

City Council

Motion with Notice

MM28.22	ACTION			Ward:All
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Enbridge Pipelines Inc. application to the National Energy Board for 9B Pipeline Reversal and Capacity Increase - by Councillor Anthony Perruzza, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral.*

** This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Anthony Perruzza, second by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Solicitor to report directly to City Council on the following in connection with the Enbridge Pipelines Inc. submission of pre-application materials to the National Energy Board for the reversal of the direction of flow of its pipeline, Line 9B, between Westover (near Hamilton) and Montreal, and to increase the capacity of Line 9:
 - a. The process at the National Energy Board and options for City of Toronto participation;
 - b. Available details respecting the integrity of the pipeline, the safe handling of diluted bitumen ("dilbit") and spill contingency measures; and
 - c. The need for and cost of expert witness or counsel to represent the City of Toronto's interests.
2. City Council authorize the City Solicitor to advise the National Energy Board of the City of Toronto's intent to preserve all options to participate in the proceedings once an application has been filed by Enbridge Pipelines Inc. (and subject to the direction of City Council regarding that participation).
3. City Council request the City Manager to liaise with staff of the City of Hamilton, or other organizations, with a view to potential cooperation.

Summary

Enbridge Pipelines Inc. has received approval from the National Energy Board to reverse the flow in a light crude oil pipeline – Line 9A - from Sarnia to Westover, near Hamilton. This would allow crude oil to flow from western Canada to refineries in Ontario. Enbridge is now taking steps to complete the reversal of the flow from Westover to Montreal. The end result

would be to displace light crude oil from the Middle East with light crude or heavy crude from western Canada. This heavy crude could include diluted bitumen, or "dilbit" (bitumen that has been reduced in viscosity through addition of a diluent or solvent such as condensate or naphtha.).

Enbridge has submitted pre-application materials to the National Energy Board – the Board that regulates pipelines in Canada – for reversal of the Line 9B pipeline from Westover to Montreal. The 9B pipeline runs through the northern section of the City of Toronto. Enbridge has also indicated that it will apply to raise the overall capacity of Line 9 (A and B) from 240,000 (current capacity) to 300,000 barrels per day.

The General Issues Committee of the City of Hamilton has requested City of Hamilton staff to prepare a report on the application, including the process at the National Energy Board, safety issues associated with the transportation of dilbit, and emergency response measures; and have suggested that other municipalities or municipal organizations be invited to cooperate with their efforts.

A formal application by Enbridge to the National Energy Board for the 9B pipeline reversal and capacity increase is expected to be filed by the end of 2012, and it may be necessary to take steps to preserve the City of Toronto's interests prior to consideration of the requested report by Council.

(Submitted to City Council on November 27 and 28, 2012, as MM28.22)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM28.22