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For immediate release

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OEB Approves Competing Pipeline Applications by GEC and Union

Toronto – Today the Ontario Energy Board issued a Decision and Order determining that competing applications from both Greenfield Energy Centre Limited Partnership (“GEC”) and Union Gas Limited (“Union”) to each construct a two kilometre natural gas pipeline and associated equipment in the Sarnia area were credible and in the public interest. The two competing applications would serve the same potential load – a planned 1,005 MW gas-fired generating station (being built by GEC) in Courtright, south of Sarnia.

The proposed GEC pipeline would bypass Union’s distribution territory and directly connect the generating station to a Vector Pipeline located north of the GEC plant. The proposed Union pipeline to the GEC plant would originate at Union’s Courtright Station located north of the GEC plant.

The Board determined that the environmental impacts associated with the proposed competing pipelines were not consequential and there were no outstanding landowner matters for either pipeline proposal.

The Board Decision grants both GEC and Union leave to construct a pipeline but also allows the two applicants to continue their negotiations so that Union may provide service to the GEC power plant. The outcome of any such discussions may determine which applicant builds the pipeline. The Board’s approval of Union’s application is conditional on the distributor contracting the GEC power plant as a customer.

The Board noted that its pending generic Natural Gas Electricity Interface Review (NGEIR) proceeding will address how distribution rates can become more robust to bypass. However, the Decision also indicates that it is not in the public interest to require GEC to await the resolution of an appropriate tariff in the NGEIR proceeding. The Board does not expect to decide any other bypass applications prior to the results of the NGEIR review.

The Ontario Energy Board regulates the province’s electricity and natural gas sectors in the public interest. It envisions a healthy and efficient energy sector with informed consumers, and works towards this vision through regulatory processes that are effective, fair and transparent.

For more information on the Board, please visit our Web site at www.oeb.gov.on.ca or contact the Consumer Relations Centre at 416-314-2455 or toll-free at 1-877-632-2727.

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