and AOPFN. According to Enbridge Gas, capacity funding will support timely activities such as technical review of project documents and engagement in meaningful consultation.

Question(s):

1) Please confirm whether any of the Indigenous communities have accepted the capacity funding offered and were provided capacity funding by Enbridge Gas and provide a description of the activities supported by the capacity funding that was provided.

2) Please advise if the Indigenous communities raised concerns with Enbridge Gas with respect to the capacity funding being offered and if so, how Enbridge Gas responded to such concerns.

Response:

1) Capacity funding has been offered to Algonquins of Ontario, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, and Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation. At this time, no Indigenous group has indicated they will require capacity funding to be provided by Enbridge Gas.

   While the capacity funding is designated for engagement related to the Project, Enbridge Gas does not set out specific activities that must be undertaken as it relates to the funding, recognizing that different Indigenous groups may be interested in different aspects of the Project and have varying degrees of overall

interest. In Enbridge Gas's experience, capacity funding is typically used by Indigenous groups to support engagement activities related to the Project, including but not limited to the technical review of Project documentation, including the environmental report and archaeological assessment reports prepared for the Project, participation in Project meetings, reviewing and responding to emails and assisting in assessing any significant sites within the Project area.

2) No concerns have been raised with Enbridge Gas regarding the capacity funding that has been offered in relation to the Project.

ENBRIDGE GAS INC.

Answer to Interrogatory from
OEB Staff

Interrogatory

Reference:

Exhibit H, Tab 1, Schedule 1, para 7

Preamble:

In its application filed on December 12, 2025, Enbridge Gas stated that the ICR was provided to MEM on the date of the filing of the application with the OEB.

Question(s):

1) Please confirm if an ICR was provided to MEM, the date it was provided, and whether the ICR provided to MEM is the same as that provided to the OEB. If there is any difference in the information provided to MEM, please provide an explanation and also provide the ICR submitted to MEM.

    a. If Enbridge Gas has not yet provided the ICR to MEM, please explain why and provide a timeline for when the ICR is expected to be provided to MEM.

2) Please confirm if the updated ICR (to March 2, 2026) was filed with MEM.

Response:

1) Enbridge Gas confirms that both the Indigenous Consultation Record (ICR) and ICR Summary Table, both as of November 26, 2025, and previously filed with the OEB with the original Application on December 12, 2025, were provided to the MEM by way of email on December 15, 2025. On January 13, 2026, the MEM confirmed it had received the ICR and ICR Summary Table. Please see Attachment 1 to this Exhibit for a copy of the foregoing correspondence.

2) Enbridge Gas confirms that the updated ICR and the updated ICR Summary Table, both as of March 2, 2026, and previously filed with the OEB as part of an evidence update on March 10, 2026, were provided to the MEM by way of email

on March 11, 2026. On March 11, 2026, the MEM confirmed that it had received the updated ICR and updated ICR Summary Table. Please see Attachment 2 to this Exhibit for a copy of the foregoing correspondence

From: Tami Showers
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2025 2:24 PM
To: McCabe, Shannon (She/Her) (MEM)
Cc: Gabrielle Lapalme
Subject: Merrickville-Wolford Community Expansion Project-EB-2025-0323
Attachments: H-1-1_Attachment 11.pdf; H-1-1_Attachment 12.pdf

On **12th December 2025,** the LTC exemption application and evidence for the **Merrickville-Wolford Community Expansion Project-EB-2025-0323** was filed with the OEB via RESS. Attached is the finalized ICR and Summary table that was part of the application and evidence.

The application will be available shortly on the OEB's Regulatory Document Search (RDS) site under docket number EB-2025-0323.

Please select reply all and confirm receipt.

