

From: Julie Alexander <Julie.Alexander@enbridge.com>

Sent: September 4, 2025 1:20 PM

To: Dawn Mittelholtz <dawn.mittelholtz@saugeenshores.ca>

Cc: Kara Van Myall <kara.vanmyall@saugeenshores.ca>

Subject: Have your say: Consultation on the future of natural gas expansion in Ontario

Dear Mayor Charbonneau,

Municipalities across Ontario understand the critical link between infrastructure renewal, integrated energy planning, and economic development in supporting community growth and prosperity. This is a pivotal time in the province's energy sector, where municipalities can play a leadership role in shaping the future of natural gas expansion.

I'm reaching out to encourage your municipality to participate in the Ontario Ministry of Energy and Mines' consultation on the [Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion \(ERO 0250923\)](#). Your local perspective will help inform a potential Phase 3 of the Natural Gas Expansion Program (NGEP), ensuring that your community's priorities on housing development, economic growth, affordability, and service needs are well represented in Ontario's energy planning decisions.

The consultation is **open until September 22, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.** You can review the posting, register your municipality, and submit your comments at [ERO 0250923 – Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion](#).

To support your submission, we've attached:

- A **draft council resolution** supporting Phase 3
- A **draft letter of support**
- A **template ERO submission** for your consideration

I would be happy to arrange a briefing and provide you with more information on Phase 3 of NGEP. This would be an opportunity to review your community's growth priorities, walk through the consultation process, and answer any questions about preparing a strong submission.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or for any support in tailoring your submission.

Thank you,

Julie

Draft Council Resolution — Support for NGE Phase 3 & local development targets

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. ____

DATE: _____

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

WHEREAS the Province has posted ERO 0250923, *Consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion*, seeking feedback from municipalities, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders on how Phase Three (3) could best support access to natural gas for community development.

AND WHEREAS expanding access to natural gas is identified as a tool to support affordability and economic growth in Ontario communities, with Phases One (1) and Two (2) estimated to enable connections for approximately 17,000 buildings across 59 communities, and 16 projects completed to date.

AND WHEREAS **[Municipality]** is working toward its housing and employment land goals that contribute to Ontario's broader objective to build at least 1.5 million homes by 2031 and recognizes that timely servicing solutions (including natural gas where appropriate) can help enable these targets. **[CUSTOMIZE TO MUNICIPAL PRIORITY: housing, economic developments goals, commercial and industrial investments, agriculture production, etc.]**

AND WHEREAS Ontario's energy future relies on a balance of affordability, reliability, and sustainability by leveraging a mix of energy solutions—including natural gas, electricity, and emerging energy technologies, to meet growing community needs. And whereas natural gas continues to play a critical role in supporting energy affordability, economic competitiveness, and enabling housing and employment growth across the province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council:

1. Supports the Ministry's consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion (NGEP Phase 3) and endorses access to natural gas as an option to other energy solutions to advance [Municipality]'s housing, employment lands, and economic development objectives.

2. Directs staff to submit comments to ERO 0250923 reflecting [Municipality]'s priorities, including: priority application types, alignment with Official Plan/Secondary Plans, sites and corridors where gas access would enable development (housing/employment lands), any Phase 1 and 2 learnings (if applicable) and practical barriers (e.g., timing, permitting, costs, land access).
3. Forwards this resolution to [local MPP(s)], the Minister of Energy and Mines, the Ontario Energy Board, AMO, and neighbouring municipalities.

MAYOR: _____

Template letter of support

**To be submitted in addendum to municipal filings, directly through the ERO online portal, and emailed to the Ministry of Energy and Mines.*

[Insert Municipal Letterhead Here]

[DATE]

Re: ERO 025-0923 – Consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion

Dear Ministry of Energy and Mines,

On behalf of **[Organization/Municipality]**, we welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Ministry of Energy and Mines' consultation on the future of community natural gas expansion. As Ontario continues to grow, reliable, secure, and diversified energy solutions are essential to ensuring overall community prosperity. The **[Organization/Municipality]** is committed to advancing local growth while ensuring access to the energy infrastructure needed to meet evolving community needs.

We commend the Ontario government for its leadership in pursuing an integrated energy planning approach that balances reliability, sustainability, and affordability. In doing so, we believe the province is taking meaningful steps to ensure communities have the energy choice and flexibility they need to thrive. Natural gas continues to play a critical role in Ontario's energy system, providing reliable energy to homes, businesses, and industries, supporting housing and employment land development, and helping communities attract investment and enable economic growth. Expanding access to natural gas will equip municipalities with the tools to meet local development targets, and plan, and maintain long-term energy security and resilience.

Investing in Phase 3 of the Natural Gas Expansion Program (NGEP) represents an important opportunity to better align infrastructure planning with local development goals. Where Phase 1 and 2 projects have already been delivered, we have seen first-hand how expanded energy access can help advance municipal priorities, unlock new growth potential, and enhance community resilience. We also encourage the Ministry to consider implementation barriers, including on-the-ground-challenges, timelines, approvals, and infrastructure coordination, to ensure that Phase 3 is delivered efficiently and effectively.

We support a Phase 3 approach that prioritizes community growth, energy reliability, and customer choice, while enabling municipalities to align energy planning with local priorities. We appreciate the Ministry's continued engagement on these important issues and thank you for considering our perspectives as part of this consultation process.

Template ERO submission

Register Account for submission

Reference: ERO 0250923 – Consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion.

Q1. Which application types should expansion focus on?

- Residential growth, employment areas/industrial parks, agricultural production, and community facilities – areas where access would unlock housing supply, economic development and job creation. [[Ontario Housing Progress](#)]
- What rationale should application types be based on, consider:
 - Highest economic development impact (jobs/investment/growth)
 - Housing target delivery (linked to municipal targets)
 - Highest possible customer connections (residential/commercial)
 - Constructability readiness (environmental assessment, shovel ready 12-24 months)
 - Municipal governance readiness (Council project support/direction to advance a project)
 - Cost effectiveness (assessment based on customer connection)
 - Equity (under served, remote rural and Indigenous communities)
 - Other (please specify)

Q2. How would access to natural gas support economic development?

- Consider areas of local growth and development, investment requirements, shovel ready projects.

Q3. Is access to natural gas included in your development plans?

- Cite relevant planning documents [i.e. Official Plan, Secondary Plan, Housing and Employment Lands Strategy] that identify natural gas servicing as part of your infrastructure strategy.

Q4. Have you engaged a natural gas developer?

- Status: [Yes/No]. If yes: summarize [project concept, timelines, constraints, readiness].

- If there had been no engagement, your municipality is interested in access to natural gas, provide feedback

Q5. What barriers are preventing access?

- **Examples:** Upfront costs, corridor/ROW timing, coordination with road works, third-party relocations, other projects navigating approvals/design, customer connection/demand,

Q6. Phase 1 and 2 experience (if applicable)

Project: [Name/location].

Status: [Constructed / In progress]

Learnings: [e.g., coordination, communications, permitting]

Outcomes: [connections, economic indicators]

Attachments (recommended)

- Council Resolution (above)
- Letter of Support (above)