

Report to Council

Report Title:	EPCOR Natural Gas Leave to Construction Application – Ontario Energy Board Decision		
Prepared By:	Fiona Hamilton, Clerk		
Department:	Clerk's		
Date:	July 30, 2019		
Report Number:	CLK2019-18	File Number:	C11CL
Attachments:	EPCOR Natural Gas Construction Notice Ontario Energy Board Decision and Order		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby received Report Number CLK2019-18 – EPCOR Natural Gas Lease to Construct Application – Ontario Energy Board Decision, prepared by Fiona Hamilton, Clerk for information purposes and approves bringing forward the By-law to authorize the Model Franchise Agreement for third and final reading.

Report:

Background:

The Southern Bruce Natural Gas Project involves building main transmission lines to allow EPCOR to provide natural gas service to the Municipality of South Bruce, the Municipality of Kincardine and the Township of Huron-Kinloss. The transmission line will intersect Brockton, but no Brockton residents will be able to connect and obtain natural gas service at this time.

Prior to construction occurring, EPCOR was required to obtain approval from the Ontario Energy Board. The Ontario Energy Board also had to approve the proposed Model Franchise Agreement between the Municipality of Brockton and EPCOR. Council had given the by-law to approve the Model Franchise Agreement (By-Law 2018-074) first and second reading at the September 10, 2019 Council Meeting, but could not proceed to third and final reading until the Model Franchise Agreement was approved by the Ontario Energy Board.

Council authorized staff to apply to be an intervenor in the Ontario Energy Board proceedings related to EPCOR's application at the meeting on April 9, 2019. The Municipality of Brockton was granted intervenor status on April 17, 2019 and provided written submissions in support of EPCOR's application on June 3, 2019.

Analysis:

The Ontario Energy Board released its Decision and Order authorizing EPCOR to begin construction on the Southern Bruce Natural Gas Project on July 11, 2009, which has been attached for Council’s reference. Although there were some conditions attached to the Order, these conditions would not prevent EPCOR from proceeding with construction.

There are two items in the Ontario Energy Board’s decision that directly relate to the Municipality of Brockton specifically. The Ontario Energy Board granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to EPCOR confirming that it is appropriate and necessary for EPCOR to bring the transmission line through the Municipality of Brockton. The second item is that the Ontario Energy Board did approve the Model Franchise Agreement with the Municipality of Brockton.

EPCOR has provided a Construction Notice (which has been attached) with basic information about the project and a hotline that residents can call if they have questions or concerns that Council can use when answering questions from the public.

The Ontario Energy Board’s Decision and Order is a positive step forward, as it is one less roadblock in the way of eventually providing natural gas service to the Municipality of Brockton. Staff recommend that the by-law authorizing the Model Franchise Agreement be brought forward for third and final reading to allow construction to proceed.

Sustainability Checklist:

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

- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? N/A
- 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?
N/A

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Fiona Hamilton', written in a cursive style.

Fiona Hamilton, Clerk

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Suzanne Allard', written in a cursive style.

Chief Administrative Officer