Wanishi / Thank you

Tami Showers
Advisor, Community & Indigenous Engagement, Eastern Region
Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability
-
ENBRIDGE INC.
109 Commissioners Road West, London, ON N6J 1X7

Safety. Integrity. Respect. Inclusion. High Performance
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From: Tami Showers <Tami.Showers@enbridge.com>
Sent: January 2, 2026 3:59 PM
To: McCabe, Shannon (She/Her) (MEM) <Shannon.McCabe@ontario.ca>
Cc: Gabrielle Lapalme <gabrielle.lapalme@enbridge.com>
Subject: FW: Merrickville-Wolford Community Expansion Project-EB-2025-0323

CAUTION -- EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Hi Shannon,

I hope you had a wonderful holiday break! I just wanted to check in and follow up on CIEs previous email, as I haven't received a response yet. Could you please confirm or if further information is needed from my side? Thank you so much!

Wanishi / Thank you

Tami Showers
Advisor, Community & Indigenous Engagement, Eastern Region
Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability
-
ENBRIDGE INC.
109 Commissioners Road West, London, ON N6J 1X7

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From: Tami Showers <Tami.Showers@enbridge.com>
Sent: January 13, 2026 9:15 AM
To: McCabe, Shannon (She/Her) (MEM) <Shannon.McCabe@ontario.ca>
Cc: Gabrielle Lapalme <gabrielle.lapalme@enbridge.com>
Subject: Kimball and Merrickville-Wolford

CAUTION -- EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good morning, Shannon

I didn't receive confirmation on the items below:

- I gave notification twice November 13, 2025 for the filing of our **Kimball** project and I did not receive a confirmation. I suspect this is because we were on a phone call at the time. But can I receive this confirmation via email please for our records?
- I'm also following up on my email from December 15, 2025, regarding the **Merrickville-Wolford** Community Expansion Project (EB-2025-0323). As noted there, Enbridge filed the LTC exemption application and evidence with the OEB via RESS on December 12

Wanishi / Thank you

Tami Showers
Advisor, Community & Indigenous Engagement, Eastern Region
Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability
-
ENBRIDGE INC.
109 Commissioners Road West, London, ON N6J 1X7

From: McCabe, Shannon (She/Her) (MEM) <Shannon.McCabe@ontario.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 9:23 AM
To: Tami Showers
Cc: Gabrielle Lapalme; Boucher, Marc (MEM); Woodard, David (MEM)
Subject: [External] RE: Kimball and Merrickville-Wolford

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER
Were you expecting this email? TAKE A CLOSER LOOK. Is the sender legitimate? DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are 100% sure that the email is safe.
This email was sent from Shannon.McCabe@ontario.ca.

Hi Tami,

Happy New Year. Thank you for following up and apologies for not confirming via email earlier. Confirming receipt for both notices.

Best regards,
Shannon

From: Tami Showers
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 8:15 AM
To: McCabe, Shannon (She/Her) (MEM)
Cc: Gabrielle Lapalme
Subject: Merrickville-Wolford Community Expansion Project-EB-2025-0323- PO NO. 1
Attachments: Merrickville summary table updated from March 2 2026.docx; Merrickville ICR updated from March 2 2026.docx

Shannon

On **March 3, 2026**, the OEB ordered Enbridge Gas in its Procedural Order No. 1 in the above-noted proceeding to file an updated Indigenous Consultation Report and any correspondence from the Ministry of Energy and Mines on Enbridge Gas's consultation activities with the OEB, by **March 10, 2026**.

In compliance with this order, and further to the application and evidence filed by Enbridge Gas on December 12, 2025, March 10, 2026, Enbridge Gas filed an updated application and evidence in the proceeding Merrickville - Updated App & Evidence. Attached is the updated ICR and Summary table for this project.

Please use reply all when confirming receipt.

