

Pickering resolution – passed unanimously by Pickering Council – Mar. 24, 2014

Whereas Line 9 is a high pressure oil pipeline that crosses the full width of Durham Region, and Enbridge has applied to the National Energy Board for permission to:

1. reverse its flow so that it carries crude oil from North Westover to Montreal
2. increase its flow from 240,000 barrels to 300,000 barrels per day
3. include diluted bitumen to the classes of petroleum it can carry

Whereas the Letters of Comment were submitted to the NEB expressing the concerns of the Region of Durham, the Towns of Ajax & Whitby, as well as private individuals and organizations,

Whereas the Province of Ontario also expressed its concern in its submission to the NEB and set out 7 minimum conditions that they felt should be imposed before the NEB approves Enbridge's application:

1. a hydrostatic test of the Line
2. an independent 3rd party review of the risk and engineering assessments submitted by Enbridge
3. insurance coverage of \$1billion
4. that Enbridge incorporate vulnerable areas and source protection plans into their high consequence area and environmentally sensitive area maps
5. that these vulnerable areas be incorporated into its emergency response plan
6. conduct emergency response exercises annually with all municipalities who want them
7. publish an annual report on Line 9, including information about maintenance, spills and integrity testing

Whereas the NEB issued its ruling on March 6 and this ruling allows Enbridge to proceed with the project subject to conditions which inadequately address the concerns expressed by the Ontario government or by Durham municipalities in their Letters of Comment

Whereas, in the course of the Line 9 hearing process, it was revealed that Durham Region has the highest concentration of watercourse crossings along the entire pipeline, which, with inadequate emergency response times of between 1.5 and 4 hours, puts Durham Region communities, citizens, businesses and natural environment at increased risk in the event of a pipeline spill.

Whereas an analysis of the pipe thicknesses at the location of the 12 acknowledged leaks on Line 9b reveals that 7 of those leaks occurred where the thickness was 0.25 in, 3 of those leaks occurred where the thickness was 0.281 in, and 2 occurred where the thickness was .312 in, and none occurred where the thickness was 3/8" (.375") or more.

Whereas further analysis has revealed that 97.2% of the pipeline in Durham is either 0.25 or 0.281 in.

Whereas the City of Pickering has no regulatory authority over this pipeline.

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Pickering

- supports the 7 conditions set out by the Province of Ontario, and

- requests the Province of Ontario require the project undergo an Individual Environmental Assessment

and be it further resolved that:

due to the high concentration of watercourses and wetlands that the pipeline crosses in Durham Region and our rapidly increasing population, the City of Pickering requests the Province of Ontario to use its influence to have Enbridge designate the entire width of Durham a 'high consequence area' and to upgrade the line within a reasonable timeframe to minimum 9.5mm (3/8") wall thickness.

and further,

that this resolution be forwarded to Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli, and Environment Minister Jim Bradley, local MPPs and Opposition Critics

with copies to: The National Energy Board, Federal Minister of Natural Resources Joe Oliver, Federal Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq, Enbridge, Local MPs, and other municipalities along the pipeline route