



Ontario
Energy
Board | Commission
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BY EMAIL

June 17, 2026

Evan Tomek
Senior Advisor, Regulatory Applications, Leave to Construct
Enbridge Gas Inc.
3840 Rhodes Drive
Windsor, ON
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Dear Evan Tomek:

**Re: Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas)
Lanark and Balderson Community Expansion Project
OEB File Number: EB-2025-0306**

Enbridge Gas applied to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on November 28, 2025, under subsection 95(2) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) for an order exempting Enbridge Gas from the requirement to obtain leave to construct natural gas pipelines and facilities (Project) in the communities of Lanark, Balderson and the surrounding areas in the Township of Lanark Highlands and in the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley.

On October 15, 2024, the Ministry of Energy (Ministry) issued a delegation letter, which delegated the procedural aspects of the Crown's duty to consult in relation to the Project to Enbridge Gas¹ and identified the following Indigenous communities to be consulted:

- Alderville First Nation
- Algonquins of Ontario
- Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn
- Curve Lake First Nation
- Hiawatha First Nation
- Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation

¹ Application, Exhibit H, Tab 1, Schedule 1, Attachment 2

Enbridge Gas stated in its application that it expects to receive a Letter of Opinion from the Ministry as to whether its consultation has been sufficient and that it will file the Letter of Opinion with the OEB once it is received. As of this date, Enbridge Gas has not yet filed with the OEB a Letter of Opinion from the Ministry.

On May 21, 2026, OEB staff filed its submission on the application, and requested that the OEB wait to receive the Letter of Opinion from the Ministry before providing its final approval to grant leave to construct for the Project.

On June 10, 2026, Enbridge Gas submitted that if the Letter of Opinion is not received, placing the application into abeyance is not required, and that receiving the Letter of Opinion should be a Condition of Approval for the Project, consistent with past proceedings.²

The OEB accepts OEB staff's submission that the proceeding should be placed into abeyance pending the filing of the Letter of Opinion. At this time, the OEB rejects Enbridge Gas's submission that receiving the Letter of Opinion should be a Condition of Approval for the Project. The OEB's decision is informed by, and consistent with, other leave to construct proceedings³ and the OEB's *Protocol for Adjusting Adjudicative Timelines*. As noted below, if the Ministry's Letter of Opinion remains outstanding beyond the abeyance period, the OEB may extend the abeyance or pursue another course of action.

Accordingly, the OEB hereby places Enbridge Gas's application in abeyance effective **June 17, 2026**. Specifically, the OEB places the application in abeyance until the earlier of a period of 45 calendar days from the date of this issuance, or such date as the Ministry's Letter of Opinion is received by Enbridge Gas and submitted to the OEB for its review. In the latter case, the OEB will give written notice that the abeyance period has ended. The 45 calendar days period ends on **August 3, 2026**.

If after 45 days, the Ministry's Letter of Opinion is still pending, the OEB may extend the abeyance or pursue another course of action.

The OEB finds that placing the application in abeyance is necessary to provide additional time for consultation and for filing of the Ministry's Letter of Opinion.

² Enbridge Gas cited EB-2017-0261 Scugog Island Community Expansion Project, Decision and Order, May 31, 2018, p. 9; and EB-2020-0192 London Lines Replacement Project, Decision and Order, January 28, 2021, Schedule B.

³ For example, EB-2025-0073, Mississauga Reinforcement Project.

Any questions relating to this application may be directed to the Case Manager, Natalya Plummer at Natalya.Plummer@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Tobias Hobbins at Tobias.Hobbins@oeb.ca.

Yours truly,

Ritchie Murray
Registrar

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