Wanishi / Thank you

Tami Showers
Advisor, Community & Indigenous Engagement, Eastern Region
Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability
-
ENBRIDGE INC.
109 Commissioners Road West, London, ON N6J 1X7

Safety. Integrity. Respect. Inclusion. High Performance
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From: McCabe, Shannon (She/Her) (MEM) <Shannon.McCabe@ontario.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 8:45 AM
To: Tami Showers
Cc: Gabrielle Lapalme; Boucher, Marc (MEM)
Subject: [External] RE: Merrickville-Wolford Community Expansion Project-EB-2025-0323- PO NO. 1

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER
Were you expecting this email? TAKE A CLOSER LOOK. Is the sender legitimate? DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you are 100% sure that the email is safe.
This email was sent from Shannon.McCabe@ontario.ca.

Good morning Tami – confirming receipt.

Thank you!
Shannon

ENBRIDGE GAS INC.

Answer to Interrogatory from
OEB Staff

Interrogatory

Reference:

Letter of Comment, Algonquins of Ontario, March 5, 2026

Preamble:

In a Letter of Comment dated March 5, 2026, the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) raised concerns based on a review of the Environmental Report, including that fisheries surveys should be conducted in the spring months for proper assessment; that consideration of cumulative impacts would strengthen the assessment; that the report does not include a clearly defined fisheries focused response plan in the event of a drilling fluid release; and that the report does not address potential impacts on benthic communities.

Question(s):

1) Please comment on AOO's assertion that fisheries surveys should be conducted in the spring or, in absence of surveys conducted in the spring, a fisheries-specific mitigation plan should be developed and implemented in relation to construction noise and vibration.

2) Please provide a timeline on when the expected horizontal directional drilling across the Rideau River and associated watercourses will be conducted.

3) How does Enbridge Gas plan to address the concerns identified by the AOO including the absence of a fisheries focused response plan in the event of a drilling fluid release during HDD activities, cumulative effects on aquatic ecosystems and potential impacts to benthic communities?

Response:

Enbridge Gas has prepared a response to AOO's Letter of Comment, which has been separately filed with the OEB on March 31, 2026. For convenience, this letter is also

attached to this response at Attachment 1. OEB staff's questions are responded to below, consistent with the content of the letter.

1) If and when the Project is approved, drilling activities are expected to occur in the fall of 2026 for approximately 3 weeks. Given that there will be no construction in the spring or summer, there is no need to conduct additional fish surveys for this time period.

   The Rideau River at the Project crossing has been identified as a warmwater fishery and fisheries timing windows have been established in consultation with Parks Canada. The planned drilling timeline will avoid: (i) drilling activities between January 1 and June 30 in accordance with Parks Canada's Pre-Approved Routine Impact Assessment; and (ii) the additional time period (summer) that AOO has raised where drilling activities could potentially impact the development of juvenile species.

   In addition, the Project has taken into account the information collected and has taken a conservative approach to the design and schedule for the Project to avoid direct impacts to fish and fish habitat within the Rideau River. The proposed trenchless crossing method, horizontal directional drilling (HDD), eliminates the need for in-water work and avoids disturbance to the riverbed, banks, and shoreline, consistent with applicable federal and provincial guidance.

2) Please refer to answer one for the expected horizontal directional drilling (HDD) timeline.

3) A Project-specific HDD Inadvertent Contingency Release Plan will be in place for the Project to help manage and respond to any inadvertent releases. The plan requires monitoring of drilling activities undertaken to ensure that any loss of drilling fluid or the presence of turbidity plumes is promptly identified, enabling the prompt suspension of drilling operations, if required. Additional Project-specific mitigation measures for fish and fish habitat have been incorporated based on guidance from DFO to protect aquatic resources during HDD activities and will be implemented to minimize potential effects on benthic communities and aquatic habitat.

   The construction methods and mitigation measures outlined in the environmental report prepared for the Project (ER) were developed to protect fish and fish habitat; accordingly, the Project is not anticipated to result in direct or indirect impacts to fish or fish habitat, and no Project-related effect pathway to aquatic

resources has been identified. A review of the current and reasonably foreseeable projects in the study area did not identify any other projects with the potential to affect aquatic resources in the study area. As such, the conditions that would typically warrant a cumulative effects assessment for aquatic ecosystems are not present at this time.

