

Report to Council

Report Title:	Natural Gas Coming to Brockton		
Prepared By:	Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer		
Department:	Administration		
Date:	June 22, 2021		
Report Number:	CAO2021-11	File Number:	C11AD
Attachments:	EPCOR Proposed Gas Expansion Map Fact Sheet		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2021-12 - Natural Gas Coming to Brockton, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer, for information purposes

Report:

Background:

Since the start of the South Bruce Natural Gas project Brockton staff and Council have been advocating on bringing natural gas to the rural communities in Brockton.

In mid-2018, Brockton Council requested EPCOR's consideration to make natural gas available to Brockton communities at their earliest availability as the main line would run through the municipality. Funding opportunities made available by the Ontario Government made this an opportune chance to bring the service into Brockton.

Throughout the years, Brockton staff and Council have been an active participant and supportive partner advocating on behalf of our residents for this project, including visiting our large agriculture partners to gain data and providing data and mapping to work closely with EPCOR to identify areas within northern Brockton where business and residents would benefit from the service. Further Brockton co-funded a survey to determine the level of interest of rural residents to convert to natural gas if it was made available. The response generated had so much positive support that EPCOR expand beyond the original concept plan to reach as many customers as possible.

Natural gas is significant to a community's well-being and it will generate much needed economic activity and savings for Brockton residents and businesses – especially important following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Analysis:

On June 11, the Ontario government announced \$234 million in the phase 2 of the Natural Gas Expansion Program, of which, \$20.3 million has been awarded to EPCOR's project coming to Brockton to provide natural gas servicing. This will connect 501 homes and businesses to the service in the communities of Elmwood, Vesta, Glammis, Pinkerton, Cargill, Chepstow, Riversdale, Greenock, and Solway and the rural areas in between.

Moving forward, residents are encouraged to check the attached Fact Sheet. A section will be developed on the Brockton website to provide project related updates. If residents are looking to find if they are eligible for natural gas services, they should be contacting EPCOR as outline on the Fact Sheet. Staff will be working with EPCOR to ensure proper communication is developed as the project progresses and information are available to Brockton residents.

Construction is not expected to start until 2023. EPCOR must file a Leave to Construct application with the Ontario Energy Board prior to beginning construction. This application will provide updated timelines for the Environmental Assessment, system design, consultation plans and all other required permitting. More exact timelines will be available following this application.

We are sincerely thankful to our Provincial representatives; MPP Lisa Thompson and MPP Bill Walker for their continued support for rural Ontario and this funding opportunity through the Natural Gas Expansion Program.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

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| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | N/A |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer