2. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The NextBridge Infrastructure LP (NextBridge) Indigenous and stakeholder consultation and engagement program has been carried out in accordance with the Aboriginal Consultation Plan (Appendices 2-I-A and 2-I-B) and the Stakeholder Consultation Plan (also known as Landowner, Community, and Municipal Consultation Plan) (Appendix 2-I-C) that were both submitted as part of the approved Terms of Reference (ToR). This section provides an overview of consultation and engagement activities carried out during preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) Report and the results of this consultation and engagement. Activities that took place during earlier phases of the East-West Tie Transmission Project (the Project) are summarized in the Record of Consultation included in the approved ToR (Appendix 2-II). NextBridge commenced engagement and consultation activities with the public in late 2013, and will continue these activities throughout the life of the Project.

Section 2.1 summarizes public consultation and engagement activities and results, and Section 2.2 summarizes Indigenous consultation and engagement activities and results. A detailed public Consultation and Engagement Record is provided in Appendix 2-III, and a detailed Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Record is provided in Appendix 2-IX.

Information gathered during the consultation and engagement programs has been considered and assisted with identifying topics, addressing concerns, and responding to questions raised by interested parties. Engagement has also provided interested parties with an understanding of the Project’s potential effects. Information gathered during the engagement program has also been incorporated in the EA Report where relevant.

NextBridge submitted a draft EA Report in December 2016. NextBridge received over 900 comments on the draft EA Report. The comments and responses are provided in Appendix 1-III.

2.1 Public Engagement and Consultation

The public consultation and engagement program employed during the EA process is intended to identify, inform, and engage affected and potentially affected property owners and interest holders, local government, government agencies and representatives, other stakeholders, and the general public about the Project. The outcome of consultation is to have information, comments, and input from a broad range of stakeholders to inform and refine Project development, with the aim of addressing, resolving and/or mitigating issues identified. NextBridge understands that its neighbours during development and construction will also be its neighbours for the many years that the Project will be in operation. NextBridge has been welcoming opportunities to build long-term collaborative relationships, and is committed to continuing engagement and consultation activities throughout the life of the Project. Specific examples of positive Project development outcomes through collaboration can be found in Section 2.1.3.9.

NextBridge prepared a Stakeholder Consultation Plan in November 2013, outlining a core program of principles and goals, consultation strategies and activities to guide engagement with property owners and interest holders, local government, government agencies and representatives, other stakeholders, and the general public in relation to the Project. This Stakeholder Consultation Plan was developed in accordance with the applicable guidelines.

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1 An interest holder is the party who holds an interest in land as granted. In other words, certain rights within the bundle are now held by the interest holder in accordance with a lease, licence, easement, contract or other conveyance.

2 Other stakeholders include industry groups and special interest groups.
that were in effect at that time. The Stakeholder Consultation Plan incorporates a proactive, plain language, public engagement and consultation approach to support two-way communication with interested parties, while assessing, responding to, and/or acting on feedback obtained. Due to an update in the Project development schedule, the original Stakeholder Consultation Plan was updated in January 2016. Both versions of the Stakeholder Consultation Plan are provided in Appendix 2-I-C.

NextBridge’s philosophy is to be as transparent as possible with individuals, communities, and groups to build public awareness and understanding, gather input, answer questions, learn about community interests and perspectives, and implement changes to Project design or scope, where feasible, to mitigate adverse effects.

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change’s (MOECC’s) Code of Practice: Consultation in Ontario’s Environmental Assessment Process (MOECC 2014a) states the following purposes of consultation:

- to provide information to the public;
- to identify persons and Aboriginal peoples who may be affected by or have an interest in the undertaking;
- to ensure that government agencies and ministries are notified and consulted early in the EA process;
- to identify concerns that might arise from the undertaking;
- to create an opportunity to develop proponent commitments in response to local input;
- to focus on and address real public concerns rather than regulatory procedures and administration;
- to provide appropriate information to the ministry (i.e., the MOECC) to enable a fair and balanced decision; and
- to expedite decision-making.

Consultation and engagement for the Project has been implemented in phases aligned with the stages of the EA process. The interactions and results of the consultation and engagement activities documented in this Section covers the period between the submission of the Amended ToR (May 2014) through submission of the EA Report (July 2017). The results of consultation activities that took place during commencement of the ToR and submission of the Draft and Final ToR, including concerns and issues raised, are documented in the Record of Consultation for the Amended ToR (Appendix 2-II).

### 2.1.1 Stakeholder Identification

Throughout the life of the Project, NextBridge has worked to identify stakeholders who might be affected by, or interested in, the Project including property owners and interest holders, local government, government agencies and representatives, other stakeholders and the general public. NextBridge has been engaging and consulting with potentially affected and interested stakeholders in a manner that is respectful of their needs and expressed levels of interest. New individuals or groups are added to stakeholder tracking databases as they are identified. The databases are used to create mailing lists, record stakeholder concerns and proposed mitigation measures, and record responses to comments raised by stakeholders. Stakeholders originally identified remained on the stakeholder contact list unless they asked to be removed.

The stakeholder contact list as of May 2017 for property owners and interest holders, local government, government agencies and representatives, other stakeholders and the general public is provided in Appendix 2-IV.
2.1.1.1 Property Owners and Interest Holders

Property owners and interest holders are owners of “property,” which is defined as fee simple ownership or other form of land tenure interest held by provincial and federal Crown land occupational authorities such as Crown Land Use Permits or Licenses of Occupation. Property owners and interest holders were identified using sources such as the Ontario Electronic Land Registration System, parcel fabric and mapping obtained from FirstBase Solutions, municipal taxation data, and field review. This process is further described below. Property owners and interest holders were also referred to as “landowners” in the Record of Consultation for the approved ToR (Appendix 2-II).

Potentially affected property owners and interest holders along the preferred route, the preliminary preferred route, the Reference Route and alternative routes (i.e., within 500 m of the route centrelines), and along new and existing access roads were identified and added to the stakeholder contact list. Assembly of property owner and interest holder information was initiated in 2013 and has been updated and maintained throughout the course of the Project. Updates to the stakeholder contact list were required to reflect revisions to the Project footprint that have been made over the course of the Project. These updates have allowed property owners and interest holders potentially affected by the Project opportunities to participate in Project planning. A list of property owners and interest holders, property identification numbers and address information, where available, was compiled using Teranet, a company that provides online access to Ontario’s Electronic Land Registration System. Gaps in the Teranet database information were identified (e.g., incomplete mailing addresses) and NextBridge worked to obtain missing data by performing corporate registry searches, researching municipal taxation data, and by reviewing documentation at local land registry offices. Land agents assigned to the Project also collected and verified contact information in the field by visiting residences and properties and by follow-up phone calls. NextBridge made a bilingual land agent available for French-speaking property owners or interest holders.

NextBridge reviewed provincially available data sets (e.g., Land Information Ontario data, Teranet parcel data) and contacted the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to identify potentially affected provincial Crown land occupational authorities (i.e., Crown Land Use Permits or Licences of Occupation, leaseholders, easement holders, patented claim holders) along the preferred route, the preliminary preferred route, the Reference Route and alternative routes (i.e., within 500 m of the preferred route ROW boundary), and along new and existing access roads.

Potentially affected unpatented claim holders, land or mining rights for which a patent, lease, licence of occupation or any other form of Crown grant is not in effect, along the preferred route, the preliminary preferred route, the Reference Route and route alternatives (i.e., within 500 m of route centrelines), and along new and existing access roads have been identified using information available from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM). A notice under the Public Lands Act (Government of Ontario 1990a) has been posted on MNDM’s website withdrawing surface rights from provincial Crown lands for future dispositions and claims along the preliminary preferred route and associated 500 m radius.

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3 Ownership is the bundle of rights allowing one to use, manage, and enjoy property, including the right to convey it to others. The specific rights included are dependent upon the type of ownership held. These rights may include the right to use, sell, occupy, encumber or enjoy the land. The law recognizes “fee simple” or “freehold” ownership as the most comprehensive interest in land for private individuals and corporations. The owner of the fee simple title generally has the right to use the land anyway they choose. However, land use may be restricted by various government regulations such as Conservation Authority flood plain regulations, zoning under the Planning Act (Government of Ontario 2003b), environmental protection legislation, or common-law limitations on harm caused to abutting lands. The owner holds title to the land and has the right to use, sell, lease, give away, or encumber the property as they see fit with consideration for the above restrictions.

4 The Ontario Parcel database contains boundaries and identifiers, such as Assessment Roll Numbers or property identification number, which can be linked to ownership for each individual property.
2.1.1.2 Local Government
The preferred route crosses the following eight incorporated communities from west to east:

- Municipality of Shuniah;
- Township of Dorion;
- Township of Nipigon;
- Township of Red Rock;
- Township of Terrace Bay;
- Town of Marathon;
- Township of White River; and
- Municipality of Wawa.

The Project is also close to the incorporated communities of the City of Thunder Bay and the Township of Schreiber. Elected officials and key staff from these 10 communities, including Clerks, Chief Administrative Officers, and Economic Development Officers, were included in the stakeholder contact list (Appendix 2-IV). First responders such as emergency medical services, fire and police with jurisdiction in potentially affected communities were also included on the stakeholder contact list as recommended by the MOECC Government Review Team.

The Municipality of Wawa, Township of White River, Township of Terrace Bay and the Town of Marathon are identified as communities crossed by, or near the preferred route that fall under the French Language Services Act (Government of Ontario 1990b). French language notifications were developed for distribution and publication in these communities and the Project hotline has both French and English greetings for callers, whereby a caller can select the language and speak with a Project representative in the language (French or English) of their choice.

Two unincorporated communities, Rossport and Hurkett, are close to the preferred route. These communities do not have a formal government structure but are represented by Local Service Boards. Local Service Boards, in turn, are overseen by representatives of the MNDM. Contacts at these Local Service Boards were included in the stakeholder contact list.

The Township of Hornepayne also requested Project updates and was added to the stakeholder contact list.

2.1.1.3 Government Agencies and Representatives
Relevant government agencies and representatives were identified on the Government Review Team list provided by the MOECC. Additional government agency contacts were added to the stakeholder contact list through attendance at government agency meetings, requests to be added, and/or by attending and signing in at public Open Houses.

2.1.1.4 General Public
The general public is defined as people who may not be directly affected by the Project but may have an interest in it for a variety of reasons. For example, business owners in nearby communities may wish to receive information that allows them to evaluate whether they may be able to participate in the Project in some way. The “general public” category includes individuals who are not affiliated with a representative association or group. Members of the general public were added to the stakeholder contact list when they asked to be added, through various methods such as the Project website or hotline, or during public Open Houses.
2.1.1.5 Other Stakeholders and Interest Groups

Efforts were made to identify other stakeholders and interest groups through web searches, review of Ontario Energy Board (OEB), Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), and Ontario Power Authority (OPA) documentation regarding the Project, and by asking local municipal staff about active groups and individuals that should be included on the contact list and informed of engagement opportunities. Publication of notices in newspapers in the Project study areas also allowed stakeholders to self-identify so that they could be included in consultation and engagement activities.

The following are examples of other stakeholders and interest groups identified to date:

- Economic development corporations;
- Business associations (e.g., chambers of commerce and industry associations);
- Non-governmental organizations representing a variety of interests such as nature appreciation/education, hunting, fishing, trail users, recreational users (e.g., snowmobile clubs, gun clubs), camping and tourism organizations;
- MNRF-managed contacts, including rights, permits, and/or licence holders for provincial Crown land dispositions, registered trapline area holders, baitfish harvest licence holders, and bear management area operators;
- Intervenors in the OEB transmitter designation process;
- Railway companies;
- Mining and forestry companies; and
- Vendors that may have services to offer during the EA and, if the EA is approved, during construction and maintenance.

2.1.2 Consultation and Engagement Methods

NextBridge identified a variety of forums that could be used to provide and receive information related to the Project and address potential effects and concerns when developing the Stakeholder Consultation Plan (Appendix 2-I-C). Outreach activities to date have included four rounds of public Open Houses, four Project Newsletter mailings, update letters, emails, numerous meetings, local newspaper advertisements, Project website updates, and phone calls. A Project website, toll-free phone number, and dedicated email address were established and advertised in Project materials to facilitate public access to NextBridge representatives. Information and feedback collected during meetings and from emails, phone calls and other outreach activities have been used to assist in Project development and further engage stakeholders on the Project and the EA process.

The first four consultation and engagement methods detailed below were targeted at all stakeholder groups. The remaining consultation and engagement methods are organized by target stakeholder group.

2.1.2.1 Notices

Parties on the stakeholder contact list were provided with Notices announcing the Project or regulatory milestones. Four notices were developed and circulated during development of the EA Report. Notices were posted on the Project website and distributed as detailed in Section 2.1.3.1.
2.1.2.2 Public Open Houses

Four rounds of public Open Houses were held in different communities in the Project area during the EA process, to solicit comments, feedback, concerns, and questions from the public regarding the Project. Public Open Houses offered an opportunity for interested individuals and parties to meet Project staff, hear firsthand how the Project could potentially affect them, both positively and negatively, to ask questions and provide local knowledge about the issues and features that should be considered in Project planning. NextBridge representatives attended the public Open Houses to gain a better understanding of interested parties’ concerns. Staff representing the IESO were also in attendance at many events to answer questions related to Project need and rationale.

