

OEB Approves Hydro One's Expropriation Application for Phase 2 of the Waasigan Project

On September 4, 2025, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued its [Decision and Order](#) approving Hydro One Networks Inc.'s (Hydro One) application for authority to expropriate permanent corridor easements on nine parcels of land.¹ These easements are required for the construction of a new 230 kV transmission line in northwestern Ontario, as part of Phase 2 of the Waasigan Project.

The OEB previously granted leave to construct the Waasigan Project in April 2024, having found it to be in the public interest.²

The Waasigan Project includes two phases:

- Phase 1: Construction of a new 230 kV double-circuit transmission line, approximately 190 kilometres (km) in length, connecting Lakehead and Mackenzie Transmission Stations.
- Phase 2: Construction of a new 230 kV single-circuit transmission line, approximately 170 km in length, extending from Mackenzie Transmission Station to Dryden Transmission Station.

The OEB determined that the requested expropriations are in the public interest and granted Hydro One the authority to expropriate the requested interests in land subject to the conditions outlined in Schedule "B" of the Decision and Order.

In reaching this conclusion, the OEB found that Hydro One had:

- **Demonstrated necessity:** The lands in question fall within the previously approved route for the Waasigan Project, confirming their necessity for completion of the Project.
- **Minimized the land impact:** Hydro One identified and proposed to expropriate only the smallest area of land necessary to construct the overhead transmission lines, in line with construction standards for overhead transmission lines.
- **Minimized the legal interest it sought to expropriate:** Rather than seeking full ownership, Hydro One pursued only the minimum legal interest required, specifically, permanent easements. These easements provide the necessary access to build, operate, and maintain the transmission infrastructure while allowing landowners to retain ownership and continue using their land where possible.

¹ Hydro One's April 4, 2025 application sought approval to expropriate interests in 16 parcels of land. As of July 16, 2025, Hydro One had reached voluntary agreements on seven. The final list of land rights is shown in [Attachment 1](#) of its Interrogatory Responses.

² [EB-2023-0198, Background](#)

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 intervention requests submitted in this proceeding.

ABOUT THE OEB

The OEB is the independent regulator of Ontario's electricity and natural gas sectors. It protects the interests of consumers and supports the delivery of clean, reliable and affordable energy for the people, farms and businesses of Ontario. Its goal is to deliver public value through prudent regulation and independent adjudicative decision-making which contributes to Ontario's economic, social and environmental development. You can learn more about the OEB at oeb.ca.

Independence in the hearing and determination of matters is a key element of the OEB's mandate, established through legislative structures, the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between the Minister of Energy and Mines and the Chair of the OEB, and by-laws that set out clear lines of communication between government and the OEB. Commissioner panels hear and determine matters independently, with legislative protections and other instruments to ensure decisions are free from interference by the CEO, the Board of Directors and government. This also includes the Chief Commissioner when not assigned to the specific case.

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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 4, 2025, which is the official OEB document.