

Ministry of Energy

Office of the Minister

4th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2E1
Tel.: 416-327-6758
Fax: 416-327-6754

Ministère de l'Énergie

Bureau du ministre

4^e étage, édifice Hearst
900, rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 2E1
Tél. : 416 327-6758
Télééc. : 416 327-6754



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Ms Valerie Brader
Executive Director
Michigan Agency for Energy
PO Box 30221
Lansing MI 48909

Dear Ms Brader:

The Ontario Ministry of Energy has reviewed the “Alternatives Analysis for the Straits Pipeline” (Alternatives Analysis) prepared by Dynamic Risk for the State of Michigan and is pleased to respond.

The Province shares Michigan’s priorities on pipeline safety. In 2013, Ontario’s Long-Term Energy Plan (2013 LTEP) outlined a set of principles the Province uses to evaluate new oil and gas pipeline projects, including that “pipelines must meet the highest available technical standards for public safety and environmental protection” and “pipelines must have world-leading contingency planning and emergency response programs.” Ontario’s 2013 LTEP also recognized that “oil and natural gas, as well as the pipelines that deliver these products, are essential to the quality of life and economic prosperity that Ontarians enjoy.”

Ontario is supportive of Michigan’s use of public consultations and a science-based approach to reviewing Enbridge’s Line 5 which crosses under the Straits of Mackinac. Ontario undertook a similar approach with its two-year public review of TransCanada’s Energy East pipeline proposal. Our independent energy regulator, the Ontario Energy Board, engaged with technical experts and conducted consultations across the province with the public and Indigenous communities.

The Ministry of Energy’s interest in the Alternatives Analysis report relates to the importance of Enbridge’s Line 5 to Ontario’s refining and petrochemicals sector as well as the broader economy of the Great Lakes region.

Enbridge’s Line 5 provides a significant volume of crude oil for processing by Ontario refineries and ensures a cost-effective supply of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and other petroleum products. The refinery capacity in Ontario helps to moderate prices for consumers in both Ontario and Michigan, particularly by reducing reliance on imports from refineries in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

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Enbridge's Line 5 also minimizes the use of other transportation methods for petroleum and refined products such as rail, marine and truck delivery. This reduces strain on the respective transportation infrastructure in Ontario and Michigan, as well as the associated safety risks.

In addition to petroleum products, Enbridge's Line 5 is key to the production of natural gas liquids (NGL) in Sarnia, Ontario. The Sarnia NGL facility is an important supplier to regional markets, providing fractionated products to the Sarnia petrochemical and refining market, local heating and transportation markets as well as exports to PADD I (US East Coast) and PADD II (US Midwest). Moreover, Sarnia is an important regional NGL storage location with connections to storage in Marysville, Michigan by pipeline, rail and truck. NGL output from Sarnia helps maintain storage levels and peak winter deliverability of propane for heating purposes in Ontario and Michigan.

In summary, Enbridge's Line 5 is a critical piece of infrastructure to Ontario, its petrochemical industry in Sarnia and the Great Lakes region on the whole.

Ontario supports Michigan's review of the continued operation of legacy energy infrastructure, including Enbridge's Line 5 under the Straits of Mackinac. Michigan's ongoing evaluation of pipelines is a necessary step to ensure its energy infrastructure meets high standards for public safety and environmental protection, while upholding our region's collective quality of life and ongoing economic prosperity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Thibeault', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glenn Thibeault
Minister