The first two rounds of public Open Houses were held in six locations, and round three and round four were held in eight locations. Public Open House round one occurred during development of the ToR and details of those events can be found in the Record of Consultation in the approved ToR (Appendix 2-II).

The public Open Houses were organized as drop-in style events, allowing attendees to arrive at any time during the event to receive information from Project staff and have the opportunity to speak one-on-one with them. Attendees were greeted at the door, asked to sign in (not required), provided handouts and comment forms, and given an overview of the event. Panels placed around the room provided information about the Project, the proponent (NextBridge), the approvals process, and how to participate in and provide feedback on the Project. Notes and comment forms submitted by attendees were entered into the stakeholder tracking database, and responses and appropriate actions were taken as required. Summaries of these comments, responses, and actions taken can be found in Appendix 2-III.

Public materials were prepared for each round of Open Houses, including Project overview panels, fact sheets, and frequently asked questions (Appendices 2-V). Printed copies of the material were made available to attendees at the public Open Houses and posted on the Project website.

2.1.2.2.1 Fact Sheets

Fact sheets were prepared to provide Project information on topics that were anticipated to be of interest to stakeholders, including Project Need, Project Towers, Electric and Magnetic Fields and potential health effects, the EA process and Transmission Line Safety. Fact sheets were made available at the public Open Houses, posted on the Project website, and made available when requested from NextBridge representatives. Copies of the fact sheets are provided in Appendices 2-V.

2.1.2.2.2 Frequently Asked Questions

A list of frequently asked questions was compiled and responses prepared to provide the public with additional Project information at the public Open Houses. This document was updated twice during development of the draft EA Report. The frequently asked questions were made available at the public Open Houses and posted on the Project website. Copies of the frequently asked questions are provided in Appendices 2-V.

2.1.2.2.3 Other Supporting Materials

A draft Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators Handout was developed and made available to the public during round three of public Open Houses to provide an overview of the proposed effects assessment method and allow for input on the proposed criteria and indicators to be used for the effects assessment. The document was also made available on the Project website, and is included in Appendix 2-V.

A Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Handout was also developed and made available to the public during round three of public Open Houses to provide an overview of potential crossings of provincial parks and conservation reserves and the associated regulatory processes. The document was made available on the Project website, and is included in Appendix 2-V.
2.1.2.3  Project Newsletters

Four newsletters were prepared to provide information to the public on the need for the Project, Project details and schedule, the EA process and other approvals, easements and access to land, consultation activities including the dates and locations of upcoming public Open Houses, and information on how to provide input and get involved in the consultation and EA process. The first issue was created during development of the ToR. Two additional newsletters were developed prior to submission of the draft EA Report, and a fourth newsletter was distributed after submission of the draft EA Report. Details are provided in Section 2.1.3.3.

2.1.2.4  Update Letters

Update letters have been distributed to the stakeholders on the mailing list and posted on the Project website when notable Project updates have occurred.

2.1.2.5  Property Owners and Interest Holders Consultation

2.1.2.5.1  Dedicated Team of Land Agents

To be as responsive as possible, a team of land agents provided a personal, one-window contact with potentially affected property owners and interest holders. Land agents began meeting with potentially affected property owners and interest holders during development of the ToR. Meetings continued throughout development of the EA Report to coordinate ongoing field studies and surveys, land optioning and permitting, and facilitate the sharing of Project information and updates.

2.1.2.5.2  Distribution of Compensation Principles

A Compensation Principles document was developed to promote fair dealings regarding land rights and compensation throughout the Project area. The Compensation Principles document was circulated at round two, round three, and round four of public Open Houses, and updated twice during development of the draft EA Report. It was also posted to the Project website.

2.1.2.6  Local Government Consultation

In person meetings were held with municipal elected representatives and staff in municipalities, townships, and towns along the preliminary preferred route. Initial contact and meetings were held during development of the ToR and continued throughout development of the EA Report.

Detailed tables of interactions with municipalities are illustrated in Appendix 2-III, Section 2.0.

2.1.2.7  Government Agencies and Representatives Consultation

Engagement continued with provincial and federal agencies and representatives throughout development of the EA Report (Appendix 2-III, Section 3.0).

2.1.2.8  General Public Consultation

The consultation and engagement methods described below were made available to any interested party but were used predominantly by the general public (Appendix 2-III, Section 4.0).

2.1.2.8.1  Project Website

A dedicated website (www.nextbridge.ca) was established to provide information about the Project and NextBridge. Project-related materials were posted on the Project website to enhance access to Project information for interested parties. Project contacts were also provided on the website to facilitate exchange of information with Project staff. A Project website or comparable public resource is planned to be maintained for the life of the Project.
2.1.2.8.2 Project Hotline
A dedicated telephone number (1-888-767-3006) was established for the Project. Messages left on the hotline were reviewed regularly, documented, and forwarded to relevant individuals for appropriate action. Project-related comments and inquiries received through the hotline are documented in Appendix 2-III. French language service was also available through the hotline.

2.1.2.8.3 Project Email
A dedicated email address (info@nextbridge.ca) was established for the Project. Messages and comments sent to the email address were reviewed, documented, and forwarded to relevant individuals for appropriate action. French language service was also available via email. Project related comments and inquiries made through email are documented in Appendix 2-III.

2.1.2.9 Other Stakeholders and Interest Groups Consultation
Other stakeholders and interest groups were provided with Project information by mail. Meetings were held with other stakeholders and interest groups on an as-needed basis, as detailed in Section 2.1.3.9 and Appendix 2-III, Section 5.0.

2.1.3 Consultation Activities during Preparation of the Environmental Assessment Report

2.1.3.1 Notices
Notices for the Project were and will continue to be made available through public forums such as local newspapers and the Project website in accordance with the MOECC (2014a) Code of Practice: Consultation in Ontario’s Environmental Assessment Process. Required notices were sent prior to Project milestones, and made available in both French and English languages.

2.1.3.1.1 Notice of Commencement of Environmental Assessment and Public Open Houses
The Notice of Commencement of EA for the Project was combined with a Notice of Public Open House for round two of public Open Houses (Public Open House rounds are discussed in Section 2.1.3.2). The purpose of this notice was to inform interested parties that the EA for the Project had begun and that public Open Houses had been scheduled to provide additional Project information and a venue to encourage two-way communication.

The Notice of Commencement of EA and Public Open Houses was mailed to the stakeholder contact list as a package along with a cover letter and a copy of the Issue 2 Project newsletter on August 1, 2014. A copy of the notice, Project newsletter, and cover letter is provided in Appendices 2-VI and 2-VIII.

Property owners and interest holders were notified via mail or by hand delivery. For property owners and interest holders whose addresses had not yet been obtained, land agents delivered the notices and other materials by hand. Other stakeholders received the notice by mail. The MNRF administers the notification of provincial Crown land interest holders whose contact information cannot be shared, such as lease and easement holders, permittees and licensees. Sufficient copies of the notification package were delivered to the MNRF for their distribution to these provincial Crown land interest holders on behalf of NextBridge. Distribution to this MNRF-managed contact list was completed in three MNRF districts: Nipigon, Thunder Bay, and Wawa. The MNRF mailed the notification packages on August 18, 2014.
The Notice of Commencement of EA and Public Open Houses was posted on the Project website and published in the print and online newspapers listed in Table 2-1. Copies of the notices published in the newspapers are provided in Appendix 2-VIII.

### Table 2-1: Notice of Commencement of Environmental Assessment and Public Open Houses – Round Two – Publications and Dates

<table>
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<th>Media</th>
<th>Running Dates</th>
<th>Language(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marathon Mercury</td>
<td>August 12, 2014 (print version)</td>
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<td>Nipigon Red Rock Gazette</td>
<td>August 5, 2014 (print version)</td>
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<td>Terrace Bay Schreiber News</td>
<td>August 5, 2014 (print version)</td>
<td>English and French</td>
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<td>Algoma News</td>
<td>August 6, 2014 (print version)</td>
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<td>Ontario News North</td>
<td>August 8, 2014 (online ad)</td>
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</table>

### 2.1.3.1.2 Notice of Public Open Houses – Round Three

The purpose of this notice was to inform interested parties that round three of public Open Houses was scheduled for April 18 to 22, 2016, to provide new and updated Project information.

The notice was produced in English and French. Property owners and interest holders were notified via mail and hand delivery. Other stakeholders received the notice through the mail.

Notice of Public Open House documents were mailed to the stakeholder contact list on April 1, 2016, along with a copy of the third Project newsletter.

The MNRF administers the notification of other provincial Crown land interest holders whose contact information cannot be shared such as lease and easement holders, permittees and licensees. Approximately 490 interests were identified by the MNRF. Provincial Crown land occupational authorities and provincial Crown land interest holders whose contact information was accessible, either through past Project mailings or through Teranet data, were mailed hard copies of the Notice of Open Houses and the third Project newsletter by NextBridge on April 1, 2016. For the remaining provincial Crown land interest holders, NextBridge provided the MNRF with the appropriate study area for notification in March of 2016. Sufficient copies of the Notice of Public Open Houses and the third Project newsletter was provided to the MNRF in March 2016, for their distribution on behalf of NextBridge. Distribution to this MNRF-managed contact list was completed in three MNRF districts: Wawa, Nipigon, and Thunder Bay.

The Notice of Public Open Houses and third Project newsletter distribution to Crown land interest holders was distributed in early April of 2016. At the request of MNRF, a cover letter was included advising Crown interest holders to provide their contact information directly to NextBridge should they wish to remain informed regarding the Project. This letter is in Appendix 2-VI-A.

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5 An interest is a legal share of something. In the property context, an interest refers to the right granted to possess and use property, but does not transfer the fee simple ownership in the property. The interest may be granted by virtue of a lease, an easement, a licence, or other form of contract that assigns an interest in title, but the ownership remains with the fee simple owner or government authority. In this case only certain rights within the bundle have been granted.
The Notice of Public Open Houses was posted on the Project website on March 29, 2016, and published in the local print and online newspapers listed in Table 2-2. Copies of the notices published in the newspapers can be found in Appendix 2-VIII.

### Table 2-2: Notice of Public Open Houses – Round Three – Publications and Dates

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<td>Wawa-news.com</td>
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#### 2.1.3.1.3 Notice of Submission of Draft Environmental Assessment Report

The *Environmental Assessment Act* (Government of Ontario 2003a) does not require the preparation nor stipulate a review period for a draft EA Report, but according to the MOECC’s (2014a) *Code of Practice: Consultation in Ontario’s Environmental Assessment Process* Section 4.4, the MOECC strongly encourages the proponent to do so. NextBridge committed to preparing a draft EA Report in the ToR.

As committed in the approved ToR, a Notice of Submission of the draft EA Report was mailed in early December 2016 to inform stakeholders that the draft EA Report was available for review and comment.

The notice was also posted on the Project website on December 5, 2016, and published in the local print and online newspapers presented in Table 2-3. A copy of the notice is provided in Appendix 2-VIII.

### Table 2-3: Notice of Submission of Draft Environmental Assessment Publications and Dates

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<td>Ontario News North</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wawa-news.com</td>
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</table>

A Notice of Submission of the EA Report will also be mailed to stakeholders in July 2017, to inform them that NextBridge has submitted the EA Report to the MOECC for review and approval, and is available for public review.
2.1.3.1.4 Notice of Public Open Houses – Round Four

A notice was distributed to interested parties to inform them of round four of Public Open Houses scheduled in eight communities from February 6 to 9, 2017. The notice informed stakeholders that the draft EA Report was submitted to the MOECC and the public was encouraged to review it and submit their comments.

The Notice of Public Open House was mailed to the stakeholder contact list on January 16, 2017, and was produced in English and French.

Crown land occupational authorities and Crown land interest holders whose contact information was made available were mailed hard copies of the Notice of Public Open Houses by NextBridge on January 9, 2017.

The Notice of Public Open Houses was posted on the Project website on January 16, 2017, and published in the local print and online newspapers listed in Table 2-2. Copies of the notices published in the newspapers can be found in Appendix 2-VIII.

Table 2-2: Notice of Public Open Houses – Round Four – Publications and Dates

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<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marathon Mercury</td>
<td>January 17, 2017 (print version)</td>
<td>English and French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nipigon Red Rock Gazette</td>
<td>January 17, 2017 (print version)</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrace Bay Schreiber News</td>
<td>January 17, 2017 (print version)</td>
<td>English and French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algoma News</td>
<td>January 18, 2017 (print version)</td>
<td>English and French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay Source</td>
<td>January 19, 2017 (print version)</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario News North</td>
<td>January 19*, 2017 (online ad)</td>
<td>English and French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawa-news.com</td>
<td>January 19, 2017 (online ad)</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.1.3.2 Public Open Houses

Public Open Houses were generally well-attended, and many comments, questions, and valuable feedback were received. Several potentially affected property owners and interest holders attended the public Open Houses, as did a number of representatives and interested individuals from local government, government agencies, and interest groups to gather information and provide feedback on the Project and the consultation process. Several vendors attended to learn more about the Project and to offer their services for studies, construction and other Project activities. Members of local media attended some of the public Open Houses to speak with NextBridge representatives.

