

Decision on Enbridge's Washago Community Expansion Project

On July 21, 2026, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a [Decision and Order](#) approving Enbridge Gas Inc.'s (Enbridge) request to construct approximately 22 kilometres of natural gas distribution pipeline and associated facilities in Washago and surrounding areas within the Township of Severn and the Town of Gravenhurst.

FAST FACTS

- The project is expected to connect approximately 473 homes and businesses that do not currently have access to safe, reliable and affordable natural gas distribution services. It will also support new attachments in the area after the Project is complete.
- The project is eligible for a maximum of \$19.2M in funding assistance under Phase 2 of the Government of Ontario's [Natural Gas Expansion Program](#).
- Enbridge's proposal was supported by both the Township of Severn and Town of Gravenhurst.
- The Project is planned to be constructed in three phases. The construction is planned to begin by April 2027 to start providing services in the 2027/2028 heating season.

OEB REVIEW

Ontario's growing communities require ongoing investment in energy infrastructure to maintain reliable service and support economic growth. Before natural gas distributors can proceed with major infrastructure projects, however, the OEB must determine whether those projects are in the public interest. As part of this process, utilities are required to provide evidence to support their proposal. The OEB independently reviews that evidence.

In reaching its decision to approve the Project, the OEB weighed the evidence on the following factors:

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

ABOUT THE OEB

The OEB is the independent regulator of Ontario's electricity and natural gas sectors. We protect the interests of consumers and enable the delivery of clean, reliable, secure and affordable energy that supports economic growth across the province. This includes ensuring that the people and businesses of Ontario pay rates that are reasonable while allowing for needed investments in an energy system that sustains our economy.

A key part of how we deliver on this mandate is through independent adjudication. When an application comes before us, the OEB applies a rigorous, impartial review that balances our legislated objectives and is free from interference.

Learn more at [oeb.ca](https://www.oeb.ca).

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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 July 21, 2026, which is the official OEB document.