

**Ministry of Energy**

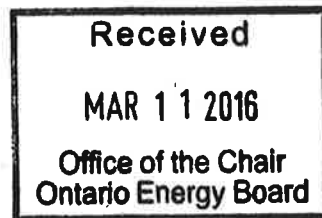
Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de l'Énergie**

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MAR 10 2016

MC-2016-569

Ms Rosemarie LeClair  
Chair and Chief Executive Officer  
Ontario Energy Board  
PO Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms LeClair:

The East-West Tie, identified as a priority project in the 2013 Long-Term Energy Plan, is a cornerstone of this government's policy to support expansion of transmission infrastructure in northwestern Ontario. The East-West Tie continues to be the Independent Electricity System Operator's recommended alternative to maintain a reliable and cost-effective supply of electricity to northwestern Ontario for the long term.

Under the authority of section 96.1(1) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, ("the Act") the Lieutenant Governor in Council made an order declaring that the construction of the East-West Tie transmission line is needed as a priority project. The Order in Council took effect on March 4, 2016 and is attached to this letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Chiarelli".

Bob Chiarelli  
Minister



Ontario  
 Executive Council  
 Conseil des ministres

**Order in Council  
 Décret**

On the recommendation of the undersigned, the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and concurrence of the Executive Council, orders that:

Sur la recommandation du soussigné, le lieutenant-gouverneur, sur l'avis et avec le consentement du Conseil des ministres, décrète ce qui suit:

**WHEREAS** Ontario considers it necessary to expand Ontario's transmission system in order to maintain a reliable and cost-effective supply of electricity in the Province's Northwest, increase operational flexibility, reduce congestion payments and remove a barrier to resource development in the region;

**AND WHEREAS** Ontario considers the expansion or reinforcement of the electricity transmission network in the area between Wawa and Thunder Bay composed of the high-voltage circuits connecting Wawa TS with Lakehead TS (the "East-West Tie Line Project"), with an in service date of 2020, to be a priority;

**AND WHEREAS** the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make an order under section 96.1 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (the "Act") declaring that the construction, expansion or reinforcement of an electricity transmission line specified in the order is needed as a priority project;

**AND WHEREAS** an order under section 96.1 of the Act requires the Ontario Energy Board, in considering an application under section 92 of the Act in respect of the electricity transmission line specified in the order, to accept that the construction, expansion or reinforcement is needed when forming its opinion under section 96 of the Act;

**NOW THEREFORE** it is hereby declared pursuant to section 96.1 of the Act that the construction of the East-West Tie Line Project is needed as a priority project, and that the present order shall take effect on the day that section 96.1 of the Act comes into force.

Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Minister of Energy

Concurred: David Zimmer  
 Chair of Cabinet

Approved and Ordered: MAR 02 2016  
 Date

G. R. Hal  
 Administrator of the Government