2.1.3.2.1 Public Open House Round One

Round one of public Open Houses was held in early December 2013 during development of the ToR. Details of those events can be found in the Record of Consultation in the approved ToR (Appendix 2-II).
2.1.3.2.2 Public Open House Round Two

Round two of public Open Houses was held in August 2014. Six locations were chosen along the Project route so that interested parties in the Project area would be within a reasonable distance for travel. For this round of public Open Houses, the Township of Dorion was chosen as a host location instead of the Township of Nipigon, and the Township of Schreiber was chosen as a host location in place of the Township of Terrace Bay to help balance traveling distances for members of those communities. Notification about the public Open Houses was published and distributed as described in Section 2.1.3.1.

Public Open Houses were scheduled from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, except for the event held in the Municipality of Wawa. The main topics presented by NextBridge for this round of public Open Houses included:

- opportunities to learn about the Project, the EA and the Leave to Construct processes;
- results of background studies to date and studies taking place during the EA;
- routing considerations and decisions to date;
- maps of the Reference Route and preliminary transmission line access and construction areas;
- land and property matters; and
- next steps in the EA process.

Copies of the panels and other materials are included in Appendix 2-V-A. Large format aerial maps were displayed on tables in the middle of the room showing the Reference Route, Reference Route Alternatives, and local route refinements under consideration at the time of the Open House.

A “Frequently Asked Questions” handout, information on Compensation Principles, a copy of the information panels and copies of the second Project newsletter were available at the Open Houses for attendees to take home with them. These handouts are included in Appendix 2-V-A.

Comment forms were also made available for attendees to fill out at the event or take home and provide comment after through any of the contact methods made available by NextBridge. Tables and chairs were set up with pens and comment forms to facilitate attendee completion of the comment forms at the event. Those who chose to comment after the Open Houses were encouraged to do so before August 29, 2014, to allow sufficient time for comments to be considered in the draft EA Report, of which was originally anticipated to be submitted in 2014. The comment form is included in Appendix 2-V-A.

A total of 223 people attended round two of public Open Houses. The breakdown of this total is provided in Table 2-4.

Table 2-4: Round Two Public Open House Attendance by Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 18, 2014</td>
<td>City of Thunder Bay (Current River Community Centre)</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 19, 2014</td>
<td>Township of Dorion (Dorion Community Centre)</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 20, 2014</td>
<td>Township of Schreiber (Schreiber Recreation Centre)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21, 2014</td>
<td>Town of Marathon (Marathon Centre Mall)</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 22, 2014</td>
<td>Township of White River (Royal Canadian Legion)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23, 2014</td>
<td>Municipality of Wawa (Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 The Municipality of Wawa event was scheduled from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, and lunch was provided, as the event was held on a Saturday.
A total of 15 comment forms were submitted during and after round two public Open Houses and are included in Appendix 2-V-A. The summary of comments and concerns raised during round two public Open Houses is described in Section 2.1.5, and details are in Appendix 2-III.

2.1.3.2.3 Public Open House Round Three

Round three of public Open Houses was held in April 2016. Eight locations were chosen along the Project route. Compared to round one and round two of public Open Houses, two additional locations were selected along the preliminary preferred route to help balance travelling distances for community members and other interested parties. Notification about the public Open Houses was published and distributed as described in Section 2.1.3.1.

Public Open Houses were scheduled from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. The main topics presented by NextBridge for this round of public Open Houses included:

- opportunities to learn about the Project;
- the EA and Leave to Construct processes;
- results of background studies and studies taking place during the EA;
- routing considerations and decisions to date;
- maps of the preliminary preferred route and preliminary transmission line access and construction areas;
- land and property matters; and
- next steps in the EA process.

The panels and other materials are included in Appendix 2-V-B. Large format aerial maps were displayed on tables in the middle of the room showing the preliminary preferred route and local route refinements under consideration at the time of the Open House.

A “Frequently Asked Questions” handout, Fact Sheets related to Project Need, Project Towers, the EA process, Transmission Line Safety, and Electric and Magnetic Fields were made available. Additional information made available for attendees to take home included information on Compensation Principles, Drafts Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators Handout, Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Handout, and copies of the information panels and the third Project newsletter. Comment forms were also made available for attendees to fill out at the event or take home and provide comment after through any of the contact methods made available by NextBridge. Tables and chairs were set up with pens and comment forms to facilitate attendee completion of the comment forms at the event. Those who chose to comment after the event were encouraged to do so before April 30, 2016, to allow sufficient time for comments to be considered in the draft EA Report. The comment form is included in Appendix 2-V-B.

A total of 299 people attended round three of public Open Houses. The breakdown of this total is shown in Table 2-5.

Table 2-5: Public Open House Round Three Attendance by Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 18, 2016</td>
<td>City of Thunder Bay (Current River Community Centre)</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19, 2016</td>
<td>Township of Dorion (Dorion Community Centre)</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20, 2016</td>
<td>Town of Marathon (Marathon Centre Mall)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20, 2016</td>
<td>Township of Nipigon (Royal Canadian Legion)</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21, 2016</td>
<td>Township of White River (Royal Canadian Legion)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2-5: Public Open House Round Three Attendance by Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 21, 2016</td>
<td>Municipality of Wawa (Royal Canadian Legion)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22, 2016</td>
<td>Township of Schreiber (Schreiber Recreation Centre)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22, 2016</td>
<td>Township of Terrace Bay (Terrace Bay Cultural Centre)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 22 comment forms were submitted during and after the round three public Open Houses and are included in Appendix 2-V-B. The summary of comments and concerns raised during round three public Open Houses is described in Section 2.1.5, and details are in Appendix 2-III.

2.1.3.2.4 Public Open House Round Four

Round four of public Open Houses was held in February 2017 in eight communities along the Project route. Notification about the public Open Houses was published and distributed as described in Section 2.1.3.1.

Public Open Houses were scheduled from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. The primary goal of round four of public Open Houses was to present the environmental studies and results conducted for the Project to date, and to obtain public feedback on the draft EA report. Information was presented on the following:

- Project overview;
- the EA and Leave to Construct processes;
- results of background studies and studies taking place during the EA;
- routing considerations and decisions to date;
- maps of the preferred route and preliminary transmission line access and construction areas;
- next steps in the EA process;
- Indigenous community and public engagement; and
- land and property matters.

Presentation panels and other materials were made available at the Open House, and are included in Appendix 2-V-B. Large format aerial maps were displayed on tables in the middle of the room showing the preferred route and local route refinements under consideration at the time of the Open House.

A “Frequently Asked Questions” handout, Fact Sheets related to Project Need, Project Towers, the EA process, Transmission Line Safety, Electric and Magnetic Fields, Compensation Principles, and a copy of the information panels were available at the Open Houses for attendees to take home with them, as were additional copies of the fourth Project newsletter. Comment forms were also made available for attendees to fill out at the event or take home and provide comments afterwards through any of the contact methods made available by NextBridge. Tables and chairs were set up with pens and comment forms to facilitate attendee completion of the comment forms at the event. Those who chose to comment after the event were encouraged to do so before February 28, 2017, to allow sufficient time for comments to be considered in the EA Report. The comment form is included in Appendix 2-V-C.

A total of 186 people attended round four of public Open Houses, which was a smaller turnout than the previous rounds (Table 2-5).
A total of five comment forms were submitted during and after the round four public Open Houses and are included in Appendix 2-V-C. The summary of comments and concerns raised during round four public Open Houses is described in Section 2.1.5, and details are in Appendix 2-III.

### Project Newsletters

Issues 2 and 3 of the Project newsletter included sections regarding a Project update, Project summary, Project map, information on the route selection process, EA studies, opportunities for public input, required approvals, Indigenous engagement, land and property information, Project schedule, additional Project information resources, and how to get involved.

A fourth issue of the Project newsletter was circulated prior to round four of public Open Houses. The newsletter included a Project summary, Project updates, opportunities for public input, including the schedule of round four public Open Houses and the anticipated project schedule. A map of the preferred route was presented, selected based on consultation feedback, the natural environment, socio-economic and technical criteria. Additional issues of the Project newsletter may be developed as the Project moves into the construction and operation phases. Copies of Issues 2, 3, and 4 of the Project newsletter are provided in Appendix 2-VI.

Newsletters were mailed to the stakeholder contact list with public Open House notices. Newsletters were also distributed at in-person meetings, during public Open Houses, and made available on the Project website. Additional copies of the newsletters were also made available to municipalities that requested them for distribution from their municipal offices. Similar distribution is planned for future newsletters.

### Update Letters

Project update letters were developed and distributed to the stakeholders on the mailing list when important Project updates were identified. In addition to update letters distributed during development of the ToR (Appendix 2-II), the following letters were mailed to the stakeholder contact list:

- **November 6, 2014** – Project update letter including updates on the ToR approval, Project development schedule, route discussions regarding Pukaskwa National Park, and rescheduling of Open Houses.

- **April 7, 2015** – Project update letter including updates on Project development schedule, route changes around Pukaskwa National Park, and new Project Director.

- **December 5, 2016** – Project update letter including updates on draft EA Review, a route refinement near Loon Lake, and new Project Director.

These updates were also posted on the Project website, and are included in Appendix 2-VII. Additional letters may be developed and distributed during future phases of the Project.
2.1.3.5 Property Owners and Interest Holders Consultation

2.1.3.5.1 Dedicated Team of Land Agents

Potentially affected property owners were identified as those living and/or owning property within 500 m of the preferred route ROW boundary and along proposed access road routes and other Project-related work areas. Notification packages for the Project and Open Houses, including Project newsletters, were mailed to affected property owners and interest holders during development of the ToR and throughout preparation of the EA Report. Land agents were also available at the Open Houses to discuss property owner-related issues with attendees. The land acquisition program, including optioning with affected property owners and interest holders, commenced in the spring of 2016 and continued in 2017. The land acquisition program involves the following activities:

- obtaining access to property to undertake certain field studies such as vegetation, wildlife, cultural heritage and engineering surveys;
- initial meetings with directly affected property owners to review the proposed Project and potential effects on their specific property;
- agreement presentation meetings scheduled by the land agent with the property owner to review the agreement to secure land rights where they are required for the Project footprint; and,
- follow-up meetings where additional information has been requested by the property owner.

NextBridge has established a standard approach and set of principles for property owner discussions (i.e., the Compensation Principles document) to be applied consistently throughout the land acquisition program and is committed to building open, respectful relationships with property owners and interest holders.

A table of interactions with property owners and interest holders between February 2014 and May 2017 is provided in Appendix 2-III, Section 1.0, and in more detail in Appendix 2-III-A

2.1.3.5.2 Distribution of Compensation Principles

The Compensation Principles document was made available at in-person meetings with stakeholders, public Open Houses and posted on the Project website. Copies of the Compensation Principles document are included in Appendices 2-V-A, 2-V-B, and 2-V-C.

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7 An option is a contract that gives the potential buyer a right to purchase but without imposing an obligation to do so. The property owner signing an option contract has a legal obligation to sell the property under the terms specified in the real estate option contract.

8 Agreement presentation meetings are meetings scheduled by the land agent with the property owner to review the agreements. The land agent asks to schedule a meeting with the property owner and their family or representatives (where applicable) to review the agreements. In these meetings the agent reviews the contents of the agreements page by page, line by line. In certain instances the property owners are prepared to sign at the close of the meeting, but in others additional time or further review is needed whether by family, representatives or legal counsel.

The agreement presentation is typically the second meeting or following an introductory meeting or discussion that has occurred with the land agent or NextBridge representative. However, depending upon the relationship with the property owner and the state of discussions, an agreement presentation meeting may occur in the first meeting or the 4th or 5th meeting.
2.1.3.6 Local Government Consultation

Engagement continued with municipal elected representatives and staff in municipalities, townships, and towns along or near the preliminary preferred route throughout development of the EA Report.

Initial contact and meetings were held with municipalities during development of the ToR. In addition to the discussions summarized in Section 18 (Socio-economics) of this EA Report, further discussions and meetings were held with local municipalities in Northwestern Ontario to address concerns and questions throughout development of the draft EA Report. Detailed tables of interactions with municipalities are illustrated in Appendix 2-III, Section 2.0.

Noteworthy community-specific concerns were raised in regard to the originally-proposed route in two areas along the preliminary preferred route. Additional community meetings and correspondence were undertaken to understand and mitigate concerns with community members and Council in the Township of Dorion, and the Loon Lake community located in the Municipality of Shuniah.

2.1.3.7 Government Agencies and Representatives Consultation

Engagement continued with provincial and federal agencies and representatives throughout development of the EA Report.

2.1.3.7.1 Provincial Elected Official Consultation

Local Provincial elected officials were identified and contacted early in the development stages of the Project. Their constituency offices were included in Project mailings, and they were also invited to Open Houses. Detailed tables of interactions with Provincial Elected Officials are illustrated in Appendix 2-III, Section 2.0.

2.1.3.7.2 Federal Elected Official Consultation

Local Federal elected officials were identified and contacted early in the development stages of the Project. Their constituency offices were included in Project mailings, and they were also invited to Open Houses. Detailed tables of interactions with Federal Elected Officials are illustrated in Appendix 2-III, Section 3.0.

2.1.3.7.3 Agency Consultation

Several meetings, conference calls, and phone calls with identified agencies took place throughout development of the EA Report. This consultation included input on the criteria and indicators, field work planning, timing of studies and comments on the draft EA Report. Copies of communications and notes from meetings are presented in Appendix 2-III-B. Provincial regulatory agencies MNRF and MOECC also reviewed and provided comments on the draft EA Report. Details on these comments are in Appendix 1-III and responses are summarized in Appendix 1-III-A.

