



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

DECISION AND ORDER

EB-2026-0080

Amending the Electricity Transmission Licence of Hydro One Networks Inc. to Require it to Develop and Seek Approvals for a New Transmission Line

BY DELEGATION, BEFORE: Raj Pattani
Director,
Strategic Policy

January 29, 2026

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

Further to a directive from the Minister of Energy and Mines (Minister), the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), on its own motion, is commencing this proceeding to amend the electricity transmission licence¹ of Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) to require it to develop and seek approvals for a transmission line project.

BACKGROUND

Under section 28.6.1 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (Act), the Minister may issue directives to the OEB requiring the OEB to take such steps as are specified in the directive relating to the construction, expansion or reinforcement of transmission systems. Such a directive may, among other things, require the OEB to amend the licence conditions of a transmitter to require the transmitter to take the actions specified in the directive in relation to its transmission system. Such a directive may also specify whether the OEB is to hold a hearing for the purposes of implementing the directive.

On January 28, 2026, the OEB received a directive from the Minister under section 28.6.1 of the Act (Directive), which was approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on December 11, 2025 as Order in Council No. 1662/2025. The Order in Council accompanying the Directive states that it is critical to expand Ontario's transmission system to provide a reliable and adequate supply of electricity to Northern Ontario to support economic growth in the region, including the rapidly growing mining sector and the future and potential growth in the hydroelectric generation sector.

The Order in Council also notes that the Government has signed a bilateral Shared Prosperity Agreement with Aroland First Nation, dated January 28, 2025, in which the Government committed to bringing forward a proposal that would, subject to receiving all necessary approvals, support the development of the Greenstone Transmission Line.

Further, the Order in Council notes that the Government's plan to alleviate bottlenecks in Ontario's transmission system so that power can be delivered where and when it is needed was signaled in the Ministry's Integrated Energy Plan, *Energy for Generations: Ontario's Integrated Plan to Power the Strongest Economy in the G7*.

The Directive requires the OEB to amend Hydro One's electricity transmission licence to require Hydro One to develop and seek approvals for a new single-circuit 230-kilovolt transmission line, designed to support a second circuit, that will run from existing 230-kilovolt infrastructure (the East-West Tie) near Nipigon Bay to a new 230-kilovolt station that connects with the existing 115-kilovolt circuit near Longlac Transformer Station, and

¹ ET-2003-0035

extending to or near to Aroland First Nation, terminating at a new Switching Station and associated station facilities (Project).

The Directive also requires that the licence conditions stipulate that the scope and timing for the development of the Project accord with the recommendations of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), and further directs the OEB to require that Hydro One provide such reporting to the OEB as the OEB may consider appropriate with respect to budget, timing and risks in relation to the development of the Project.

In accordance with the Directive, the OEB is required to amend Hydro One's electricity transmission licence without a hearing.

This Decision and Order is being issued under delegated authority without a hearing.

DECISION

Further to the Directive, the OEB is amending Hydro One's electricity transmission licence to require it to develop and seek approvals for the Project in accordance with the recommendations of the IESO.

With respect to reporting requirements, as an initial step, the OEB is requiring Hydro One to file a copy of any recommendations received from the IESO related to the scope and timing for the development of the Project. Further reporting requirements to enable the OEB to monitor Hydro One's progress towards the implementation of the conditions being added to its electricity transmission licence today, including budget, timing and risks, will be addressed at a later date.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Hydro One Networks Inc.'s electricity transmission licence ET-2003-0035 is amended by adding the following new conditions:
 - 19.12.1 The Licensee shall develop and seek approvals for a new single-circuit 230-kilovolt transmission line, designed to support a second circuit, that will run from existing 230- kilovolt infrastructure (the East-West Tie) near Nipigon Bay to a new 230-kilovolt station that connects with the existing 115-kilovolt circuit near Longlac Transformer Station, and extending to or near to Aroland First Nation, terminating at a new Switching Station and associated station facilities.

19.12.2 The scope and timing for the development of the transmission line project set out in condition 19.12.1 shall accord with the recommendations of the Independent Electricity System Operator.

2. Hydro One Networks Inc. shall, no later than February 27, 2026, file with the OEB a copy of any recommendations received from the Independent Electricity System Operator related to the scope and timing for the development of the transmission line project set out in condition 19.12.1 of its electricity transmission licence ET-2003-0035.

DATED at Toronto, January 29, 2026

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Raj Pattani
Director, Strategic Policy