

Ministry of Energy

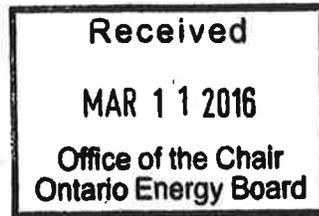
Office of the Minister

4th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2E1
Tel.: 416-327-6758
Fax: 416-327-6754

Ministère de l'Énergie

Bureau du ministre

4^e étage, édifice Hearst
900, rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 2E1
Tél. : 416 327-6758
Télec. : 416 327-6754



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