2.1.3.8 General Public Consultation

Throughout development of the EA Report, NextBridge has responded to inquiries from members of the general public. This communication took place via email or phone. Details are provided in Appendix 2-III, Section 4.0.
2.1.3.9 Other Stakeholders and Interest Groups Consultation

Other stakeholders and interest groups, identified by NextBridge, or self-identified, that potentially may be interested in the Project were provided with Project information by mail as indicated in the above Section 2.1.3.

Members of several interest groups attended the Open Houses and spoke with Project staff, including the following:

- campers’ associations;
- snowmobile clubs;
- recreation clubs (i.e., Rendezvous Cross-Country Ski Club);
- naturalist clubs;
- trappers and outfitters;
- fishing guides;
- economic development corporations and chambers of commerce;
- mining industry representatives and claim owners;
- forestry industry representatives;
- Dorion Concerned Citizens;
- Loon Lake community; and
- vendors seeking potential work during Project planning, construction, and operation.

Interactions with interest groups have taken place to present Project information and gather input into the process and Project. For example, NextBridge has met with interest groups, including the West Loon Lake Campers’ Association, East Loon Lake Campers’ Association, North Shore Fishing Club, West Shore Fishing Club, and Damphino Fishing Club, to discuss particular concerns. These interactions are detailed in Appendix 2-III, Section 5.0.

2.1.3.9.1 Dorion Concerned Citizens Interactions

During development of the ToR in late 2013, NextBridge was informed of concerns related to the originally proposed Reference Route in the Township of Dorion. NextBridge worked closely with representatives from the Township, property owners and interest holders, and a local concerned citizen’s group to address and mitigate these concerns.

Additional community meetings, including a Town Hall, were held in order to better understand the concerns, which were brought forward by community members. Additional route proposals were developed and studied through these interactions. The result of these engagement activities was a change in the route that alleviated many of the concerns brought forward. A detailed table of interactions with municipal officials and residents in the Township of Dorion community are illustrated in Appendix 2-III, Section 5.0.
2.1.3.9.2 Loon Lake Route Meetings

During development of the ToR, NextBridge was informed of concerns related to the originally proposed preliminary preferred route near Loon Lake. NextBridge worked with representatives from the municipality and community to address these concerns.

An additional community meeting was held to better understand the concerns that were brought forward by community members. Through these interactions, additional route proposals were developed and studied. The result of these engagement activities was a change in the route that alleviated the concerns brought forward, Appendix 2-III, Section 5.0.

2.1.3.10 Consultation on the Draft Environmental Assessment Report

The draft EA Report was made available for review and comment on NextBridge’s website on December 19, 2016 and at the following locations:

**Municipal Offices**
- Township of Dorion
- Township of Nipigon
- Town of Marathon
- Township of Red Rock
- Township of Schreiber
- Municipality of Shuniah
- Township of Terrace Bay
- City of Thunder Bay
- Municipality of Wawa
- Township of White River

**MOECC Offices**
- Environmental Approvals Access and Service Integration Branch
- Thunder Bay District Office

**Public Libraries**
- Brodie Resource Library
- County Park Branch
- Dorion Public Library
- Nipigon Public Library
- Red Rock Public Library
- Schreiber Public Library
- Terrace Bay Public Library
- Marathon Public Library
A copy was also available at NextBridge’s Toronto office.

Indigenous communities, property owners and interest holders, local government, government agencies and representatives, other stakeholders and the general public were encouraged to review the draft EA Report and submit comments to NextBridge by February 28, 2017. The draft EA Report was couriered to the locations listed in the submission of the draft EA Report notice in Appendix 2-VIII and to the 18 Indigenous communities listed in the delegation of procedural aspects of Crown consultation memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Ontario Ministry of Energy and NextBridge (Section 2.2.2). The draft EA Report submission included a hard copy of the draft EA Report sections, a laptop to view individual draft EA Report sections and appendices, and a portable storage device (i.e. memory stick) containing a digital copy of the draft EA Report.

Comments received during the draft EA review were documented and summaries of comments and concerns provided by stakeholders are included in Appendix 1-III. The draft EA Report was updated based on feedback received during the draft EA Report review and comment period, as necessary. The EA Report will be submitted to the MOECC and an opportunity for review of the EA Report will be provided and coordinated by the MOECC.

2.1.4 Summary of Government Agency Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment Report

NextBridge received a total of 646 comments on the draft EA Report from the MNRF and the MOECC. NextBridge prepared written responses to all comments received from the regulatory agencies. The comments were compiled and categorized by topic and agency (Appendix 1-III-A).

2.1.4.1 Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Comments

On March 3, 2017, the MNRF sent an initial list of draft EA Report comments to NextBridge. A revised list was provided on March 8, 2017. A total of 568 comments were received from the MNRF and are categorized as follows:

- overarching and general;
- Aboriginal consultation;
- aggregate resources;
- aquatic resources and fisheries;
- conservation reserves;
- forestry;
- land use planning;
- lands;
- natural heritage and wildlife habitat;
- provincial parks; and
- Species at Risk.

Responses to MNRF comments are provided in Appendix 1-III-A.
2.1.4.2 **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Comments**

On March 9, 2017, a total of 78 comments on the draft EA Report were received from the MOECC, and are categorized as follows:

- hydrogeology;
- air quality;
- environmental planning;
- general comments;
- general comments / environmental planning;
- noise;
- surface water; and
- waste water.

Responses to MOECC comments are provided in Appendix 1-III-A.

2.1.4.3 **Revisions Made in Environmental Assessment as a Result of Agency Comments**

The EA Report was updated in response to a number of MNRF and MOECC comments. NextBridge also revised the Project footprint between submission of the draft EA Report and the EA Report to minimize crossing the Hydro One Transmission Line and to avoid the Angler Creek World War II Internment camp.

Attachment 1 to Appendix 1-III-A provides an overview of changes made to the EA Report as a result of the comments received from the MNRF, the MOECC and Indigenous communities.

2.1.5 **Summary of Comments and Concerns during Preparation of the Environmental Assessment Report**

Stakeholder interactions were categorized by identifying topics of interest and concern. Comments and concerns were recorded and categorized according to the most relevant topic, which were broadly related to the environment, Indigenous concerns, archaeology/heritage, community concerns, Project routing, access, Project construction, safety, and trapping. Figures 2-1 to 2-5 provide a breakdown of the number of interactions by issue raised by each stakeholder category groups, including property owners/interest holders, local government, regulatory agencies and representatives, general public, and other stakeholders and interest groups. The discussion below is focused on key issues raised during stakeholder consultation.

2.1.5.1 **Summary of Property Owners and Interest Holders Comments and Concerns**

Interactions between NextBridge’s land agents, property owners, and interest holders focused predominantly on the issue of proposed and negotiated agreements for use of lands (Figure 2-1). Property owners and interest holders had questions and concerns focused primarily on transmission line routing, access roads, and compensation.
Consultation with directly affected property owners and interest holders to address their concerns is ongoing. Concerns are investigated on a case by case basis, and NextBridge is committed to taking reasonable measures to ensure that potential adverse effects of the Project on property owners and interest holders are avoided or minimized. Responses or actions taken by NextBridge to date to address concerns have included:

- reviewing maps of the proposed right-of-way (ROW) with property owner(s) to determine if their property will be affected by the Project;
- adjusting temporary access road easement to avoid encroachment upon property owner’s residence, outbuilding, or other areas of concern;
- investigating the feasibility of alternative access road routes on the property and discussing a more preferable route;
- relocating the proposed temporary construction infrastructure off of subject’s property based on concerns raised by the Property owner;
- relocating proposed route based on concerns raised by Property owner (i.e. route refinements at Mackenzie River), and also at Crossing of Barrick/Hemlo mine, HONI crossing locations.
- relocating a proposed laydown area and identifying suitable alternate location on subject’s property;
- revising the Project plan clear to the opposite edge of road boundary to avoid clearing a shelter belt; and
- reviewing the general placement of tower structure locations with concerned Property owners to reduce potential effects to visual quality.

NextBridge emailed each Sustainable Forest Licensee (SFL) whose Forest Management Unit (FMU) is crossed by the proposed Project infrastructure. NextBridge provided each SFL a timber valuation of merchantable to be cleared with the FMU, and a kmz file showing the proposed infrastructure within the FMU. A conference call with each licensee was requested to discuss the Project as it relates to their forest management plan, and to review the Project and discuss any concerns they may have. NextBridge hosted conference calls with Big Pic, Pic River, and Algoma Forest SFLs in April and May 2017, and provided an overview of the Project, an update on Project timelines, schedule and current activities. Meeting minutes were recorded and are provided in Appendix 2-III-A.

NextBridge and the SFL for the Lakehead and Black Spruce FMUs met in June 2017 to discuss the Project footprint within the Lakehead and Black Spruce FMUs, and potential implications to Forest Management Plans from the Project. Draft meeting minutes are provided in Appendix 2-III-A. Meetings with SFLs will continue through the course of the Project and into construction.

NextBridge has been engaging the railways through the course of the Project, including obtaining permits for study purposes. NextBridge will be requesting appropriate land agreements from the railways for the crossing of their infrastructure. Engagement with Canadian Pacific Railway and Canadian National Railway is documented in the Property Owner and Interest Holder Interaction Record (Appendix 2-III-A).

NextBridge has engaged with local trapper association groups and fur manager association groups to discuss potential effects of the Project on trappers’ activities, including potential disturbance and disruption to trappers’ activities and potential mitigation and compensation options (Appendix 2-III-53 and Appendix 2-III-A). Registered trappers directly affected by Project construction will be provided compensation, including damage to trapper assets, general disturbance, adverse effects, and effects to trapping operations. NextBridge is continuing to engage with trapper and fur manager groups to keep them informed of the Project, and will give them advance notice of the construction schedule and clearing activities.
Individual trap lines impacted by the Project will be consulted with during 2017, and a compensation program is being developed for application on the Project. NextBridge continues to work with MNRF to confirm all impacted Crown interests to ensure appropriate consultation occurs.

A detailed Interaction Record between NextBridge and property owners and interest holders are provided in Appendix 2-III-A. A summary of these interactions, including comments and concerns by property owners and interest holders, and NextBridge’s response is provided in Appendix 2-III, Section 1.0.

2.1.5.2 Summary of Local Government Comments and Concerns

The main issue raised by local governments was related to Project routing and potential effects on land owners and communities, including associated effects on recreational use and the visual environment (Figure 2-2).

Consultation has been ongoing between NextBridge and local governments to address these issues. In February 2017, NextBridge held meetings with local governments (municipalities, townships, MTO, MNRF). A Project update was provided at each meeting regarding the draft EA and Public comment period, Open Houses and stakeholder engagement, the Leave to Construct and the status of land acquisition for the Project. Meeting minutes were taken and actions noted (refer to Appendix 2-III-B for meeting minutes). Concerns raised included use of municipal land for the Project footprint, visual impacts, use of permitted aggregate sites, interference with existing roads and current use, compensation, forms of agreement and impacts to recreational users. NextBridge continues to engage local governments to address their concerns.
The Township of Nipigon raised concerns regarding impacts to the Golf and Ski Clubs, general environmental concerns and water crossing methods, and forms of agreement and permitting process for Township land. A summary of these interactions, including comments and concerns by local governments, and NextBridge’s response is provided in Appendix 2-III, Section 2.0.

Employment and economic development opportunities were other notable issues for local governments. Local governments expressed interest in the short- and long-term economic benefits of the Project and some expressed concern about the compatibility of the Project with the implementation of local and regional strategic plans. Specific mitigation measures for concerns related to socio-economic effects and recreational land use are addressed in the EA Report in Sections 18 and 19.

Figure 2-2: Interactions by Issue with Local Government
2.1.5.3 **Summary of Government Agencies and Representatives Comments and Concerns**

Government agencies and representatives provided feedback on the EA criteria and indicators, environmental studies, environmental features in the Project study areas, applicable regulatory processes and routing (Figure 2-3).

Topics or issues related to wildlife (22%) were discussed the most frequently with government agencies and representatives, followed by Project routing (19%), water bodies/equipment crossings/fish habitat (14%), the Project footprint/habitat conservation (12%), and archaeology/heritage resources (9%). Comments provided by government agencies on the draft EA Report are summarized in Appendix 1-III-A.

Refer to Section 3.0 of Appendix 2-III for a record of communications with government agencies and representatives. Meeting minutes are provided in Appendix 2-III-B.

*Figure 2-3: Interactions by Issue with Government Agencies*
2.1.5.4  Summary of General Public Comments and Concerns

Concerns and comments were raised by the general public at town hall meetings, open houses, and directly to NextBridge representatives through emails and phone calls.

The most frequently raised issue was related to recreational use (18%), followed by Project routing (16%), wildlife (12%), land access during construction (11%) and water bodies/crossings/fish (8%).

Prior to submission of the draft EA Report, Open House attendees were concerned with the preferred preliminary routing, including potential impacts on recreational use and access. Concerns were also expressed related to visual effects of the towers, and routing through water bodies and other environmentally sensitive areas. NextBridge will continue working with potentially affected stakeholders to keep them informed of proposed tower locations as tower placement work progresses to address concerns related to recreational use and trail access.

