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BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

May 15, 2020

## TO: All Participants in the Consultation on the Draft Guidelines for Potential Projects to Expand Access to Natural Gas All Other Interested Parties

## RE: Extension of Filing Deadline to August 4, 2020 Potential Projects to Expand Access to Natural Gas Distribution Ontario Energy Board File No. EB-2019-0255

On March 5, 2020, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued its <u>final Guidelines for</u> <u>Potential Projects to Expand Access to Natural Gas Distribution</u> in relation to the abovenoted initiative, and set June 3, 2020 as the deadline for the filing of project information by interested project proponents. This deadline was set to enable the OEB to report back to the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (Ministry) by August 31, 2020, as <u>requested</u> by the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and the Associate Minister of Energy.

On April 29, 2020, the OEB issued a <u>letter</u> soliciting input on the implications of the COVID-19 emergency for the timelines associated with this initiative, and indicating that information provided by proponents in response to the letter would be shared with the Ministry for its further consideration.

The OEB has today received a <u>letter</u> from the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and the Associate Minister of Energy extending the deadline for the filing of the OEB's report to the Ministry by 60 days, to October 31, 2020. The OEB is therefore extending the deadline for project proponents to file their project information to **August 4, 2020**.

Any questions about this initiative should be directed to <u>IndustryRelations@oeb.ca</u> with the subject "Potential Projects to Expand Access to Natural Gas Distribution".

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Christine E. Long Registrar and Board Secretary