

## Decision on Enbridge's Application for an Exemption from Leave to Construct for the Port Colborne Reinforcement Project

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has approved Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge) to move forward with a new natural gas pipeline project in Port Colborne.

The project is intended to provide natural gas service to Asahi Kasei Battery Canada's new facility in Port Colborne. The project supports a significant economic investment of approximately \$1.56 billion by the customer in the Port Colborne and surrounding communities and is expected to create approximately 300 jobs. The project is expected to cost \$9.1 million.

On June 30, 2026, the OEB issued its [Decision and Order](#) granting Enbridge an exemption, under [section 95\(2\)](#) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, from the requirement to obtain leave to construct (LTC) for natural gas pipelines in the City of Port Colborne (the Project). Under the applicable exemption regulation<sup>1</sup>, the OEB must grant an exemption if:

- The proposed pipeline is projected to cost more than \$2 million and less than \$10 million.
- 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 exempted Enbridge from the requirement to obtain LTC for the Project, subject to the conditions in its Decision and Order. In doing so, it considered the adequacy of Indigenous consultation, noting that three potentially affected Indigenous communities, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council through the Haudenosaunee Development Institute, and Six Nations of Grand River were identified and engaged. Six Nations of the Grand River actively participated in the OEB proceeding as an intervenor.

The OEB was satisfied that Enbridge had followed the [Environmental Guidelines](#) with respect to Indigenous consultation and found that the duty to consult had been adequately discharged.

### 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](http://oeb.ca).

<sup>1</sup> Ontario Regulation 328/03: General, section 3.0.1

## **Contact Us**

### **Media Inquiries**

Phone: 416-544-5171

Email: [oebmedia@oeb.ca](mailto:oebmedia@oeb.ca)

### **Consumer Inquiries**

416-314-2455/1-877-632-2727

*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 June 30, 2026, which is the official OEB document.*