Concerns related to visual effects were investigated on a case by case basis and NextBridge committed to taking reasonable measures to minimize the potential environmental and visual effects of the Project.

Proposed mitigation measures to minimize potential adverse effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat were discussed with concerned stakeholders at the public Open Houses, and are summarised in Table 14-17 of Section 14 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat) and in the EPP (Appendix 4-II).

Individual members of the general public also expressed interest in economic opportunities associated with the Project. A small number of inquiries about community investment, operational safety, and potential effects on guiding and outfitting were posed. NextBridge’s stakeholder representative provided responses to these individual inquiries (Appendix 2-III, Section 4.0).
2.1.5.5 Summary of Other Stakeholders and Interest Groups Comments and Concerns

Other stakeholders and interest groups, including industry groups, primarily inquired about contracting opportunities associated with the Project (Figure 2-5). Company information was forwarded to NextBridge’s engineering department for consideration. Mining industry stakeholders expressed concern regarding potential constraints on future mining activities. This is addressed in Section 19 (Non-traditional Land and Resource Use) of the EA Report.

The main topics of discussion between NextBridge and interest groups focused on transmission line routing, economic opportunities, potential visual impacts, and land access during construction. Environmental and community interest groups noted concerns regarding transmission line routing and potential effects on the visual environment, traffic, and surface water. These concerns were raised in joint meetings with the local governments and NextBridge.

Loon Lake residents expressed concerns about the use of local roads for access during construction and associated dust and safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists and potential damage to the roads. Other concerns were focused on the potential effects of the Project on groundwater and surface water and...
associated effects on fish and residents (i.e., drinking water). NextBridge worked collaboratively with Township of Dorion and Loon Lake stakeholders to refine the route to achieve the best balance of environmental, socio-economic, and technical advantages.

NextBridge first met with Ski Club representatives on site in May 2016, to review their concerns regarding the proposed Project. The Ski Club indicated concerns regarding the timing of construction and implications for trail use, use of trails for temporary construction access and tower placement. The Ski Club noted that they were open to existing ski trails being used for Project construction if alternate ski trails could be developed or improved.

NextBridge received comments on the draft EA Report from Ski Club members and the President in February 2017. Their comments included concerns regarding missing consultation records between NextBridge and the Ski Club, proposed construction and access footprint, widening of transmission line corridor on their lands and visual impacts. NextBridge updated the record of consultation in the EA Report to ensure that all interactions with the Ski Club were documented in the EA, and provided a formal letter responding to their concerns in April 2017, which is included in Appendix 2-III-C. NextBridge met on site with Ski Club members and a Nipigon Township council member in May, 2017 to review the Project footprint, clearing strategy, access and road construction, and discuss concerns regarding the Kama Cliffs Conservation Reserve and structure placement. NextBridge has committed to ongoing consultation with the Ski Club.

The laydown yard of concern has been removed, and revisions to the proposed access and construction plan have removed the southern link of Moose Loop trail and Beaver Meadow Loop. NextBridge is reviewing clearing requirements to minimize the amount of clearing required, while still meeting regulatory requirements and safety clearances. NextBridge will review access and construction plans further with the Ski Club once a General contractor has been confirmed.

The Ski Club also raised concerns regarding potential impacts of structure locations to the Mazukama Trails located in Kama Cliffs Conservation Reserve. Information regarding the placement of towers and route have been provided to the vice president of the Nor’Wester Voyageur Trails Club, a chapter of the Voyageur Trails Association.

NextBridge has also engaged with numerous tourism operators throughout the EA process, and interactions have been recorded and are included in Appendix 2-III-53.

Community resident groups also expressed concern about land access during construction and Project effects on hunting and fishing. Land access concerns focused on potential effects on the road system and concerns about the timing of construction overlapping with hunting seasons. Other special interest groups were concerned about increased land access due to construction of the Project, which could increase access to currently remote water bodies. There is concern that this increased access could lead to overfishing or effects from the introduction of baitfish. NextBridge’s Stakeholder Relations responded on May 5, 2016, with a letter outlining proposed road-use mitigation measures. NextBridge also stated that while construction work will overlap with hunting seasons, public access will be maintained but may be controlled if required for safety. Further detail on mitigation measures to address these concerns is provided in Section 13 (Fish and Fish Habitat) and Section 19 (Non-traditional Land and Resource Use) of the EA Report.

Discussions with economic development corporations in various municipalities focused on jobs, contracting opportunities, and future economic development. Further detail on expected economic and employment effects is found in Section 18 (Socio-economics) of the EA Report.
2.1.5.6 Most Commonly Identified Issues

Stakeholder interactions (e.g., phone call, e-mail correspondence, in-person meeting) are summarized by issue in Table 2-6. An interaction could relate to multiple issues. The most commonly identified issue related to the proposed and negotiated agreement with property owners and interest holders. Other common issues related to discussions surrounding transmission line routing, potential impacts on recreational use (i.e., cabins, cottages, hiking and ski trails), Project status and access roads.
Table 2-6: Most Commonly Identified Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Where Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposed/negotiated agreement</td>
<td>NextBridge’s ongoing land acquisition program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmission line routing</td>
<td>Section 3.2.2 and Appendix 3-1 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project status</td>
<td>NextBridge’s ongoing consultation and engagement program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access roads</td>
<td>Section 4 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compensation</td>
<td>NextBridge’s compensation principles (Appendix 2-VII)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project need</td>
<td>Section 1 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land rights/title</td>
<td>NextBridge’s ongoing land acquisition program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment – geology/terrain/soils</td>
<td>Section 6 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project construction – other</td>
<td>Section 4 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community impact – economic opportunity/impact/jobs/contract</td>
<td>Section 18 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment – footprint/habitat conservation</td>
<td>Sections 12, 13 and 14 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community impact – recreational use</td>
<td>Sections 17 and 19 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment – water body impacts/crossing/fish habitat</td>
<td>Sections 7 and 13 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment – wildlife</td>
<td>Section 14 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project construction – land access during construction</td>
<td>Section 4 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeological/heritage/history</td>
<td>Sections 15 and 16 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community impact – community investment</td>
<td>NextBridge’s ongoing consultation and engagement program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community impact – use of local services</td>
<td>Section 18 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment – vegetation</td>
<td>Section 12 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project construction – safety</td>
<td>Section 4 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project construction on noise/traffic/dust/signage</td>
<td>Sections 9, 11 and 18 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment – climate</td>
<td>Section 20 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation – safety</td>
<td>Section 4 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety – other</td>
<td>Section 4 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment – human health</td>
<td>Section 21 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guide Outfitting – impact</td>
<td>Section 19 of the EA Report</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EA = Environmental Assessment.
### 2.1.6 Outstanding Concerns from Stakeholders

NextBridge continues to work with stakeholders to resolve the following outstanding concerns and issues (Table 2-7).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder</th>
<th>Concern/Issue</th>
<th>Status of Consultation/Issue Resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| MNRF, MOECC and MNO | MNRF, MOECC and MNO had concerns regarding the EA method used for the Project in the draft EA Report. This EA method is new to all three parties. | ▪ NextBridge has met with MOECC, MNRF and MNO to discuss the EA method. NextBridge has provided additional explanation on the EA pathway analysis method to MNRF and MOECC in response to the concerns.  
▪ NextBridge has provided additional explanation on the EA pathway analysis method to MNRF and MOECC in response to the concerns (Appendix 1-IIIA, MNRF-O/G-05).  
▪ NextBridge has added additional text and explanation on the local scale effects in Section 5.0 to address MNRF concerns on local scale effects.  
▪ MOECC is providing a response memo on the EA method, which is currently being developed. NextBridge will continue to work with all three parties to address concerns on the EA method. |
| MNRF                 | Routing around Loon Lake and Dorion. The MNRF has concerns with the routing away from the existing East-West Tie through Greenfield. The MNRF is concerned that environmental features were not considered with the same weight as socio-economic concerns when selecting the route refinement. | ▪ The Project alternatives analysis considered technical, economic, environmental and social criteria based on comments received during the ToR phase (Section 3.2.2). Furthermore, Section 6.2.3 of the final ToR indicated that NextBridge committed to working with the community to identify and evaluate local refinements to the Reference Route in the area of this community.  
▪ The Township of Dorion requested that NextBridge review additional alternative route segments to avoid affecting private property in the Dorion area and potential effects to the Ouimet Canyon area. An assessment of alternative route segments was completed to address this (Appendix 3-I). The record of consultation with the Township of Dorion is in Table 2-II-4 and with Dorion Concerned Citizens in Table 2-III-53 in Section 5.1-1 of Appendix 2-III. Taking into account the concerns related to displacing property owners, NextBridge worked collaboratively with Dorion stakeholders to refine the route to achieve the best balance of environmental, social and technical advantages, recognizing that the trade-off involves a Greenfield route segment.  
▪ In a meeting on January 20, 2016, MNRF was consulted on two alternative route segments around Dorion that had been identified as a result of consultation with Dorion stakeholders. Based on feedback received through consultation, routing to the west of Ouimet Canyon Provincial Park was generally preferred in this area and was therefore identified as part of the preliminary preferred route.  
▪ As a result of the extensive consultation done by NextBridge related to this routing option, and taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and technical perspectives, NextBridge believes that the route around Dorion identified in the EA is the most appropriate route in this area. |
### Table 2-7: Outstanding Concerns and Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder</th>
<th>Concern/Issue</th>
<th>Status of Consultation/Issue Resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MNRF</strong></td>
<td>The draft EA did not consider local scale effects and there is insufficient information in the draft EA to review site specific effects.</td>
<td>NextBridge understands the concern. All environmental features were considered in the EA, but each environmental feature was not listed in the EA Report. NextBridge is working with the MNRF by providing some additional information in the EA Report and will continue to work with the MNRF to determine if this meets its concerns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MNRF</strong></td>
<td>Project planning is preliminary and there are Project components (access roads) that are not feasible to construct.</td>
<td>NextBridge continues to develop, design, and plan the Project. There will be refinements and optimization to the construction and access plan. NextBridge acknowledges there are a few instances of access roads that are likely not feasible; however, NextBridge has left them in the EA Report construction and access plan to be conservative on the potential footprint for the Project (i.e., larger than the actual Project footprint that is cleared during construction).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **MNRF**    | The MNRF has concerns with the plan to use and widen access roads within provincial parks for construction of the Project. The MNRF has communicated to NextBridge that there is insufficient information in the draft EA Report to show that there are no other alternatives to either using existing roads or improving and widening existing roads through provincial parks for both construction and operation. | - The MNRF provided comments on the draft EA stating these concerns. NextBridge and MNRF had a follow-up meeting to discuss concerns related to the provincial parks and conservation reserves.  
- NextBridge has included the access roads through the provincial parks (Quinet Canyon Provincial Park, Black Sturgeon Provincial Park, Kama Cliffs Conservation Reserve, Gravel River Provincial Park, Gravel River Conservation Reserve, Kwikwaga Ground Moraine Uplands Conservation Reserve, Pukaskwa a Provincial Park and Nimush Provincial Park) in the EA Report to assess a conservative footprint (i.e., larger than the actual Project footprint that is cleared during construction). NextBridge is committed to working with the MNRF to reduce the impact to provincial parks and conservation reserves during detailed design and further construction planning. |
| **MNRF**    | ■ The MNRF has stated that the draft EA Report does not meet the Provincial Parks Act Section 21 requirements to amend the park management plans to allow the construction of the Project.  
■ The MNRF has also suggested mitigation for NextBridge to consider during design and construction through the provincial parks and conservation reserves. | NextBridge and the MNRF discussed the level of detail in the draft EA compared to the Section 21 requirements and the mitigation suggested by the MNRF in its draft EA comments in a meeting on May 15, 2017. NextBridge has added additional explanation and clarification on how the design through the provincial parks and conservation reserves were selected and how the MNRF suggested mitigation was considered in Appendix 19-III. |
| **MNRF**    | There is concern from the MNRF on the approach for assessing fish and fish habitat by aerial reconnaissance as it is a method that the MNRF is unfamiliar with. MNRF has raised this issue throughout the development of the EA. | NextBridge and the MNRF met on May 2, 2017, to discuss the MNRF comments on the draft EA Report. In this meeting NextBridge committed to providing the MNRF with examples where this method has been used on other linear projects. NextBridge will submit this information to the MNRF prior to the submission of the EA Report. |
Table 2-7: Outstanding Concerns and Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder</th>
<th>Concern/Issue</th>
<th>Status of Consultation/Issue Resolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property Owners/Interest Holders</td>
<td>Property Owners and Interest Holders have several outstanding concerns. The list of concerns is not exhaustive:</td>
<td>Land Representatives and NextBridge continue to engage with concerned property owners and interest holders, including Crown interest holders and non-freehold dispositions to come to mutually acceptable arrangements. NextBridge has signed agreements with 74% of the private property owners and is undertaking Crown acquisition and permit acquisition during 2017 and 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ placement and location of temporary infrastructure on property;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ timing of construction;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ impacts to trapping and bear outfitters;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ impacts to SFLs and identification of areas of concern within respective FMU, and coordination of construction within the same;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ use of longitudinal access along the HONI row;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ final structure placement;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ final clearing requirements;</td>
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<td>✓ compensation;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>✓ forms of agreement;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ title issues;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ placement of permanent infrastructure overlapping existing aggregate permit sites; and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ impact to mining claims.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

MNRF = Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; EA = Environmental Assessment.

