



Ontario
Energy
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de l'énergie
de l'Ontario

BY E-MAIL AND WEB POSTING

April 29, 2020

**TO: All Participants in the Consultation on the Draft Guidelines for Potential Projects to Expand Access to Natural Gas
All Other Interested Parties**

**RE: Potential Projects to Expand Access to Natural Gas Distribution
Ontario Energy Board File No. EB-2019-0255**

On December 12, 2019, the OEB received a letter from the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and the Associate Minister of Energy under section 35 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* asking the OEB to collect and analyze information about possible natural gas expansion projects. The OEB is expected to report back to the Ministry by August 31, 2020 (Report), and this Report will serve as an input to assist the government in making a determination on future expansion projects.

On March 5, 2020, the OEB issued a [letter](#) stating that interested project proponents that wish to file project information for inclusion in the OEB's Report to the Ministry must do so by June 3, 2020.

The OEB recognizes that the response to the COVID-19 emergency has disrupted many workplaces. This letter provides an opportunity for interested proponents to identify any project proposals that may not be completed by the June 3, 2020 deadline due to the COVID-19 emergency.

While the OEB expects proponents to make every effort to meet the current deadline, proponents should advise the OEB as soon as possible, and no later than May 5, 2020, about any issues and concerns, that may prevent a proponent from meeting the June 3, 2020 deadline for one or more potential projects. The OEB will not post publicly information provided in response to this request. However, the information provided will

be shared with the Ministry for its further consideration regarding this initiative, irrespective of whether an extension to the filing deadline is possible.

In their responses, proponents should indicate, if possible, the project name and location and whether all or some components of the filing are expected to be impacted. Proponents may indicate the barriers to providing a complete submission by the June 3 deadline and what COVID-19 related disruptions would need to be alleviated in order to be able to file submissions as planned. Proponents should also indicate if they would benefit from a 60-day extension to address the disruption caused by the COVID-19 emergency.

All correspondence regarding this issue should be directed to BoardSec@oeb.ca with the subject "EB-2019-0255 – June 3 deadline".

Yours truly,

Original signed by,

Christine E. Long
Registrar and Board Secretary