



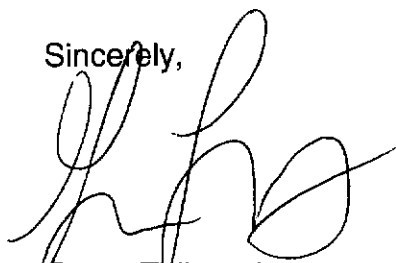
I note that in its July 12, 2012 interim decision and order on applications by Union Gas and Enbridge Gas Distribution to include the cost consequences of purchasing RNG in rates, the OEB indicated its willingness to consider the inclusion of RNG in the utilities' gas supply portfolios and provided direction to the gas utilities on the additional evidence that would be needed for the OEB to further consider the matter. Those applications were later withdrawn, and the OEB therefore did not have occasion to finally determine the merits of including RNG in the gas supply mix.

More recently, in its September 2016 *Regulatory Framework for the Assessment of Costs of Natural Gas Utilities' Cap and Trade Activities*, the OEB specifically identified RNG as a potential GHG abatement measure that gas utilities can undertake to meet their compliance obligations. The three rate-regulated gas utilities have now filed their first compliance plans under that *Framework*. Both Enbridge and Union have indicated in their filings that they anticipate moving toward the integration of RNG in the future. The OEB will be considering the utilities' initial compliance plans in an adjudicative process based on the evidence before it, and I acknowledge that the process for approving those initial plans is not expected to be the forum for an in-depth examination of RNG.

The government remains supportive of the economic and environmental benefits that RNG can provide in optimizing the use of existing assets while reducing the province's carbon footprint. We intend to consider how RNG will help meet Ontario's future energy needs during the development of the next Long-Term Energy Plan and subsequent implementation directives.

In light of the developments noted earlier in this letter, I encourage the OEB to move forward in a timely manner to include RNG as a potential fuel that could help reduce GHG emissions as a part of the gas utilities' supply portfolios.

Sincerely,



Glenn Thibeault  
Minister

c: Serge Imbrogno, Deputy Minister  
Carolyn Calwell, Director, Legal Services Branch, Ministries of Energy; Economic Development and Growth; Infrastructure; Research, Innovation and Science; and Accessibility

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