Enbridge Gas recognizes the ecological importance of aquatic resources and remains committed to undertaking the environmental mitigations outlined in the ER throughout the Project lifecycle. Should new information emerge regarding other projects or changes to site conditions that could affect aquatic resources, cumulative effects considerations would be revisited accordingly.

Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas)
Merrickville-Wolford Community Expansion Project
Enbridge Gas' Responses to Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) Comments received March 5, 2026

Item	AOO Comment	Enbridge Gas Response
Fisheries Assessment – Methodology	The fisheries assessment for the Project relies primarily on a desktop review and limited windshield field visits conducted in August 2023 and August 2024. While these site visits provide general context on aquatic conditions, they were completed outside of key fish spawning and early life-stage periods and are insufficient to fully characterize fish habitat function and seasonal use, particularly for sensitive life stages.	The Project has taken into account the information collected and has taken a conservative approach to the design and schedule for the Project to avoid direct impacts to fish and fish habitat within the Rideau River. The proposed trenchless crossing method, horizontal directional drilling (HDD), eliminates the need for in-water work and avoids disturbance to the riverbed, banks, and shoreline, consistent with applicable federal and provincial guidance. If and when the Project is approved, drilling activities are expected to occur in the fall of 2026 for approximately 3 weeks. Given that there will be no construction in the spring or summer, there is no need to conduct additional fish surveys for this time period. The Rideau River at the Project crossing has been identified as a warmwater fishery and fisheries timing windows have been established in consultation with Parks Canada. The planned drilling timeline will avoid: (i) drilling activities between January 1 and June 30 in accordance with Parks Canada's Pre-Approved Routine Impact Assessment; and (ii) an additional period that you have indicated could potentially impact the development of juvenile species.

	Given the ecological significance, size, and connectivity of the Rideau River and associated watercourses, additional field verification is important to confirm fish habitat presence, function, and seasonal use. Fisheries surveys should be conducted during the spring months (April to early July) to adequately characterize spawning and early life-stage habitat and to confirm the absence of any aquatic Species at Risk (SAR). These surveys would help confirm the desktop assessment and identify any sensitive spawning or juvenile rearing areas that may be present.	For the reasons noted above, Enbridge Gas does not believe additional field verification is required. The presence of warmwater fish species within the Rideau River has been identified through publicly available sources; therefore, HDD drilling activities for the river crossing, anticipated to occur in fall 2026 and lasting approximately three weeks, will be scheduled outside of sensitive spawning and early life stage periods. This will minimize potential impacts to fish and fish habitat during critical life stages while ensuring compliance with applicable regulatory guidance.
Noise and Vibration Effects	While anticipated construction noise and vibration levels associated with horizontal directional drilling (HDD) are not expected to result in direct injury to adult fish, there is potential for sub-lethal effects (e.g. disruption of spawning behavior, egg development, and juvenile survival). Although the proposed construction window extends from June 30 to December 31, the absence of spring and early summer field investigations creates uncertainty regarding fish breeding activity within the project area. As such, it is difficult to confidently support	The Rideau River at the Project crossing has been assessed as a warmwater fishery, and the applicable fisheries timing restriction for this reach has been established through Parks Canada's Pre-Approved Routine Impact Assessment process. Consistent with this approved timing restriction, HDD is not proposed within the Rideau River from Ottawa to Old Slys, or within Upper Rideau Lake, funtil the fall. This restriction is intended to avoid construction during sensitive fish spawning and early life-stage periods within this waterbody segment. Accordingly, Project HDD activities will commence only after the restricted period established by Parks Canada has ended, Drilling operation is expected to last approximately three weeks. HDD would be implemented with applicable watercourse crossing