2.1.7 Ongoing Consultation Commitment

NextBridge will continue to engage stakeholders and other interested parties through regular, transparent, and open communication. NextBridge is planning to continue outreach activities through the EA Report review period and the construction and operation phases of the Project. Additional outreach is expected to include a Round Five of public Open Houses to coincide with commencement of construction in 2018. NextBridge representatives will continue to be available through a company website, toll-free phone number, and email address. Information and feedback collected during these future outreach activities will be used to plan and help mitigate local Project construction and operational effects and continue engagement with stakeholders in relation to the Project.

The relationship between NextBridge and property owners and interest holders will continue through Project development activities, construction, and operation, by way of the ongoing personal, one-window contact provided by land agents.

NextBridge plans to continue to support local community investment and review donation requests for the life of the Project. NextBridge also plans to continue to seek out and support community investment opportunities and initiatives with various organizations to assist in building and maintaining long-term collaborative relationships.
2.2 Indigenous Engagement and Consultation

NextBridge recognizes that Indigenous communities have specific rights that are constitutionally protected, and that Project development may adversely affect these rights. The duty to consult and, if necessary, accommodate, flows from the acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Treaty rights under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. This duty has been further defined by various Supreme Court of Canada decisions. While the duty to consult and accommodate rests with the Crown, in some cases procedural aspects of the duty to consult have been delegated to proponents. This is the case with the Project.

NextBridge acknowledges that consultation with Indigenous communities is one of the most important activities to be carried out during Project development, particularly during the EA process. Consultation helps to understand, identify, record, and mitigate identified and documented effects on or within Indigenous traditional lands. Using Indigenous input through Project planning and development is intended to help plan construction, select the route, and carry out maintenance activities in the manner that has the least overall impacts.

Activities that NextBridge has carried out, and will be carrying out, to fulfill the provincial EA process will adhere to the MOECC’s expectations for consultation as described in the Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MOECC 2014b). These activities have also included relationship-building activities that extend beyond the procedural requirements of consultation, as described in the Code of Practice, and are, therefore, called “engagement” activities.

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9 NextBridge uses the term Indigenous to collectively refer to First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples of Canada, while recognizing that this encompasses a multitude of unique and distinct cultures. The term Aboriginal also collectively refers to First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and is used in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Aboriginal is used in this document to refer to specific legal concepts (e.g., Aboriginal rights) or to documents that including this term as part of their title (e.g., Aboriginal Consultation Plan).
2.2.1 Indigenous Engagement Approach

NextBridge filed an Aboriginal Consultation Plan with the OEB in January 2014 (Appendix 2-I). This plan was created to guide the consultation and engagement activities with the 18 communities discussed in Section 2.2.2.

NextBridge’s approach for engaging Indigenous communities is based on the following guiding principles:

- **Understanding the Communities:**
  - NextBridge will collaborate with Indigenous (i.e., First Nation and Métis) communities to better understand their rights and asserted rights as well as their concerns for the people affected by NextBridge’s work in the areas where NextBridge will operate. NextBridge will show respect for traditional ways and land, cultural heritage resources, the environment, and traditional knowledge.

- **Commitment to Effective Policies and Procedures:**
  - NextBridge has strong, established and effective policies and procedures;
  - NextEra’s First Nation and Métis Relationship Policy;
  - Enbridge’s Indigenous Peoples Policy;

- **Communication and Transparency:**
  - NextBridge forms good working relationships through:
    - Open dialogue;
    - Communicating key project information and updates; and
    - Being attentive to the communities’ concerns about project impacts or questions about Project benefits.

All communities will be provided with information, and will be provided with the opportunity to engage in a direct dialogue, to allow both NextBridge and the community to understand if there will be any potential effects of the Project on their Aboriginal or treaty rights or interests.

As engagement continues, NextBridge expects that some Indigenous communities will take greater interest in the Project than others. Often, the extent of engagement sought by a community will depend upon a number of factors, including:

- **Proximity to the Proposed Project:** This can be true of long linear projects that are expected to have minimal, if any effects on air, water, or migratory species beyond the narrow Project footprint. NextBridge notes that the Project may affect the Michipicoten First Nation, Pays Plat First Nation (PPFN), Pic Mobert First Nation and Red Rock Indian Band (RRIB) by crossing their respective Reserves or lands currently in discussions for obtaining community land expansion.

- **Rights Claims of an Indigenous Community:** NextBridge will consider the Aboriginal and Treaty rights claimed by Indigenous communities and tailor its consultation efforts based on the potential effects of the Project on those rights.

- **Stated Interests of the Indigenous Community:** This may be expressed in meetings or in writing by an Indigenous community during the engagement process, or it may be a factor taken into account in a community’s Consultation Protocol or similar type of document.

- **Environmental Assessment Work:** During the work on the EA and participation by Indigenous communities in that work (e.g., traditional knowledge), further information was gained about both the Aboriginal rights, interests and traditional uses in the Project area, as well as the potential effects of the Project.
NextBridge intends to continually engage in good faith with Indigenous communities seeking to understand the Project, convey their views and concerns about the Project, and discuss appropriate mitigation or accommodation. At law (and per the Consultation Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] between NextBridge and the Crown), it is ultimately the Crown’s responsibility to assess the adequacy of consultation on rights-based impacts, as well as any necessary accommodation. Insofar as NextBridge consults on an interests basis during the EA process, it is for the MOECC to determine the adequacy of consultation in accordance with the Environmental Assessment Act (Government of Ontario 2003a).

### 2.2.2 Community Identification

In May 2011, the Ontario Ministry of Energy identified 18 Indigenous communities to be consulted with by the OPA (now the IESO), as the OPA was responsible for establishing the rationale, scope and timing of the Project prior to transmitter designation. In August 2013, NextBridge was identified as the designated transmitter for the Project. In November 2013, an MOU was signed between the Crown and NextBridge, which outlined the delegation of certain procedural aspects of Crown consultation and accommodation to NextBridge. This MOU identified the same 18 Indigenous communities (Table 2-7).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Nation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animbigoo Zaagi’ig Anishinaabek First Nation (Lake Nipigon Ojibway)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biinjitaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation (Rocky Bay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort William First Nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginoogaming First Nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Lake No. 58 First Nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michipicoten First Nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missanabie Cree First Nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ojibways of Batchewana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ojibways of Garden River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ojibways of Pic River (Heron Bay First Nation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Rock Indian Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pic Mobert First Nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pays Plat First Nation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Métis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greenstone Métis Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Sky Métis Independent Nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superior North Shore Métis Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay Métis Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ojibways of Pic River changed their name to Bigigtong Nishnaabeg in September 2015. Bigigtong Nishnaabeg requested that this name be used in the EA and all other references to this community will be under the name Bigigtong Nishnaabeg.

Note: With the exception of Bigigtong Nishnaabeg, other Indigenous community names have been kept consistent with those identified by the Ministry of Energy as requiring consultation for the Project in 2011 (NextBridge 2014). NextBridge recognizes that some communities may have changed their names in the intervening period.

Table 2-7: First Nation and Métis Communities Identified by the Ministry of Energy
2.2.3 Indigenous Engagement Process

The Indigenous engagement process for the Project involves timely, honest, and open dialogue between NextBridge representatives and community members, leadership and staff. The objective of engagement is to provide easily understandable information about the Project to the communities so that they can participate in determining what, if any, effects the Project will have on their community. At the same time, engagement provides an opportunity for NextBridge to collect community input to assist in Project planning and design.

NextBridge’s Indigenous engagement program generally followed the steps below:

- community identification (Section 2.2.2);
- sharing of Project information;
- identification of community questions, issues and concerns;
- responding to community questions, issues and concerns; and
- providing opportunities for the collection of traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional land and resource use (TLRU) information for incorporation in the EA Report and Project planning, as appropriate.

NextBridge recognizes that each of the identified communities has its own unique history, set of protocols, and ways of interacting and accomplishing goals. In addition to what meets each community’s needs, NextBridge has, and will continue to, provide opportunities for meaningful and respectful engagement, where appropriate, in the form of:

- disseminating Project information to Chiefs and Councils, and Métis leadership;
- arranging for Project information sessions for Chiefs and Councils, Métis leadership, youth, elders and/or Indigenous communities at large, by hosting forums; and
- facilitating Indigenous engagement in traditional knowledge assessments.

NextBridge employed multiple methods to engage communities, including Project announcements and notifications, attending and organizing staff and community meetings, involvement at public or community open houses and events, participation in environmental field work, and TK and TLRU programs. The following sections provide additional details about the types of methods implemented.

NextBridge has and will continue to work with each of the communities in the development of appropriate processes to make sure that each Indigenous community and its members has access to information concerning the Project in a form that is useful to them.

Of the communities identified by the Ministry of Energy, there is a subgroup of six First Nations that have formed a limited partnership ("Bamkushwada LP"). These communities are Fort William First Nation (FWFN), RRIB, PPFN, Pic Mobert First Nation, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and Michipicoten First Nation. These communities did not permit consultation activities to move forward until an economic participation deal had been finalized. An economic participation agreement was signed between these communities and NextBridge on June 15, 2017.

Each of these First Nations and NextBridge are pleased to confirm that these consultation activities have enhanced the First Nations’ understanding of the Project, its potential impacts and benefits, and has also enhanced NextBridge’s understanding of the concerns of these First Nations regarding their treaty and other rights in the Project lands, and other interests related to the Project. As a result of this positive dialogue, each of these First Nations have affirmed their support for NextBridge’s consultation interactions in respect of the Project and for NextBridge’s development of the Project and Project approvals, including the Project EA and the leave-to-
construction application to the Ontario Energy Board. NextBridge and the six Bamkushwada LP communities will continue to be respectful of each other's rights and interests, and will continue to engage and dialogue with each other and work cooperatively during the development, construction and operation of the Project.

2.2.4 Indigenous Engagement Methods

Identified Indigenous communities (Section 2.2.2) were contacted by NextBridge to provide Project information and updates. Several methods used were the same or similar to those described in the public engagement and consultation section; however, the timing of delivery often differed due to the specific needs and availability of Indigenous communities. Project contact specific to Indigenous communities was completed using various methods, details of which are provided in the following sections. Information of additional consultation methods that were available to any interested party, including Indigenous individuals or organization, is provided in Section 2.1.2.8.

2.2.4.1 Notices, Newsletters, and Update Letters

Indigenous communities were provided with notices announcing Project or regulatory milestones. Copies of notices prepared during the development of the EA Report are included in Appendices 2-VI and 2-VIII. Section 2.1.3.1 described the four notices that were developed and circulated during the development of the EA Report including:

- Notice of Commencement of Environmental Assessment and Public Open Houses – Round Two;
- Notice of Public Open Houses – Round Three;
- Notice of Submission of Draft Environmental Assessment Report; and
- Notice of Public Open Houses – Round Four.

Project Newsletters were also sent out with notices (Section 2.1.3.3). Newsletters were also distributed at in-person meetings, during public and Indigenous community Open Houses, and made available on the Project website. Issues 2 and 3 of the Project newsletter included sections regarding a Project update, Project summary, Project map, information on the route selection process, EA studies, opportunities for public input, required approvals, Indigenous engagement, land and property information, Project schedule, additional Project information resources, and information on how interested persons could get involved. Issue 4 of the Project newsletter included a Project summary, Project updates, opportunities for public input, including the schedule of round four public Open Houses and the anticipated Project schedule. A map of the preferred route was also presented. Copies of Issues 2, 3, and 4 of the Project newsletter are provided in Appendix 2-VI. All Project newsletters are also available on the Project website.

Project update letters were developed and distributed when important Project updates were identified. Copies of Project update letters are included in Appendix 2-VII.

Notices, newsletters, and update letters sent to Indigenous communities, including the dates mailed are summarized in Table 2-8. Additional issues of the Project newsletter and update letters may be developed as the Project moves into the construction and operation phases. A Notice of Submission of the EA Report will also be mailed to Indigenous communities in July 2017, informing that NextBridge has submitted the EA Report to the MOECC for review and approval, and that the EA Report is available for public review.
Table 2-8: Mailing Dates of Notices, Newsletters, and Update Letters to Indigenous Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materials Provided</th>
<th>Date Mailed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notice of Open Houses – Round Two</td>
<td>August 1, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Newsletter – Issue 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Update Letter informing of:</td>
<td>November 6, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms of Reference Approval;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario Power Authority and Ontario Energy Board Correspondence Regarding Project Schedule;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pukaskwa National Park; and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescheduling of the Third Round of Open Houses.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Update Letter informing of:</td>
<td>April 7, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised development schedule progress;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pukaskwa National Park study permits; and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Project Director.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notice of Public Open Houses – Round Three</td>
<td>March 28 or 29, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Newsletter – Issue 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Update Letter providing information on:</td>
<td>December 5, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>draft EA Report review;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loon Lake route refinement; and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Project Director.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notice of Submission of draft EA Report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notice of Public Open Houses – Round Four</td>
<td>January 23, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Newsletter – Issue 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.4.2 Indigenous Staff and Community Meetings

Meetings with Indigenous communities were held to provide Project information, discuss issues of concern, and to discuss to what extent, if any, the Project may potentially cause impacts to rights and interests, including traditional land uses, harvesting patterns, customs, practices and traditions (e.g., food harvesting, trapping, medicinal plant gathering, cultural activities) of the community members. NextBridge held meetings with staff, leadership and representatives of communities as well as attending community events and open houses with the larger community membership.

