



**BY EMAIL**

April 21, 2026

Patrick McMahon  
Technical Manager, Regulatory Research and Records  
Enbridge Gas Inc.  
50 Keil Drive North  
Chatham, ON N7M 5M1  
[patrick.mcmahon@enbridge.com](mailto:patrick.mcmahon@enbridge.com)

Dear Patrick McMahon:

**Re: Enbridge Gas Inc.  
Abeyance of Application for Renewal of a Municipal Franchise Agreement  
and Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the City of Guelph  
Ontario Energy Board File Number: EB-2025-0058**

On January 8, 2025, Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) applied to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) under sections 8 and 10 of the *Municipal Franchises Act*, for an order approving the renewal of its natural gas franchise with, and a new certificate of public convenience and necessity for, the City of Guelph based on the OEB's Model Franchise Agreement. In its application, Enbridge Gas indicated that there is a disagreement between Enbridge Gas and the City of Guelph regarding the terms and conditions of the proposed franchise agreement.

On March 13, 2025, the OEB issued Procedural Order No. 1 which, among other things, set out a procedural schedule and granted intervenor status to the City of Guelph and to eMERGE Guelph in this proceeding. In the same Procedural Order, the OEB signaled that it was separately considering whether there was a need for a review of generic issues related to the Model Franchise Agreement.

Following an October 15, 2025 letter from the OEB's Chief Commissioner that a generic review of the Model Franchise Agreement would occur in 2026, on October 16, 2025 the OEB issued a letter inviting the parties in this proceeding to file submissions on what the next steps in this proceeding should be.

Both the City of Guelph and eMERGE Guelph argued that the application should be placed in abeyance as the generic proceeding on the Model Franchise Agreement raised the likelihood that a number of issues to be decided in the proceeding could be addressed more fully through a generic hearing. The City of Guelph further argued that

putting the application in abeyance will ensure greater regulatory efficiency, avoid inconsistent decisions and result in no prejudice to the applicant or customers.

However, Enbridge Gas stated that it would be speculative and unproductive to place this in abeyance based on the possibility of generic issues being examined at some point in time in the future.

The OEB in Procedural Order No. 5 issued on December 4, 2025, determined that it would be more efficient to proceed with hearing the current application, noting that generic issues will be addressed in a forthcoming generic review of the Model Franchise Agreement.

On March 26, 2026, the OEB issued a Notice of Hearing to initiate a generic proceeding (the Generic Proceeding)<sup>1</sup> to undertake a limited review of the Model Franchise Agreement. The purpose of this review is to examine specific sections and components of the Model Franchise Agreement that have become recurring issues in recent natural gas franchise applications. Several of the concerns raised by the intervenors in the current proceeding overlap with the issues identified in the OEB's draft Issues List for the Generic Proceeding.

Given the contested nature of this proceeding, the commencement of the Generic Proceeding, and the substantial similarity between issues raised in this proceeding and those under review in the Generic Proceeding, the OEB has determined that it is appropriate to place this proceeding in abeyance. This pause will remain in effect until the Generic Proceeding is completed, given the potential implications of that review for the Model Franchise Agreement.

The OEB is taking this step in accordance with its Protocol for Adjusting Adjudicative Timelines, which provides guidance on managing procedural timelines when related regulatory process may affect the outcome of a proceeding.

Any questions may be directed to the Case Manager, Natalya Plummer at [natalya.plummer@oeb.ca](mailto:natalya.plummer@oeb.ca)

Yours truly,

Ritchie Murray  
Registrar

c Parties to EB-2025-0058

---

<sup>1</sup> EB-2026-0009