

Ministry of Energy

Office of the Minister

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April 4, 2022

Mr. Richard Dicerri  
Chair  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Mr. Dicerri:

Southwestern Ontario is experiencing significant economic growth due to a rapidly expanding greenhouse sector and interest in major new developments in automotive battery manufacturing. This has underscored the need to accelerate critical electricity transmission projects so that power is available to support this growing region.

On September 23, 2021, the Independent Electricity System Operator issued a bulk planning report entitled Need for Bulk System Reinforcements West of London, which recommended new transmission infrastructure to meet forecast electricity demand growth and identified potential future projects that may be needed depending on how growth materializes and where generation resources are located.

I am writing to you today to inform you that 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, expansion or reinforcement of three transmission lines in Southwestern Ontario are needed as priority projects. The Order in Council took effect on March 31, 2022 and is attached to this letter.

Furthermore, under the authority of section 28.6.1 of the Act, I am, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council pursuant to Order in Council No. 875-2022, issuing a directive to the OEB to amend Hydro One Networks Inc.'s (Hydro One) electricity transmission licence to include a requirement that it proceed to develop and seek all necessary approvals for four new transmission projects in Southwestern Ontario, including two of the priority projects. The licence amendments required by this directive will further support the timely development of these transmission lines.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Smith", written over a white background.

Todd Smith  
Minister

Attachments

c: Susanna Zagar, Chief Executive Officer, OEB  
Stephen Rhodes, Deputy Minister of Energy