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April 4, 2024

**TO: Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)
All Licensed Electricity Transmitters
All Intervenors in Current Electricity Leave to Construct Proceedings**

RE: Guidance on Filing System Impact Assessment Reports

This letter sets out Ontario Energy Board (OEB) guidance regarding the filing of IESO System Impact Assessment (SIA) reports in the context of leave to construct applications for electricity transmission projects. This guidance is informed by the OEB's decision in a recent proceeding.¹

Chapter 4 of the OEB's Filing Requirements for Electricity Transmission Applications² requires applicants to demonstrate that the connection of the proposed transmission project will not affect the reliability of the IESO-controlled grid. This requirement is fulfilled through the submission of an SIA report conducted by the IESO.³

The SIA report evaluates the project's design and its impact on the reliability of the integrated power system, to determine whether the IESO should issue a notice of conditional approval or disapproval of the proposed connection. The SIA report typically includes appendices with additional study details which the OEB has concluded are not generally required for the OEB's determination of the issues in electricity transmission leave to construct proceedings. The appendices may also contain confidential information of the IESO, the connection applicant, the transmitter and, potentially, other third parties, including information that, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to pose a potential security threat to the integrated power system, the IESO administered markets, or those of neighbouring jurisdictions.

¹ [Decisions on Confidentiality and Motion and Procedural Order No. 3](#), EB-2023-0198, January 16, 2024

² Filing Requirements for Electricity Transmission Applications, [Chapter 4 - Leave to Construct and Related Matters](#), March 16, 2023.

³ *Ibid*, pg.34

Going forward, the OEB will not require applicants in electricity transmission leave to construct applications to file SIA report appendices (excluding those which contain the requirements for connection). An applicant may file the appendices if it considers this information necessary to support a particular project. Any party seeking the appendices to be filed must justify how the importance of this information outweighs the risks and additional administration. Should the applicant seek confidential treatment for this information, they must do so in accordance with the OEB's *Practice Direction on Confidential Filings* (Practice Direction).⁴

Any questions relating to this letter should be directed to Musab Qureshi, Manager, at 416-440-7658 or at Musab.Qureshi@oeb.ca.

Yours truly,

Nancy Marconi
Registrar

⁴ [Practice Direction on Confidential Filings](#), December 17, 2021, sections 5 and 6.