

# Torys' Video Podcast Series

March 2009

## Ontario Introduces Green Energy Legislation: Transmission Grid Improvements and Connection

By [Charles Keizer](#)

Charles Keizer discusses how the *Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009* will affect access to the transmission grid.

### Edited transcript

One of the more significant changes in the *Green Energy Act* [the Act] relates to the connection of new generation facilities to transmission and distribution facilities. In particular, there is priority given to new generation facilities relating to renewable power. Those that are renewable-based (solar, wind, biomass) have priority in connecting to the grid. This is unlike in normal circumstances, where we had non-discriminatory access — in other words, everybody was treated the same when [customers and generators sought to be] connected. This will give rise to new development on transmission and distribution systems because they'll have to be enhanced and developed to ensure that priority can be given to new "green generation" facilities.

As the Act contemplates, there will be deemed changes to the licenses of distributors and transmitters so that transmitters and distributors will have to review their systems to determine where enhancements need to be made, will have to develop plans to get those enhancements done and then will have to — in accordance with regulations or approval of the Ontario Energy Board — complete those enhancements. All of those things will cost money. However, there is a contemplation within the *Green Energy Act* for subsidization for various consumers in the event that there are rate impacts associated with the capital expenditures needed to enhance those systems. **T**