

Ministry of Energy and Mines

Office of the Minister

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MC-994-2025-1772

November 21, 2025

Mr. Geoff Owen
Chair of the OEB Board of Directors
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge St, 27 Floor
PO Box 2319
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Mr. Owen:

As you know, electricity demand in southern Ontario is projected to grow rapidly over the next decade due to economic development from advanced manufacturing alongside increasing needs from the expansion of housing and electrification initiatives. Ontario's most recent Integrated Energy Plan, *Energy for Generations: Ontario's Integrated Plan to Power the Strongest Economy in the G7* (released on June 12, 2025), set out the Government's commitment to alleviate bottlenecks in Ontario's electricity transmission system so power could be delivered where and when it is needed.

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has issued a report back to the Ministry of Energy and Mines dated December 17, 2024, entitled "Powering Ontario's Growth Report Back: Transmission Development Plan" which identified and recommended several early actions the Government should take to advance transmission projects ahead of the completion of ongoing transmission studies underway, including the "South and Central Ontario Bulk Plan". The IESO has also recently published the Windsor-Essex Integrated Regional Resource Plan, dated April 3, 2025. Collectively, these reports recommended the timely development of the following three new transmission lines as the appropriate solution to meet regional needs:

1. The Orangeville to Barrie Reconductoring Project: reconductoring a portion of the existing E8V/E9V 239 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that runs approximately 56 kilometres from Orangeville Transformer Station (TS) to Essa TS using advanced conductors.

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2. The Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Line: a new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line from Lauzon TS to Lakeshore TS, and associated station facilities.
3. The Bowmanville to GTA Transmission Line: a new double-circuit 500 kV transmission line running approximately 65 kilometres from an expanded Bowmanville Switching Station to either Parkway TS, Claireville TS, or Cherrywood TS in the GTA.

I am writing today to inform you that under the authority of section 96.1(1) of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 (the Act), the Lieutenant Governor in Council made an order declaring that the construction, expansion or reinforcement of these three transmission lines are needed as priority projects.

Furthermore, under the authority of section 28.6.1 of the Act, I am, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council pursuant to Order in Council No. 1376/2025, issuing a directive to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to amend Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One)'s electricity transmission licence to include a requirement that it proceed to develop and seek all necessary approvals for the Bowmanville to GTA Transmission Line. I would note that Hydro One has already been designated as the transmitter for the Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Line, pursuant to Order in Council No. 875/2022. The licence amendments required by these directives will further support the timely development of these transmission lines. These Orders-in-Council and the accompanying Directive are now effective, and copies thereof are attached to this letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Lecce
Minister

- c: Susanna Laaksonen-Craig, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy and Mines
Karen Moore, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy and Mines
Carolyn Calwell, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Energy Board
Lesley Gallinger, President and Chief Executive Officer, Independent Electricity System Operator
David Lebeter, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hydro One Networks Inc.
Lisa Pearson, Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Hydro One Networks Inc.