

September 12, 2013

MAIL ROOM
SALLE DE COURIER

2013 SEP 12 P 2:35

NEB/ONE

Sheri Young

Secretary of the National Energy Board

444 Seventh Avenue SW.

Calgary, Alberta

Dear Madam Secretary:

RE: Enbridge Line 7 Capacity expansion application

On Sept 9, I received a letter from the National Energy Board requesting more information to follow up on my letter to you of July 4, 2013.

The letter requests how OPLA members are directly affected by the above noted application. Enbridge Line 7 crosses the farm owned and operated by every OPLA member, myself included. More than a year ago, OPLA became aware that Line 7 has been transporting bitumen. On the pipeline route from Sarnia to the destination in the Hamilton area, Line 7 crosses several rivers as well as the farms of OPLA members and other landowners as well.

The experience in the Kalamazoo river in Michigan shows that in fresh water, bitumen sinks to the bottom of the river and it is the understanding of OPLA that the United States EPA has now ordered Enbridge to dredge the river bottom to remove all of the remaining bitumen these 2 or 3 years after the original rupture. If such an incident happened, the OPLA landowner that has the river on his or her property would be directly affected with all of the work that would be required to clean up the product that was spilled from the pipeline.

If the pipeline ruptured in the field of an OPLA member, there would also be a major impact on the lands, the farm family as well as on the production of the farm for many years after the initial incident.

Line 7 is the oldest of the three pipelines that cross our farms and waterways and is now approaching 60 years old. OPLA does not know when the last engineering assessment or risk assessment of Line 7 was done but expects that it has been many years. OPLA is of the opinion that in order to increase the flow rates from 147,000 bpd to 180,000 bpd that the average operating pressure of the pipeline will likely increase to achieve the increased flow rates. In light of the Kalamazoo River rupture and the fact that Line 7 is or almost is 60 years old, landowners need assurance that the proposed capacity increase is safe. OPLA believes that capacity increase will increase the effect of any rupture or spill.

OPLA would like to be able to present evidence developed for a fuller hearing process. OPLA would be requesting participant funding to access expert opinion that would be provided to the NEB panel during the hearing process, so that the NEB would be able to make a good and proper decision concerning this application. Landowners never want to have a field of oil on their lands or in waterways. Whether Line 7 is fit for the service that Enbridge is proposing needs to have a full investigation.

OPLA would expect the process to examine this question of suitability for service would follow the process that has been over the last many years with the exception that cross examination of witnesses would be included in the hearing process. In OPLA's opinion, elimination of this at the oral hearing has been a mistake.

I do have the email that I received from Enbridge on July 10. In that email Enbridge says the MOP will not increase but does not say anything about increases in operating pressures. The fact that MOP is not increasing does not address OPLA's concerns about the potential effects of increasing the operating pressures on the lines and increasing flow rates, in particular the impacts on rupture consequence.

147,000 bpd to 180,000 bpd is an extra 23,000 bpd which is a large percentage increase in the flow that will go through those old pipes every day.

I sincerely hope that this submission answers the information request of your Sept. 6 letter to OPLA.

Yours truly,



Margaret Vance

Margaret Vance

President, OPLA



Date: Sept 12, 2013

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Nombre de pages incluant celle-ci: 3

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M E S S A G E

OPLA. submission on Enbridge
Line 7 expansion of capacity

