

May 31, 2005

L. Carlson
1585 BurBrook Rd
RR#1, Glenburnie, Ontario
K0H 1S0

Utilities Kingston Response to Liz Carlson Interrogatories

Re: **Utilities Kingston –Application for Leave to Construct a Natural Gas Pipeline Reinforcing Supply to the City of Kingston**

Board File No. EB-2005-0247

Dear Ms. Carlson:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank for your letter of the 12th, I am writing to respond to the questions you have presented in your letter and thereby hope to satisfy the concerns you have expressed.

1. *If homeowner's wells, cisterns, and septic systems are damaged during the gas pipeline construction, who will be replacing the septic systems, removing the contaminated soil, supplying water to households who may lose their well water, and redrilling homeowner's wells if need be?*

Utilities Kingston will take whatever steps are necessary to protect homeowners systems such as wells, cisterns and septic systems. An assessment of the impacts on these systems will be conducted prior to and following construction. This study shall allow us to implement mitigating measures early by exposing the possibility of impact to the homeowners systems. Blasting will not be allowed in any built-up area or in close proximity to any residences further reducing the possibility of impacts to these resources. Pre-construction and post-construction surveys shall be conducted on these systems and should this investigation reveal damage to these systems as a result of the construction activities, than it will be the responsibility of Utilities Kingston and the constructor to remedy the problem.

2. *If there is a gas leak or break in the gas pipeline can you assure us our well water and land will not be contaminated?*

Technologies utilized in modern gas pipeline construction have reduced the possibility of leaks to almost non-existent. If a leak does occur it is typically through human error, such as someone excavating into the pipeline without having the proper clearances. However due to the high grade steel to be used in the construction of this pipeline, dig-ins are unlikely to cause significant enough damage to create a leak. Due to the nature of natural gas it tends to float upwards and quickly dissipate harmlessly into the upper atmosphere rather than migrating downwards into water supplies or contaminating soils such as oil or gasoline could.

3. *What kind of compensation will homeowners receive for noise, destruction of property, and the overall traffic nuisance that will have to be dealt with?*

The contractor working on this pipeline shall be working within the City of Kingston road right-of-way, likely in the shoulder of the road between 7:00am and 7:00pm as permitted by the City of Kingston Noise By-Law 2004-52. Being in this location would require no disruption on private property and the contractor will be required to maintain access to private property. Utilities Kingston does place stringent requirements upon our contractors in regards to

restoration efforts following construction and we will be monitoring the remediation efforts. It is the responsibility of the contractor to maintain the flow of traffic in any areas of construction. Generally disruptions to traffic are minimal and are conducted in accordance with the MTO Non-Freeway Traffic Control Guide. This guide assists both in the safety of workers and minimizing the impact to the flow of traffic. Utilities Kingston would not be in a position to offer homeowners any financial contribution as a result of a construction project conducted within normal operating parameters.

4. If field reconnaissance was done then why were the underground spring on BurBrook Road and the creek on Sunnyside Road (two natural water sources for homeowner's wells) completely ignored?

Several small tributaries of the Little Cataraqui Creek were identified and catalogued in the Environmental Report in section 5.2 page 5-5. By implementing the procedures developed by the Canadian Pipeline Watercourse Crossing Committee any adverse effects on watercourses can be prevented. Utilities Kingston shall ensure that the contractor who constructs this pipeline perform their operations in accordance to these procedures. During a public open house at the Glenburnie Fire Hall on October 20th, 2004, you brought to our attention the presence of an underground spring on BurBrook Rd towards the Perth Rd end. The visible nature of this underground spring has been observed through the seasonal cycles since. Utilities Kingston's Geotechnical Consultant has viewed this spring and advised us on the possible impact and mitigative measures to be undertaken.

5. What benefit is the gas pipeline going to be to the residents of BurBrook and Sunnyside Roads?

Utilities Kingston serves natural gas to the households within the limits of the City of Kingston as described on December 31st, 1997. Union Gas Ltd holds the franchise agreement to deliver natural gas to customers outside of this boundary. The Ontario Energy Board controls the terms and conditions of these agreements. At this time there no plans for Utilities Kingston to offer service to customers in this area.

6. Will there be lower property taxes for the affected homeowners since a gas pipeline in the area really isn't necessary or safe?

The assessment of property values for tax purposes is beyond the purview of this work. Gas pipelines are installed throughout our service area and we have not been made aware of any negative impacts that would affect property assessments.

7. Why were alternative routes mentioned and not presented to the public for viewing as stated in the Notice for Public Open House?

The panels and literature made available at the public open house you attended at the Glenburnie Fire hall on Oct 20th, 2004 disclosed the alternate routes as you mention in your letter of the 12th, such as running along Perth Rd or running through Knox Farm. The advertising placed in the two local publications and sent by direct mailing also shows the alternate routes that were included in the study. Panels that describe the reasoning behind the route selection as well as topics such as pipeline safety, construction procedures and the regulatory framework were among the 17 panels that were on display

8. Would it not be more logical and economical to take the gas pipeline back along Division Street and then across the leased farmer's field where Utilities Kingston already stores dredged soil from the Ravensview Sewer Project and then hook up to the industrial park?

Many factors were considered in the selection of routes for this pipeline. Some of the factors studied included:

- distance- what is the length of each possible route
- construction cost- different factors affect construction costs, traffic volume and speed, rock encountered, highway crossing etc
- water crossings- which has the least or least complex water crossings
- vegetation- which route will require the least amount of disruption to trees and other sensitive vegetation
- utility crossings- which route provides the least complex crossing of foreign utilities such as other pipelines, buried hydro or communication cables

Based upon this criteria and analysis of the data as is outlined in our submission to the Ontario Energy Board, a preferred route was identified.

9. Is it really necessary to disrupt over 37 households along BurBrook and Sunnyside Roads when you would only be disrupting 10 households by going back along Division Street?

The volume of households and businesses along the studied route are considered in the selection process. When the construction of this pipeline commences, the timelines imposed on the contractor shall be short enough that construction will have to move at an accelerated rate and thereby minimizing any disruption to households.

10. Shouldn't Utilities Kingston be more concerned about getting the Ravensview Sewer Project finished before starting another major project?

The Ravensview project shall continue to advance and will not be affected by or affect this project.

11. Why did Utilities Kingston employee Jeff Froats trespass onto my mother's property on April 22, 2005 without legal authority to do so?

Mr. Jeff Froats was performing a survey on an existing Hydro One pole and anchor located to the front of your property. Typically poles are installed within the municipal road right-of-way and as such it is not clear that any trespassing occurred. However if your mother was inconvenienced in any way we would like to take this opportunity to apologize.

In closing I sincerely hope you find this informative and satisfactory to your concerns. I apologize that you do not feel your questions were properly addressed by Mr. Buszynski at the public meetings.

Sincerely,

J.A. Keech, P.Eng.
President and CAO
Utilities Kingston

cc. Jim Miller, Manager Utilities Technical Services
Chris Phippen, Utilities Engineer
Zora Crnojacki

ds/JK

Attachments: Geotechnical report from A. Chevrier