



From: Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 11:40 AM
To: Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>
Cc: cbebbington@countyofessex.ca
Subject: Intervention Form: EB-2026-0009 - The Corporation of the County of Essex

Intervention Form

Case Number:

EB-2026-0009

Requesting information on behalf:

Of an organization

Intervenor Name:

The Corporation of the County of Essex

Mandate and Objectives:

The Corporation of the County of Essex (the “County”) is an upper-tier municipality located in Southwestern Ontario. The County’s mandate is to deliver fair and valuable regional programs and services to its seven (7) local municipalities (the "Local Municipalities"), including their residents, and to advocate for specific regional priorities on behalf of itself and the Local Municipalities. In consultations with the Local Municipalities, the County’s objectives in seeking intervenor status is to advocate on behalf of the Local Municipalities with respect to their concerns regarding the Model Franchise Agreement.

Membership of the Intervenor and Constituency Represented:

The County has a population of over 192,700 and is comprised of seven (7) Local Municipalities, which are the Town of Amherstburg, the Town of Essex, the Town of Kingsville, the Municipality of Lakeshore, the Town of LaSalle, the Municipality of Leamington, and the Town of Tecumseh.

Programs or Activities Carried Out by the Intervenor:

The County delivers a wide range of regional programs and municipal services including regional roads, active transportation, emergency medical services, a long-term care home, homelessness programs, and planning. Each of the County's Local Municipalities provide a wide range of other municipal services.

Governance Structure:

The County is operated by a Council consisting of the Mayors and Deputy Mayors of each of its Local Municipalities. County Administration, including the County Solicitor and any external legal experts that may be retained, will report to and receive instructions from County Council.

Representatives:

Claire Bebbington
cbebbington@countyofessex.ca
519-776-6441 x1352

David Sundin
dsundin@countyofessex.ca
519-776-6441 x1345

Cost Claim Filing contact:

Claire Bebbington
cbebbington@countyofessex.ca
519-776-6441 x1352

Other Contacts:

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
N/A		

Issues:

The County is currently subject to a Municipal Franchise Agreement that was executed in 1957, that remains in full force and effect, and is not subject to the Model Franchise Agreement. However, there may be future attempts to impose the Model Franchise Agreement on the County, and the County's Local Municipalities are all subject to the current Municipal Franchise Agreement. Furthermore, several of the County's Local Municipalities have objected to or taken issue with terms and conditions set out in the current Municipal Franchise Agreement. For example, the County and its Local Municipalities have concerns related to articles 11, 12 and 15 of the current Municipal Franchise Agreement. Therefore, the County is seeking intervenor status to represent a Municipal Group consisting of itself and the Local Municipalities (the "County Group").

Policy Interests:

The County Group has two primary policy interests in this matter. First, the County and its Local Municipalities seek to maintain their costs because, much like utilities, those costs are ultimately borne by taxpayers. Furthermore, the County and its Local Municipalities seek to protect their infrastructure and services, including roads and emergency services, as well as the safety of their residents, which may be impacted by gas utility operations. The Model Franchise Agreement sets out the terms and conditions surrounding the installation, operation and removal of gas pipelines, which have a substantial impact on municipal costs, infrastructure and services as well as resident safety. The County and its Local Municipalities seek to participate in this hearing to ensure their primary policy interests are protected and their concerns are addressed.

Hearings:

The County does not have a strong opinion on whether the hearing should proceed in writing or in person, and it will participate in whatever forum the OEB deems appropriate.

Evidence:

The County intends to file evidence in this proceeding on behalf of the County Group, as required, but it is unable to answer specific questions related to that evidence at this time, as further consultations with the County Group need to be conducted.

Coordination with Other Intervenors:

The County Group is a Municipal Group formed for the purpose of participating in this hearing to streamline our efforts and avoid duplication. The County will take the lead in representing the County Group's interests and coordinating their interrogatories, evidence, and submissions. The County will also attempt to coordinate with any other municipality, Municipal Group, or municipal association that obtains intervenor status.

Cost Awards:

The County is unable to answer this question at this time.

Language Preference:

The County does not intend to participate in the hearing using the French Language.