	construction noise and vibration prior to late August without a clearer understanding of seasonal fish use. In the absence of this information, a fisheries-specific mitigation plan should be developed and implemented.	mitigation measures. As a result, adverse effects on fish, including effects related to construction noise and vibration, are mitigated. To further reduce the potential for effects, HDD activities would be carried out from upland work areas, with measures in place to prevent and respond to any inadvertent drilling fluid release, and with all site-specific mitigation required by the Project permits and approvals.
HDD Monitoring and Contingency Planning	While HDD generally poses a low risk of inadvertent drilling fluid releases, and the Environmental Report describes a general monitoring approach during construction, a detailed monitoring and contingency plan specific to fisheries protection has not been provided. In the event of a drilling fluid release, there is no clearly defined fisheries focused response plan to prevent or minimize impacts to fish and fish habitat.	A project specific Inadvertent Contingency Release Plan will be implemented to address any inadvertent releases during drilling operations. Specific mitigation measures for fish and fish habitat have been incorporated into the plan, based on guidance obtained from DFO to protect fish and fish habitat during drilling activities.
Cumulative effects	Cumulative effects are referenced in the Environmental Report; however, these effects are not assessed specifically in relation to fish or fish habitat. Given the ecological importance of the project area, additional consideration of cumulative impacts to aquatic ecosystems would strengthen the assessment.	Thank you for your comment. The construction methods and mitigation measures outlined in the ER were developed to protect fish and fish habitat; accordingly, the project is not anticipated to result in direct or indirect impacts to fish or fish habitat, and no project-related effect pathway to aquatic resources has been identified. A review of the current and reasonably foreseeable projects in the study area did not identify any other projects with the potential to affect aquatic resources in the study

		area. As such, the conditions that would typically warrant a cumulative effects assessment for aquatic ecosystems are not present at this time. Enbridge Gas recognizes the ecological importance of aquatic resources and remains committed to undertaking the environmental mitigations outlined in the ER throughout the project lifecycle. Should new information emerge regarding other projects or changes to site conditions that could affect aquatic resources, cumulative effects considerations would be revisited accordingly.
Benthic communities	The report also does not appear to address potential impacts to benthic communities. While HDD typically minimizes direct disturbance to the riverbed, there remains potential for sediment disturbance or increased turbidity in the event of an inadvertent release or sediment mobilization. Benthic invertebrates represent an important food source for many juvenile and adult fish species, and disturbance to these communities could indirectly affect fish populations and habitat function. Consideration of potential effects on benthic communities, and any associated	An Inadvertent Contingency Release Plan will be implemented to manage any inadvertent releases during drilling operations. Continuous monitoring of drilling activities will be conducted to ensure that any loss of drilling fluid or the observation of turbidity plumes is promptly identified, allowing for the prompt shutdown of drilling operations if required. Specific mitigation measures for HDD, as outlined by Parks Canada and DFO, will be followed to minimize potential impacts to benthic communities and aquatic habitat.

	mitigation measures, would help provide a more comprehensive assessment of potential aquatic impacts.	

ENBRIDGE GAS INC.

Answer to Interrogatory from
OEB Staff

Interrogatory

Reference:

Exhibit H, Tab 1, Schedule 1, Attachment 9: Letter of Opinion (not filed)

Preamble:

The MEM delegated the procedural aspects of consultation to Enbridge Gas and will provide a letter with its opinion on the adequacy of the procedural aspects of Indigenous consultation undertaken by Enbridge Gas related to the Project. This letter is referred to interchangeably as the “Sufficiency Letter” or as the “Letter of Opinion”. Enbridge Gas stated that the Letter of Opinion would be filed on the record once it had been received by Enbridge Gas.

Question(s):

1) What is the expected date when Enbridge Gas anticipates that the Letter of Opinion would be provided by the Ministry of Energy and Mines?

Response:

1) Enbridge Gas anticipates receiving a Letter of Opinion from the Ministry of Energy and Mines close to the end of the record for the proceeding.