



**Ontario Energy Board
Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario**

DECISION AND ORDER

**VARYING DECISION AND ORDER ISSUED
ON JANUARY 22, 2015**

EB-2011-0140

EAST-WEST TIE LINE DESIGNATION

**Decision and Order Regarding Reporting By Designated
Transmitter**

By Delegation, Before: Lynne Anderson

December 8, 2016

1 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has, on its own motion, decided to vary its Decision and Order issued on January 22, 2015 (January 2015 Decision).

The January 2015 Decision ordered the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to provide updates regarding the need for the East-West Tie (EWT) expansion on December 15, 2015 and December 15, 2016, as well as to provide a letter to the OEB at the appropriate time confirming the timing of the Leave to Construct (LTC) application.

The OEB has determined that the IESO is no longer required to provide an update on the need for the EWT expansion or to confirm the timing of the LTC application with the OEB.

The OEB has proceeded without a hearing under section 6(4) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 (Act)* to vary the January 2015 Decision.

2 BACKGROUND

On August 7, 2013, the OEB issued a decision naming Upper Canada Transmission Inc. (UCT) as the designated transmitter for the development of the EWT transmission expansion to connect northeast and northwest Ontario and enhance electricity supply capability in the northwest. As part of the decision, the OEB required UCT to file a development schedule identifying milestones, proofs of completion and target completion dates and to file monthly reports with the OEB on the matters listed in Schedule 3 of UCT's electricity transmission licence. The OEB also required the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), now the IESO, to file a schedule for detailed need updates. On September 26, 2013, the OEB approved the development and reporting schedules proposed by UCT as well as the OPA's proposed schedule for the filing of the need updates.

The EWT expansion was initially expected to be in service in 2018, but in 2014 the OPA recommended an extension of the in-service date to 2020 and thereby reconsideration of the development schedule. The OEB required UCT and the OPA to work together to develop revised development and reporting schedules. The OEB issued a decision on January 22, 2015 approving UCT's revised development and reporting schedules and requiring the IESO to provide updates regarding the need for the EWT expansion as detailed below:

The IESO shall provide updates regarding the need for the East-West Tie expansion on December 15, 2015 and December 15, 2016, and at such other times as may be required by the Board. The IESO will also provide a letter to the Board at the appropriate time confirming the timing of the LTC application.

In March 2016, the Minister of Energy informed the OEB that under the authority of section 96.1(1) of the Act, the Lieutenant Governor in Council had made an order declaring that the construction, expansion or reinforcement of the EWT expansion is needed as a priority project. While the OEB is still required to give approval for the construction of the new line under section 92 of the Act, the declaration means that the OEB will accept that the EWT expansion is needed.

OEB FINDINGS

The OEB finds that an update from the IESO on the need for the EWT is no longer required as the Lieutenant Governor's order declares that the construction, expansion or reinforcement of the EWT expansion is needed as a priority project. The OEB also finds that the IESO is not required to confirm the timing of the LTC application with the OEB. The timing of an application is part of the reporting by UCT.

3 ORDER

The Ontario Energy Board's Decision and Order of January 22, 2015 is varied as follows:

1. The fifth paragraph of the order section is deleted.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Decision and Order in EB-2011-0140, issued January 22, 2015, is varied such that a need update from the IESO is no longer required, and the IESO is not required to confirm the timing of the LTC application with the OEB. All other requirements in the Decision and Order remain in force.

DATED at Toronto, December 8, 2016

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Lynne Anderson
Vice President, Applications