2.2.4.2.1 Indigenous Staff Meetings

Staff meetings are those that generally included community staff or representatives, with the intent to provide Project information and discuss key points of the engagement and consultation process (e.g., capacity funding, consultation protocols). Staff meetings also included EA workshops, where the goal was to provide an overview of the EA process with an emphasis on how the community could provide information and participate in the planning process. An EA workshop was held with FWFN, PPFN and RRIB on February 11, 2015 and technical briefings were held after the submission of the draft EA with multiple communities. The Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Record (Appendix 2-IX) provides further details about staff meetings and technical briefings. Slide panels presented at the February 11, 2015 EA workshop are included in Appendix 2-X. Slide panels presented at the 2017 technical briefings are included in Appendix 2-X.

2.2.4.2.2 Community Meetings and Events

Community meetings are those held with community representatives or membership. Community meetings included Open Houses where the goal was provide Project information and provide an opportunity for community members to express comments, raise concerns and ask questions directly to NextBridge. In addition to community meetings, NextBridge representatives also participated in community events where they could distribute Project information (e.g., job fairs). Open Houses followed a drop-in format that allowed attendees to participate and
gather information on their own schedule. Participants could view information display boards and were given
the opportunity to review maps of the Project and were encouraged to write notes and/or values on them.
Project materials, such as newsletters, frequently asked questions, and fact sheets (Section 2.2.4.1),
were available to take away. Copies of the fact sheets and frequently asked questions made available at
open houses are provided in Appendices 2-V-A, B and C. NextBridge staff were in attendance and were available
for attendees to ask questions or have one-on-one discussions.

Project overview panels were prepared for each round of Open Houses. The Project overview panels for
Indigenous Open Houses that occurred in 2017 are included as Appendix 2-X.

A summary of community meetings and events conducted at the time of draft EA Report finalization is provided in
Table 2-9. NextBridge anticipates further community meetings will occur after the submission of the EA Report.

Table 2-9: Indigenous Community Meetings or Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Name</th>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Materials Distributed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ani.mbíigoo Zaagi'gān Anishinaabek First Nation (Lake Nipigon Ojibway)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bigfígong Nishnaabeg</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>February 15, 2017</td>
<td>Refer to Appendix 2-X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binjítw aabík Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation (Rocky Bay)</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>October 21, 2014</td>
<td>Refer to Appendix 2-V-A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bingwí Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort William First Nation</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>February 10, 2015</td>
<td>Refer to Appendix 2-V-A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginoogaming First Nation</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>None to date</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Lake No. 58 First Nation</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>August 24, 2014</td>
<td>Refer to Appendix 2-V-A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michípícotin First Nation</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>October 22, 2014</td>
<td>Refer to Appendix 2-V-A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missanabie Cree First Nation</td>
<td>Job Fair</td>
<td>March 7, 2017</td>
<td>Refer to Appendix 2-X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ojibways of Batchewana</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>August 19, 2014</td>
<td>Refer to Appendix 2-V-A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ojibways of Garden River</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pays Plat First Nation</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>September 21, 2014</td>
<td>Refer to Appendix 2-V-A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pik Miebert First Nation</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>December 3, 2014</td>
<td>Refer to Appendix 2-V-A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Rock Indian Band</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>September 20, 2014</td>
<td>Refer to Appendix 2-V-A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis Nation of Ontario (representing Greenstone Métis Council, Superior North Shore Métis Council and Thunder Bay Métis Council)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Sky Métis Independent Nation</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Some communities conducted independent community meetings without NextBridge in attendance. These meetings are not reflected in this table.
n/a = not applicable.
Information shared by communities at open houses and events was collected and incorporated in Project planning and design, where appropriate.

2.2.4.3 **Indigenous Participation in Public Open Houses**

Indigenous community members and leadership were invited to attend the public open houses as described in Section 2.1.3.2. This invitation and participation was not intended to replace any individual engagement plans that NextBridge developed for each Indigenous community, such as Indigenous community-specific open houses. Invitations to public open houses were intended only to provide another opportunity for the sharing of Project information and for attendees to provide feedback and ask questions. Some members and representatives of Indigenous communities did attend the Open Houses, as recorded in Appendix 2-IX.

2.2.4.4 **Indigenous Observers in Environmental Field Work**

NextBridge employed Indigenous observers during geotechnical investigations (summer 2014) and environmental field studies (summer 2016) (outlined in Table 2-10 and Table 2-11). The observers assisted in collection and documentation of features of the socio-economic and biophysical environments, provided local knowledge that was helpful to field crews in locating survey areas, and fully participated in orientation and health and safety programs.

**Table 2-10: Indigenous Observers Participating in the Summer 2014 Geotechnical Investigations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michipicoten First Nation (1 Observer)</td>
<td>July 28, 2014 – Nov. 20, 2014 (Total hours worked – 318.5 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biigtigong Nishnaabeg (2 Observers)</td>
<td>July 28, 2014 – Aug. 7, 2014 (Total hours worked – 81 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 28, 2014 – Aug. 7, 2014 (Total hours worked – 75.5 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pays Plat First Nation (2 Observers)</td>
<td>July 28, 2014 – Aug. 20, 2014 (Total hours worked – 111 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 28, 2014 – Dec. 8, 2014 (Total hours worked – 212.5 hours)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2-11: Indigenous Observers Participating in the Summer and Fall 2016 Environmental Field Studies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fort William First Nation (1 Observer)</td>
<td>Breeding Bird Survey</td>
<td>June 18, 2016 (Total hours worked – 11 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vegetation Survey</td>
<td>July 21, 2016 (Total hours worked – 11 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visual Assessment</td>
<td>July 7, 15, 2016 (Total hours worked – 8 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pays Plat First Nation (1 Observer)</td>
<td>Breeding Bird Survey</td>
<td>June 20, 2016 (Total hours worked – 9 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vegetation Survey</td>
<td>July 18, 19, 20, 2016 (Total hours worked – 32 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pic Mobert First Nation (2 Observers)</td>
<td>Breeding Bird Survey</td>
<td>June 21, 22, 23, 24, 2016 (Total hours worked – 38 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vegetation Survey</td>
<td>July 19, 20, 21, 2016 (Total hours worked – 36 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visual Assessment</td>
<td>July 25, 26, 27, 2016 (Total hours worked – 42 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Rock Indian Band (1 Observer)</td>
<td>Cultural Heritage Survey</td>
<td>November 16, 17, 2016 (Total hours worked – 24 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Breeding Bird Survey</td>
<td>June 19, 2016 (Total hours worked – 11 hours)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NextBridge invited members of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, Fort William First Nation, Michipicoten First Nation, Pays Plat First Nation, Pic Mobert First Nation and Red Rock Indian Band to a kick-off meeting for the 2017 archaeology and environmental surveys. Community monitors and coordinators were present to listen to archaeology and environmental leads explain the health and safety requirements for conducting surveys, general timelines for surveys and protocols to follow regarding notification, mobilization and communication between the community, technical consultants and the Project. NextBridge is anticipating participation from these communities on 2017 surveys.

2.2.4.5 Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information

NextBridge believes that active engagement of those Indigenous communities that hold TK and TLRU information about the Project area is important to understand the potential effects of the Project and develop effective mitigation and strategies to reduce the potential for adverse effects. NextBridge has worked with the communities to identify TK/TLRU information and to mitigate and/or avoid potential impacts that arise from routing, construction, and operations. NextBridge recognizes that some communities may consider TLRU and TK information as confidential and in some cases, NextBridge entered into funding and/or data sharing agreements that contained specific confidentiality clauses.

NextBridge is working with Indigenous communities to help define the process to identify, collect, and evaluate existing TK and TLRU information and potentially develop additional TK and TLRU information relating to the Project area. Communities were offered opportunities to share relevant data with NextBridge through agreements. At the time of finalization of the draft EA Report, NextBridge had signed Capacity Funding Agreements with 16 of the 18 communities, while the remaining two communities declined an offer to enter into an agreement. These agreements provide funding for communities for such activities as preparing TLRU reports and community meetings. At the time of finalization of the EA Report, NextBridge had received Project-specific reports prepared independently by, or for, three Indigenous communities. Two communities had provided Project-specific TLRU Geographic Information System (GIS) data for consideration in the EA Report and three communities provided and allowed for consideration of previously collected TLRU GIS data in the EA Report. One additional community provided maps of TLRU data in relation to the Project footprint. The status of TK and TLRU data gathering from Indigenous communities is provided in Table 2-12.

Table 2-12: Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land and Resource Use Data Collection From Indigenous Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Name</th>
<th>Capacity Funding Agreement</th>
<th>Data Collection Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>No information received to date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Lake Nipigon Ojibway)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biigtigong Nishnaabeg</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>Cultural data assessment map was provided to NextBridge on March 24, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biinjitiw aabik Zaaging Anishinaabek</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>No information received to date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Rocky Bay)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bingw i Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation)</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>No information received to date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort William First Nation</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>Independently conducted community mapping and interviews are underway. NextBridge expects to receive this information in July 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginoogaming First Nation</td>
<td>Declined</td>
<td>No information received to date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Lake No. 58 First Nation</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>Interim report provided to NextBridge on May 27, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michipicoten First Nation</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>Previously collected TLRU GIS data have been provided to NextBridge in 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2-12: Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land and Resource Use Data Collection From Indigenous Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Name</th>
<th>Capacity Funding Agreement</th>
<th>Data Collection Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missanabie Cree First Nation</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>Previously collected TLRU GIS data have been provided to NextBridge on June 12, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ojibways of Batchewana</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>NextBridge is currently in discussions with Ojibways of Batchewana to fund TLU/TEK data gathering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ojibways of Garden River</td>
<td>Declined</td>
<td>No information received to date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pays Plat First Nation</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>Previously-collected TLRU GIS data have been provided to NextBridge on May 17, 2016. Independently conducted community mapping and interviews are underway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pic Mobert First Nation</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>Independently conducted community mapping and interviews are underway. Pic Mobert First Nation provided their land and occupancy maps to NextBridge on March 17, 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Rock Indian Band</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>Independently conducted community mapping and interviews are underway. NextBridge received an interim report on May 24, 2016.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis Nation of Ontario (representing Greenstone Métis Council, Superior North Shore Métis Council and Thunder Bay Métis Council)</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>The MNO TLRU study was received by NextBridge on November 25, 2016. A secondary report was received by NextBridge on March 31, 2017 (with a revised version received on June 15, 2017).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Sky Métis Independent Nation</td>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>No information received to date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GIS = Geographic Information System; TLRU = Traditional Land and Resource Use.

Additional details for available TLRU information and a summary of the effects of the Project on Indigenous current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes for potentially affected First Nation and Métis communities are provided in Section 17.

The continued engagement and consultation with potentially affected Indigenous communities through the life of the Project will provide an opportunity for communities to identify additional land and resource use sites that have the potential to be affected by the Project. NextBridge will review and consider additional data or information submitted by Indigenous communities during Project planning and will discuss appropriate mitigation measures for newly identified land or resource use sites with the identifying Indigenous community. The location of the land and resource use site and associated mitigation will be added to the Project environmental dataset and will be included on updates to the Environmental Protection Plan, Environmental Alignment Sheets, and Access and Construction Environmental Maps with site-specific or non-standard mitigation measures, as required.
2.2.5 Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Results and Summary of Community Issues and Concerns during Preparation of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report

The details of engagement activities are summarized by Indigenous community. Supporting records are provided in the following sections and in the Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Record (Appendix 2-IX).

2.2.5.1 Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation (Lake Nipigon Ojibway)

Since June 4, 2014, NextBridge has met with community staff and leadership to provide updates on the Project. At the time of finalization of the EA Report, NextBridge representatives had conducted seven in-person meetings with Animbiigoo Zaagi’igan Anishinaabek First Nation (AZA) representatives. NextBridge provided capacity funding to AZA to support Project consultation and engagement in the form of a duly executed agreement to hold meetings and share information. The staff and leadership opted to hold meetings with community members without NextBridge’s presence and provided feedback to NextBridge about these meetings. One independent community meeting has been completed to date. Further Project communication with AZA has been conducted through emails, mail-outs, and phone calls.

