

Decision on Enbridge's Application for an Exemption from Leave to Construct – Merrickville-Wolford Community Expansion Project

On September 29, 2026, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued its [Decision and Order](#) granting Enbridge Gas Inc.'s (Enbridge) application for an exemption, under section 95(2) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, from the requirement to obtain leave to construct to build approximately two kilometres of natural gas pipeline in the Village of Merrickville-Wolford (the Project).

FAST FACTS

- The Project was selected to receive funding assistance under Phase 2 of the Government of Ontario's [Natural Gas Expansion Program](#)¹, which supports natural gas expansion in communities that are not currently connected to the natural gas system.
- The estimated Project cost is \$3.4 million and is expected to connect approximately 55 homes and businesses.
- Enbridge intends to begin construction in October 2026, with the Project expected to be in service by December 2026.

OEB REVIEW

Enbridge applied to the OEB for an exemption from the requirement to obtain leave to construct the Project. As the Project met the applicable criteria for an exemption, the OEB's review focused on the Crown's duty to consult with Indigenous communities.

The OEB considered Enbridge's consultation activities, a letter of comment from the Algonquins of Ontario and Enbridge's response, as well as the Ministry of Energy and Mines' Letter of Opinion. The OEB found that the consultation requirements had been met.

INTERVENORS

Intervenors are individuals or groups who have permission to participate in a hearing before the OEB because they have a substantial interest in the proceeding. There were no intervenors in this proceeding.

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.

¹ Ontario Regulation 24/19 (Expansion of Natural Gas Distribution Systems), made under the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

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.

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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 September 29, 2026, which is the official OEB document.