

Ministry of Energy

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FEB 17 2015

Ms Rosemarie Leclair
Chair & Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Energy Board
PO Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms Leclair:

As part of Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP), the government committed to work with gas distributors and municipalities to pursue options to expand natural gas infrastructure to service more communities in rural and northern Ontario.

In addition to our LTEP commitment, the government is working to develop a Natural Gas Access Loan and a Natural Gas Economic Development Grant. The Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure is the ministry responsible for establishing these programs, and is in the early stages of their design. The Ministry of Energy will provide support.

In my letter to you on June 26, 2014, with respect to the OEB's 2014-2017 Business Plan, I asked that the Board examine its oversight of the natural gas sector and to assess what options may exist to facilitate connecting more communities to natural gas.

I am writing to you today to encourage the Board to continue to move forward on a timely basis on its plans to examine opportunities to facilitate access to natural gas services to more communities, and to reiterate the government's commitment to that objective. I appreciate your continued support to ensure the rational expansion of the natural gas transmission and distribution system for all Ontarians.

Sincerely,


Bob Chiarelli
Minister