

Report to Council

Report Title: EPCOR Natural Gas Update June 2023

Prepared By: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer

Department: Administration

Date: June 20, 2023

Report Number: CAO2023-10 **File Number:** C11AD, E06EP

Attachments: Natural Gas Project Phased Map

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approves Report Number CAO2023-10 - EPCOR Natural Gas Update June 2023, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and in doing so continues to support EPCOR's efforts to provide natural gas service to areas of Brockton.

Report:

Background:

Since 2018, Brockton has been advocating to bring natural gas to the rural communities in Brockton. On June 11, 2021, the Ontario government announced \$234 million in the phase 2 of the Natural Gas Expansion, of which \$20.3 million had been awarded to EPCOR's project to provide natural gas servicing to approximately 501 homes and businesses in the communities of Elmwood, Vesta, Glammis, Pinkerton, Cargill, Chepstow, Riversdale, Greenock, Solway and other rural areas. Brockton supported this project by signing a Model Franchise Agreement with EPCOR, and providing a Letter of Support for the project. Construction of the project will start following the Leave to Construct application being approved, construction plans are underway.

Council further confirmed support for the Natural Gas Expansion Project under the Economic Development category in the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, which noted that "While the Municipality maintains its huge investment in the rural road system, other forms of infrastructure needed by the modern farm – like natural gas and reliable internet – have been a long time coming".

Analysis:

Recently staff received and update from EPCOR’s Project Developer that due to the project economics associated with the entire project as proposed and to ensure feasibility for residents a staged approach to the project plan is required. EPCOR is attending tonight to notify Council of the phased approach to the project (Stage 1 and Stage 2). Stage 2 will follow subject to confirmation of additional funding through the Province’s Natural Gas Expansion Program.

A map outlining the two stages is attached. A Community information session is being planned for September where residents can attend, receive this information update and ask questions related to their own property. Project update will also be mailed out to residents within the project area. Following approval of the Leave To Construct Application Stage 1 is expected to start in the spring of 2024.

We bring this forward for information purposes.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?	
• Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision	Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community	N/A
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life	N/A
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment	Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development	Yes
• Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance	N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

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

There is no direct to cost to Brockton at this time.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer