

Ministry of Energy

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DEC 04 2017

Mr. Peter Gregg
President and CEO
Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)
1600-120 Adelaide Street West
Toronto ON M5H 1T1

Dear Mr. Gregg:

Thank you for providing the updated needs assessment for the East-West Tie (EWT) in response to the request in my letter of August 4, 2017. The analysis is informative and provides detailed information on the need for the project and comparisons to alternatives.

The report clearly explains the need to pursue the completion of the EWT with a 2020 in-service date. The Government of Ontario continues to support this project to ensure long-term supply stability in the Northwest. This is underscored by the 2016 Order-in-Council declaring the project a priority and the inclusion of the EWT as one of several major transmission lines highlighted in *Delivering Fairness and Choice*, Ontario's 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP). The 2017 LTEP upholds Ontario's commitment to reinforcing the grid in Northern Ontario to support economic growth in this region. The IESO's updated needs assessment affirms that the EWT is an appropriate transmission priority.

As you know, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has received an application for Leave to Construct for the project. I expect that the OEB will use its hearing processes to rigorously review any applications in accordance with its processes and mandate to protect the interests of consumers with respect to prices and the adequacy, reliability and quality of electricity service. Given the IESO's recommended in-service date of 2020, I also expect the OEB will proceed in a timely manner in consideration of its performance standards for processing applications.

The continued effort of the IESO to conduct this study is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Glenn Thibeault
Minister

c: Rosemarie Leclair, Chair and Chief Executive Officer, OEB