

**BY EMAIL AND RESS**

February 27, 2026

Mr. Ritchie Murray  
Acting Registrar  
Ontario Energy Board  
Suite 2700, 2300 Yonge Street  
P.O. Box 2319  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Mr. Murray,

**EB-2026-0080 – Amending the Electricity Transmission Licence of Hydro One Networks Inc. (“Hydro One”) to Require it to Develop and Seek Approvals for New 230 kV Transmission Line in the Greenstone region – Recommendations Received from the IESO**

As per the Ontario Energy Board (“OEB”) Decision and Order in this proceeding, issued January 29, 2026 (“Decision and Order”), the OEB amended<sup>1</sup> Hydro One Networks Inc.’s (“Hydro One”) electricity transmission license<sup>2</sup> requiring Hydro One to develop and seek approvals for a new 230 kV transmission line in the Greenstone region of Ontario. In the Decision and Order<sup>3</sup>, the OEB required Hydro One to provide the OEB with any recommendations received from the Independent Electricity System Operator (“IESO”) related to the scope and timing for the development of the transmission line projects by no later than February 27, 2026.

As outlined in the Order in Council<sup>4</sup>, the Greenstone Transmission Line Project is a new 230-kV single-circuit transmission line designed to support a second circuit, that will connect into existing 230-kV and 115 kV infrastructure. As proposed in the Ministry’s Integrated Energy Plan<sup>5</sup>, the Greenstone Transmission Line will foster connections in the region to support critical minerals mining development and connect remote First Nations communities to the grid that currently rely on diesel generators for electricity. Hydro One acknowledges that the IESO continues to develop, evaluate, and recommend solutions for transmission plans to support new energy development in the Northern Ontario. The IESO is currently studying opportunities through its Northern Ontario Connection Study (“NOCS”) engagement program. The study was initiated in response to a request from the government of Ontario, and a final report will be released in future updates.

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<sup>1</sup> EB-2026-0080 – OEB Decision and Order – Amending the Electricity Transmission Licence of Hydro One Networks Inc. to Require it to Develop and Seek Approvals for a New Transmission Line

<https://www.rds.oeb.ca/CMWebDrawer/Record/931485/File/document>

<sup>2</sup> ET-2003-0035 – Hydro One’s Transmission Licence – as Amended

<https://www.rds.oeb.ca/CMWebDrawer/Record/931484/File/document>

<sup>3</sup> EB-2026-0080 – OEB Decision and Order – Amending the Electricity Transmission Licence of Hydro One Networks Inc. to Require it to Develop and Seek Approvals for a New Transmission Line:

<https://www.rds.oeb.ca/CMWebDrawer/Record/931485/File/document>

<sup>4</sup> Order in Council 1662/2025

[OC-1662-2025-Designation-Greenstone \(1\).pdf](#)

<sup>5</sup> Ontario’s Integrated Energy Plan dated June 2025, p. 73.

<https://www.ontario.ca/files/2025-07/mem-energy-for-generations-en-2025-07-18.pdf>

In the interim, and to address the OEB requirement defined in the Decision and Order, the IESO provided a letter to Hydro One on February 27, 2026. A copy of this correspondence is attached for ease of reference. Therein, the IESO has recommended that the scope of the Greenstone Transmission Line include a single-circuit 230 kV transmission line from the existing East-West Tie near Nipigon Bay to Aroland First Nation via Longlac TS, with the ability to accommodate a future second circuit. The recommendation also includes installation of new 230/115 kV auto-transformer(s) at or near Longlac TS to interconnect the new 230 kV line with the existing 115kV system and A4L circuit. The IESO supports that a 2032 in-service date to deliver this scope is reasonable. The IESO also recommends that Hydro One maintains the optionality for future northward phases of the North–South Corridor Option should continued northward transmission work be identified through the NOCS process in the future.

Hydro One trusts this satisfies the reporting requirement defined in the Decision and Order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Catalano", written over a vertical line.

