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Dear Ms. Ralph and Messrs. Doyle, Duffy, Jamieson and Zacher:

**ITC Lake Erie Connector LLC (ITC Lake Erie)
Application for the Lake Erie Connector Project (Project)
Completeness Determination and Legislated Time Limit**

On 19 May 2015, the National Energy Board (Board or NEB) received an election by ITC Lake Erie pursuant to section 58.23 of the *National Energy Board Act* (NEB Act) that stated the provisions referred to in section 58.27 of the NEB Act and not the laws of the province as described in section 58.19 apply in respect of the proposed international power line. This was followed on 22 May 2015, by ITC Lake Erie filing an application for a recommendation for issuance of a certificate of public convenience and necessity and related approvals for the Project.

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ITC described the Project as an approximately 117 km 1,000 MW \pm 320 kV high-voltage direct current (HVDC) bi-directional electric transmission interconnection, plus associated facilities to transfer electricity between Haldimand County, Ontario and Erie County, Pennsylvania, USA.

The Project does not meet the definition of a “designated project” under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012), but will be subject to an environmental assessment under the provisions of the *NEB Act*.

The Board requested additional information from ITC Lake Erie on 20 July 2015 in order to make its completeness determination. ITC Lake Erie responded to this information request on 4 August 2015.

On 31 August 2015 the Board again requested additional information for its completeness determination. ITC Lake Erie responded to this subsequent information request on 18 September 2015.

On 19 October 2015, following its review of the Application, the Board determined the Application complete to proceed to assessment. Pursuant to sections 58.16(5) of the *NEB Act* and the Record of Decision by the Board Chair regarding time limits, sent to all NEB stakeholders by letter dated 13 July 2012, the time limit for the Board to issue reports to the Minister is 15 months.

The Board will make its public interest determination pursuant to section 58.16 of the NEB Act **no later than 20 January 2017**, subject to any modifications allowed under the NEB Act. This time limit represents the maximum time in which the Board will complete its assessment.

The Board directs ITC Lake Erie to serve a copy of this letter, **by 2 November 2015**, on all interested persons, including all persons and groups engaged in ITC Lake Erie’s stakeholder engagement process, all potentially affected landowners along the proposed route, and all Aboriginal groups engaged by ITC Lake Erie and/or on lists provided to ITC Lake Erie by the Board and Natural Resources Canada.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Brian Doyle, Process Advisor at 403-299-3702, or through the Board’s toll-free number at 1-800-899-1265.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Sheri Young
Secretary of the Board