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**From:** Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2026 10:59 AM  
**To:** Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>  
**Cc:** alex.freeman-carter@simcoe.ca  
**Subject:** Intervention Form: EB-2026-0009 - The Corporation of the County of Simcoe

## **Intervention Form**

### **Case Number:**

EB-2026-0009

### **Requesting information on behalf:**

Of an organization

### **Intervenor Name:**

The Corporation of the County of Simcoe

### **Mandate and Objectives:**

The County is an upper tier municipality in the Province of Ontario. Its role is statutorily prescribed by the Municipal Act, 2001.

### **Membership of the Intervenor and Constituency Represented:**

The County is located in the Central region of Ontario, to the North of the Greater Toronto Area and is comprised of 16 member municipalities: Adjala-Tosorontio, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Clearview, Collingwood, Essa, Innisfil, Oro-Medonte, Midland, Ramara, New Tecumseth, Severn, Penetanguishene, Springwater, Wasaga Beach, Tay, and Tiny. It is the largest County in Ontario, with a population of 351,929.

### **Programs or Activities Carried Out by the Intervenor:**

The County carries out activities as prescribed under the Municipal Act, 2001. The primary

activity affected by this application is County Road construction.

## **Governance Structure:**

The County, as an upper-tier municipality, has been pre-authorized by its Council to seek amendments to the Model Franchise Agreement. The County's representatives are employees of the County and will act from the authority granted to them by Council.

## **Representatives:**

Alex Freeman-Carter  
[alex.freeman-carter@simcoe.ca](mailto:alex.freeman-carter@simcoe.ca)  
7057308287

## **Cost Claim Filing contact:**

## **Other Contacts:**

Christian Meile  
[christian.meile@simcoe.ca](mailto:christian.meile@simcoe.ca)

## **Frequent Intervenor Form:**

**Add all individuals listed on our Frequent Intervenor Form as contacts for this proceeding:**

N/A

**Names and email addresses of individuals to be added as contacts for this proceeding:**

N/A

## OEB Proceedings:

Item Description	Category	Status
EB-2024-0280		Granted

## Issues:

The County is impacted as the signatory to the Model Franchise Agreement and as the owner of property through which Enbridge utilities are located. The County proposes 4 revisions to the Model Franchise Agreement that will be the subject of its intervention: • Paragraph 11 (Alternative Easement) such that the County would not be responsible to share the cost of relocating gas lines if the property is no longer available to the County; • Paragraph 12(a) (Pipeline Relocation) such that “a reasonable period of time” to complete a requested relocation of a pipeline would be defined as per the Public Service Works on Highway Act to be 60 days from the notice date; • Paragraph 12 to add a clause to address where the road authority incurs a loss or expense by reason of the utility not taking up or relocating utility infrastructure by the date specified in a notice given, the utility company shall compensate the road authority for such loss or expense; and • Paragraph 15(b) (Disposition of Gas System) such that where the gas company decommissions any part of its gas system in a County road allowance, the gas company shall remove the decommissioned line at the County’s request.

## Policy Interests:

The County represents the best interests of its residents and the amendments it seeks are to reduce expenses and increase certainty in circumstances where utilities need to be relocated or removed.

## Hearings:

n/a

## Evidence:

The County of Simcoe proposes to file evidence regarding all 3 issues on the issues list. The evidence would consist of factual, experience-based information drawn from past municipal road projects, including example maps, project records, and staff knowledge of delays, costs, and operational impacts associated with gas relocations. This evidence is directly relevant and material to the Board’s consideration of whether the proposed franchise agreement terms fairly allocate risks, costs, and responsibilities between gas franchises and municipalities. Specifically, the evidence will demonstrate: that relocation costs can arise from third-party or provincially driven road closures or realignments outside municipal control, and should not be borne by the municipality; that undefined relocation timelines have caused delays to municipal infrastructure projects and that delays in gas relocation can result in measurable municipal losses, for which compensation clauses are necessary; and that retaining decommissioned gas lines within crowded rights-of-way creates unnecessary delay during road reconstruction

projects This evidence will assist the Board in assessing whether the franchise agreement adequately protects municipal interests and tax payers, and supports timely delivery of public infrastructure. Preparation of the proposed evidence would require a review of historical project files and internal documentation, creation of maps, as well as compilation of staff experience. The County estimates that preparation would require approximately several weeks.

## **Coordination with Other Intervenors:**

The County intends to form a municipal group with other intervening municipalities.

## **Cost Awards:**

The County will not be seeking costs.

## **Language Preference:**

No