Pasquale Catalano



Independent Electricity System Operator

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Toronto, ON M5H 1T1

t 416.967.7474

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February 27, 2026

Pasquale Catalano  
Director, Major Projects and Partnerships  
Hydro One Networks Inc.  
483 Bay Street,  
Toronto, ON, M5G 2P5

Dear Mr. Catalano:

**Re: EB-2026-0080 Ontario Energy Board Decision and Order**

The Independent Electricity System Operator (“**IESO**”) provides this letter in response to the Ontario Energy Board’s (“**OEB’s**”) January 29, 2026, Decision and Order in EB-2026-0080, which amended Hydro One Networks Inc.’s (“**Hydro One’s**”) electricity transmission licence to require it to develop and seek approval for a new single-circuit 230-kilovolt transmission line running from the East-West Tie near Nipigon Bay to or near to Aroland First Nation<sup>1</sup> (the “**Greenstone Transmission Line**”) in accordance with the IESO’s scope and timing recommendations.

***Background***

Through the Northern Ontario Connection Study (“**NOCS**”), a study requested by the Ministry of Energy and Mines, the IESO has been evaluating multiple long-term transmission options to connect off-grid First Nation communities, improve reliability, and enable mining development and potential supply resources in Northern Ontario, including hydro-electric and renewables. While the NOCS study is not yet complete, the technical and economic analysis to date identifies the North–South Corridor as the option that performs best against criteria across the study objectives. The Greenstone Transmission Line represents approximately the southern third of the North-South Corridor Option being considered in the NOCS.

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<sup>1</sup> See EB-2026-0080 Decision and Order, dated January 29, 2026, at page 3.

### ***IESO Recommended Scope***

Accordingly, and given the strong alignment between the Greenstone Transmission Line and the results of the analyses undertaken to date on the North-South Corridor Option through NOCS, the IESO's recommended scope for the Greenstone Transmission Line is as follows:

- The IESO recommends Hydro One develop the Greenstone Transmission Project as a single-circuit 230 kV transmission line from the existing East-West Tie near Nipigon Bay to Aroland via Longlac TS, with the ability to accommodate a future second circuit. This ensures that the North-South Corridor Option assessed in NOCS remains available should further work identified through NOCS proceed in the future. In the NOCS, the North-South Corridor Option is evaluated as a double-circuit 230 kV transmission line connecting to the existing East-West Tie near Nipigon Bay.
- The IESO recommends that Hydro One install a new 230/115 kV auto-transformer(s) at or near Longlac TS to interface the new 230 kV line with the existing A4L corridor. The Greenstone Transmission Line includes connecting the new 230 kV transmission line with the existing 115 kV system near Longlac Transformer Station.
- The IESO recommends that Hydro One develop the Greenstone Transmission Project to maintain the optionality for future northward phases of the North-South Corridor Option should further work identified through the NOCS proceed in the future. The NOCS contemplates that the initial one third of the North-South Corridor Option could be continued northward beyond Longlac toward prospective community and mining connections.

### ***IESO Recommended Timing***

The IESO understands that Hydro One has indicated a target in-service date of 2032 for the Greenstone Transmission Line. The IESO finds a 2032 in-service to be reasonable based on typical development timelines for major transmission in Ontario, including environmental assessment and approvals, routing, Indigenous partnership development, land and permitting, engineering, procurement, and construction.

### ***Conclusion***

The IESO looks forward to working closely with Hydro One to support the successful development of the Greenstone Transmission Line.

Please let us know if Hydro One requires any additional information in respect of the IESO's recommendations made herein.

Sincerely,

Gabriel  
Adam, P.Eng.  Digitally signed by  
Gabriel Adam, P.Eng.  
Date: 2026.02.27  
14:28:02 -05'00'

Gabriel Adam, P.Eng.

Director, Transmission Integration

cc: Alessia Dawes, Hydro One

Mark Ciufu, Hydro One