



Thunder Bay
Chamber
of Commerce

stronger business together

May 16, 2022

Independent Electricity System Operator
Northwest Bulk Transmission Line Engagement
engagement@ieso.ca

To Whom It May Concern:

The Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce is an advocate on energy infrastructure issues in Northwestern Ontario because we know that stable, affordable electricity is vital to economic growth. In that context, we are a member of the Waasigan transmission line community roundtable, providing input into the ongoing planning and development of the proposed double-circuit 230kV line from Thunder Bay to Atikokan and single-circuit 230kV line from Atikokan to Dryden.

We are extremely concerned by the recent IESO indications that the Waasigan project will be split into two phases with Phase 1 to Atikokan being placed in service near the end of 2025 and Phase 2 delayed for an undetermined period. We believe that a delay in Phase 2 will be a barrier to the timely development of numerous proposed mining projects that are located north of Atikokan. In addition, the completion of the Waasigan project as one complete project will maximize the benefits to Indigenous partners and communities, minimize disruption to affected communities, and reduce staffing issues through the continuous employment of those trained.

We respectfully request that the schedule be revised to ensure that Phase 1 and 2 are constructed simultaneously with an in-service date of 2025.

Sincerely,

Charla Robinson
President