

Decision on Enbridge's Application for Leave to Construct – St. Laurent Pipeline Replacement Project

On March 18, 2025, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued its [Decision and Order](#) approving Enbridge Gas Inc.'s (Enbridge) request to build approximately 18 kilometers of natural gas pipeline in the City of Ottawa (the St. Laurent Pipeline).

The proposed natural gas pipeline and associated facilities will replace the existing pipeline along St. Laurent Boulevard, Sandridge Road and Tremblay Road. Enbridge indicated in its application that this replacement will address risks to safety and operational reliability on the St. Laurent Pipeline System, which serves 167,500 customers (126,200 in Ottawa and 41,300 in Gatineau).

This is Enbridge's second application for approval of the St. Laurent Pipeline replacement project. The OEB denied the first request¹, having determined that Enbridge did not demonstrate that the condition of the pipeline was compromised to the extent that it required replacement or that replacement is the best available alternative. In this proceeding, the OEB noted that Enbridge provided current, site specific and quantitative evidence to support the need to replace the existing pipeline based on its declining condition, safety and reliability.

The OEB found the St. Laurent Pipeline replacement project to be in the public interest and noted that its concerns expressed in the previous decision have been adequately addressed.

In its Decision and Order the OEB approved:

- Leave to construct the St. Laurent Pipeline, subject to the OEB's standard conditions of approval for leave to construct applications.
- Forms of easement and temporary land use agreements Enbridge will offer to landowners affected by the routing or location of the project.

INTERVENORS

Intervenors are individuals or groups who have permission to participate in a hearing before the OEB because they have a substantial interest in the proceeding. A list of the nine intervenors who participated in this proceeding can be found in [Procedural Order No. 1](#).

CONSIDERATIONS

When determining whether the construction of a natural gas pipeline project is in the public interest, the OEB typically examines the following factors that comprise the OEB's standard [Leave to Construct Issues List](#):

- Project Need
- Project Alternatives
- Project Cost and Economics
- Land Matters
- Indigenous Consultation
- Conditions of Approval

¹ The first application ([EB-2020-0293](#)) was denied on May 3, 2022.

- Environmental Impacts

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.

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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 March 18, 2025, which is the official OEB document.