

Decision on Enbridge's Application for an Exemption from Leave to Construct for the Prince Edward County (Cherry Valley) Community Expansion Project

On May 15, 2025, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued its [Decision and Order](#) granting Enbridge Gas Inc.'s (Enbridge) application for an exemption, under [section 95\(2\)](#) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, from the requirement to obtain leave to construct for a natural gas pipeline (the Project).

The Project will connect approximately 110 homes and businesses in Cherry Valley who do not have access to natural gas service. It is expected to cost \$6.9 million. It is one of 28 projects selected to receive funding assistance under Phase 2 of the Government of Ontario's [Natural Gas Expansion Program](#).¹

Under the applicable regulation, the OEB must grant an exemption if:

- The proposed pipeline is projected to cost more than \$2 million and less than \$10 million, and
- The OEB is satisfied that the Crown's duty to consult, if it applies in respect of the application, has been adequately discharged.

The OEB granted an order exempting Enbridge from the requirement to obtain leave to construct the Project, subject to the conditions of its Decision and Order. The OEB was satisfied that Enbridge followed the [Environmental Guidelines](#) with respect to Indigenous consultation and found that the duty to consult has been adequately discharged. The OEB also stated that it expects that Enbridge will continue its consultation activities with all affected Indigenous communities throughout the life of the Project.

About the OEB

The OEB is the independent regulator of Ontario's electricity and natural gas sectors. It protects the interests of consumers and supports the delivery of clean, reliable and affordable energy for the people, farms and businesses of Ontario. Its goal is to deliver public value through prudent regulation and independent adjudicative decision-making which contributes to Ontario's economic, social and environmental development. You can learn more about the OEB at oeb.ca.

Independence in the hearing and determination of matters is a key element of the OEB's mandate, established through legislative structures, the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between the Minister of Energy and Electrification and the Chair of the OEB, and by-laws that set out clear lines of communication between government and the OEB. Commissioner panels hear and determine matters independently, with legislative protections and other instruments to ensure decisions are free from interference by the CEO, the Board of Directors and government. This also includes the Chief Commissioner when not assigned to the specific case.

¹ Ontario Regulation 24/19 (Expansion of Natural Gas Distribution Systems), made under the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

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Ce document est aussi disponible en français.

This Backgrounder was prepared by OEB staff to inform Ontario's energy consumers about the OEB's decision and is not for use in legal or regulatory proceedings. It is not part of the OEB's reasons for decision; those may be found in the Decision and Order issued May 15, 2025 which is the official OEB document.