The record of engagement and consultation with AZA is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-1. A summary of key issues and concerns AZA has communicated to NextBridge to date is provided in Table 2-13.
### Table 2-13: Animiibiiqoo Zaagi’igan Anishinaabek First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Potential for economic opportunities, training and jobs from the Project | December 6, 2013     | NextBridge will implement the following measures to support economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and individuals (Section 18.6):  
- Support local hiring of qualified personnel where appropriate  
- Support local and regional procurement where practicable  
- NextBridge intends to prioritize employment opportunities for local qualified Indigenous candidates  
- NextBridge will communicate employment requirements to Indigenous communities in the labour market and economic development LSA  

| Potential for noise to result from the Project         | March 2, 2015        | The potential for Project noise effects is addressed in Section 11 of the EA Report (Acoustic Environment). No primary pathways were identified for the acoustic environment (Section 11.6).  
- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential noise from the Project during construction or operations:  
  - Near residential and recreational areas, parks or campsites, schedule noisy activities in accordance with municipal bylaws or MDECC Noise Guideline NPC-300 (MDECC 2013). The Owner will apply best efforts to work with the MNRF to plan construction around the peak park season, generally from June to September.  
  - Construction activities will occur during the daytime period from 07:00 to 19:00. In the event construction will occur beyond the daytime period, NextBridge will re-evaluate the potential Project-related effects and if required, review mitigation requirements.  
  - Ensure that noise abatement equipment on machinery is properly maintained and in good working order.  
  - Design routes to minimize reversing where practicable, which is expected to reduce noise from backup beepers.  
  - Notify Indigenous communities of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction.  
  - Where reasonable and practicable, vehicles and equipment will be turned off when not in use, unless weather and/or safety conditions dictate the need for them to remain turned on and in a safe operating condition.  
  - Address noise concerns as they arise through a noise complaint process.  
  - Operate equipment such that impulsive noises are minimized where feasible.  

| Need for Project information to be provided in a non-technical nature | March 2, 2015        | The Community Consultation Coordinator provided clarifying responses to all questions, in non-technical terms that satisfied members.  

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2-45
Table 2-13: Animiibiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Visual aspects of the Project           | March 2, 2015      | - The potential for the Project to result in changes to the visual environment is addressed in Section 20 of the EA Report. Visual impact ratings a key vew points were rated from low to moderate (Section 20.7.3.3).
- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on the visual environment from the Project during construction or operations:
  - Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.
  - Use of lattice transmission structures.
  - Site preferred route ROW to take advantage of existing screening offered by topography and/or vegetation.
  - Vegetation clearing around a canoe route will be limited to where necessary for safety and compatible vegetation (e.g., below 2 m in height) will be retained where practicable to meet regulatory requirements and minimize visual evidence of disturbance from activities.
  - Consider adjusting locations of structures along the preferred route ROW to reduce effects on visual quality, where possible.
  - Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.
  - Monitor and manage reclamation concerns, including but not limited to soil erosion, re-vegetation, slope stability, and weeds.
  - Implement remedial measures if reclamation does not return disturbed areas back to pre-existing conditions, where reasonably practicable, while maintaining access and appropriate drainage and abiding by operation and maintenance standards. |
| New land disturbance required for the Project | March 2, 2015      | The Project has been designed to parallel existing linear disturbances, where possible, to reduce the need for new disturbance. Existing roads and trails will be where feasible.                                                                                                                                                                           |
### Table 2-13: Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Protection of birch stands and "chaga" | March 21, 2017 | - The potential for the Project to result in changes to vegetation is addressed in Section 12 of the EA Report. Net effects on upland ecosystems, riparian ecosystems and wetland ecosystems are predicted to not significant.  
- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on the vegetation and wetlands from the Project during construction and operations:  
  - Selective clearing and retention of shrub vegetation, trees, wildlife trees, and coarse woody debris in environmentally sensitive areas as much as practicable.  
  - Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.  
  - Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps. The Owner will confirm the accuracy of the site-specific features locations and associated setbacks.  
  - Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.  
  - On provincial Crown land, allow for natural regeneration or use certified native seed in consultation with appropriate Land Administrator. Natural recovery is the preferred method of reclamation on level terrain where erosion is not expected.  
  - The Contractor will develop a Weed Management Plan for review and approval by the Owner that describes the appropriate management of construction materials and equipment to prevent the infiltration and spread of weeds.  
- NextBridge will discuss the potential need for additional mitigation with AZA during ongoing consultation and engagement. NextBridge will also notify Indigenous communities of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction. |

LSA = Local Study Area; EA = Environmental Assessment; MOECC = Ministry of Environment and Climate Change; MNRF = Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; ROW = right-of-way; AZA = Animbiigoo Zaagi’igan Anishinaabek First Nation.
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize another community meeting, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with AZA and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

2.2.5.2 Biigtigong Nishnaabeg

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg is a member of Bamkushwada LP, the group of six First Nations with whom NextBridge has been negotiating economic participation in the Project. These communities did not permit consultation activities to move forward until an economic participation deal had been finalized. An economic participation agreement was signed between these communities and NextBridge on June 15, 2017.

Each of these First Nations and NextBridge are pleased to confirm that these consultation activities have enhanced the First Nations’ understanding of the Project, its potential impacts and benefits, and has also enhanced NextBridge’s understanding of the concerns of the First Nations regarding their treaty and other rights in the Project lands, and other interests related to the Project. As a result of this positive dialogue, each of these First Nations have affirmed their support for NextBridge’s consultation interactions in respect of the Project and for NextBridge’s development of the Project and Project approvals, including the Project EA and the leave-to-construction application to the Ontario Energy Board. NextBridge and the six Bamkushwada LP communities will continue to be respectful of each other’s rights and interests, and will continue to engage and dialogue with each other and work cooperatively during the development, construction and operation of the Project.

Since April 2014, NextBridge has repeatedly met with community staff and leadership to provide updates on the Project and communicated Project information through phone calls, emails and by mail. At the time of finalization of the EA Report, NextBridge had completed five in-person meetings with Biigtigong Nishnaabeg representatives. NextBridge has also conducted an open house on February 15, 2017, that was attended by approximately 70 Biigtigong Nishnaabeg community members.

NextBridge has provided capacity funding to the Biigtigong Nishnaabeg in the form of an executed agreement to hold meetings and share information. Two members of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg also acted as Indigenous Observers during the summer 2014 geotechnical investigations (Section 2.2.4.4). Biigtigong Nishnaabeg provided NextBridge with maps of their cultural use areas within 300 m of the October 19, 2016, preferred route ROW. This information has been incorporated into the Indigenous Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes assessment of the EA Report (Section 17).

The record of consultation and engagement with the Biigtigong Nishnaabeg is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-2. A summary of key issues and concerns expressed by Biigtigong Nishnaabeg during Project communication to date is provided in Table 2-14.
## Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potential for the Project to result in changes to local electricity costs</td>
<td>July 7, 2014</td>
<td>NextBridge immediately responded and provided information about the electricity rate making process and how it affects electricity bills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerns related to the data collection methods for the community assets inventory and community profile</td>
<td>September 16, 2014</td>
<td>Addressed through signing of the capacity funding agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerns with the proposed route going around Pukaskwa National Park because Parks Canada has not consulted the community</td>
<td>April 1, 2016</td>
<td>Parks Canada has determined that it is not prepared to authorize access to study a new transmission line through Pukaskwa National Park. The alternative around the park that is adjacent to a 115 kV transmission line and logging roads and crosses a cutover area is considered the best feasible alternative and, therefore, forms part of the preliminary preferred route.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Knowledge data confidentiality concerns</td>
<td>April 1, 2016, February 15, 2017</td>
<td>Addressed through signing of the capacity funding agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pic River First Nation would like input on which access roads will remain after construction and which existing roads will be upgraded</td>
<td>February 15, 2017</td>
<td>NextBridge is committed to ongoing discussions regarding road access and road management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerns regarding vegetation spraying and recommended that mechanical removal of vegetation is conducted instead</td>
<td>February 15, 2017</td>
<td>- The contractor will develop a Herbicide Management Plan that describes the storing, mixing, handling, and disposing of unused herbicides prior to construction of the Project for implementation during the operation phase. Herbicides will be applied under the direction of a provincially licensed applicator. The general application of herbicide near rare plants or rare ecological communities will be restricted by using spot spraying, wicking, mowing, or hand-picking for weed control in these areas (Section 12.6).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse effects resulting from herbicide use:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Prohibit the use of herbicides within the 30 m water body buffer unless the herbicide application is conducted by ground application equipment or otherwise approved by the relevant regulatory agency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Storage, handling, and application of herbicide will comply with the Ontario Clean Water Act. Do not use herbicides within 100 m of identified wells.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2-14: Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Concerns about herbicide application affecting fish and water bodies due to run-off     | February 15, 2017  | The potential for contamination of surface water through washoff of organic debris and chemical constituents into nearby water bodies was assessed in Section 7 of the EA report. No net effects on surface water quality are expected as a result of vegetation maintenance activities during Project operation with the implementation of the following mitigation measures:  
  ■ Allow compatible vegetation in the ROW to grow back to a maximum height of 2 m.  
  ■ Prohibit the use of herbicides within the 30 m water body buffer unless the herbicide application is conducted by ground application equipment or otherwise approved by the relevant regulatory agency.  
  ■ Chemical methods will be employed in compliance with applicable legislation and regulations.  
  ■ The merchantable timber will be winched outside the 30 m water body buffer.  
  ■ Immediately remove trees, debris or soil inadvertently deposited below the high watermark of water bodies to minimize disturbance to the bed and banks. |
| The community would like notification when helicopters will be used for the Project so that it does not interfere with harvesting | February 15, 2017  | NextBridge will discuss the potential for additional mitigation measures related to this concern with Biigtigong Nishnaabeg during ongoing consultation and engagement. |
| Trappers requested a thank you and recognition ceremony prior to construction           | February 15, 2017  | NextBridge is committed to discussing recognition of land users with Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.                                                            |
Table 2-14: Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Concerns about the potential for the Project to affect bird migrations | February 15, 2017  | The potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat are discussed in Section 14 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including birds (Section 14.6):  
  - Bird flight diverters and perch discouragers will be installed on the transmission line in areas of concern (e.g., near water bodies known to represent staging areas).  
  - Avoid construction during a wildlife RAP, migratory bird nesting period (April 15 to August 30), or fish and fish habitat restricted activity timing window (EPP - Appendix J). If constructing during a RAP, restricted activity timing window or within a setback cannot be avoided, notify the Owner as soon as possible. A resource specialist may need to survey the area for sensitive wildlife and if sensitive features are identified, additional mitigation may be developed by the Owner. Work may not be conducted during the RAP, restricted activity timing window, or within a setback unless approval is obtained from the appropriate regulatory agencies, where required.  
  - If vegetation removal cannot be avoided during the nesting period (April 15 to August 30) then implement the procedures in the Nest Sweep Protocol (Appendix K).  
  - Similar measures to the procedures in the Nest Sweep Protocol (Appendix 4-II) will be taken for vegetation removal during routine preferred route ROW maintenance during the operation phase of the Project.  
  - Industry standards to avoid electrocutions have been incorporated in tower design.  
  - Implementation of the air quality and dust control mitigation measures presented in Section 9.6 of the EA Report.  
  - Vehicles will not exceed speed limits established by the Owner and will lower speeds in specific conditions such as areas of high erosion hazard. Clearly mark speed limits along the access roads and travel lane as required. |
| Recommendation to hire Biigtigong Nishnaabeg monitors for permitting and construction work | February 15, 2017  | NextBridge invited Biigtigong Nishnaabeg to attend a 2017 field-survey “kick-off” in the City of Thunder Bay on June 5, 2017, to provide information related to field-survey monitoring opportunities. |
| Concerns about the durability of guy wires                    | February 15, 2017  | Guy wires will be manufactured and tested in accordance with applicable codes and standards (ASTM and CSA) for the intended application. They will be handled and installed by skilled craftsmen following the best practice of the industry. The specified guy wires are zinc-coated steel, rated to operate correctly for ambient temperatures between -50 and +50 degrees Celsius. |
| What happens to surplus merchantable timber                    | February 15, 2017  | The local forest company in the area with the forest license and the property owner will have the first opportunity to collect timber. NextBridge can discuss the possibility of the community having access to the timber if the forestry licence operation and property owner are not interested in the timber. |

EA = Environmental Assessment; ROW = right-of-way; RAP = Restricted Activity Period.
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize additional community meetings, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

2.2.5.3 Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation (Rocky Bay)

Since November 2013, NextBridge has met with community staff and leadership to provide updates on the Project. At the time of finalization of the EA Report, NextBridge had conducted eight formal in-person meetings with representatives of Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation (BZA). NextBridge provided capacity funding in the form of an executed agreement with the BZA to support meetings and share information with the community. NextBridge representatives participated in two open houses with community members on October 21, 2014, in the City of Thunder Bay and October 23, 2014, at the Rocky Bay 1 Reserve. Approximately 25 and 40 community members attended these open houses, respectively. Further Project communication with BZA has been conducted through public open houses, emails, mail-outs, and phone calls. The record of consultation and engagement with BZA is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-3. And a summary of key issues and concerns BZA has communicated to NextBridge to date is provided in Table 2-15.
Table 2-15: Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Need for community to receive economic and employment opportunities from the Project</td>
<td>December 19, 2013</td>
<td>NextBridge will implement the following measures to support economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and individuals (Section 18.6):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>■ Support local hiring of qualified personnel where appropriate</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>■ Support local and regional procurement where practicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>■ NextBridge intends to prioritize employment opportunities for local qualified Indigenous candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>■ NextBridge will communicate employment requirements to Indigenous communities in the labour market and economic development LSA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerns regarding Stage 1 archaeological survey methodology and interest in participation in Stage 2 archaeological survey</td>
<td>January 28, 2016</td>
<td>NextBridge responded to BZA’s concern in a letter dated February 5, 2016. This letter confirmed that NextBridge shares BZA’s view that future archaeological studies on the route should include a culturally respectful approach and offered to have their archaeology consultants meet to discuss the results of the Stage 1 archaeological assessment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LSA = Local Study Area; BZA = Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation.
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize additional community meetings, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with BZA and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

### 2.2.5.4 Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation)

The record of consultation and engagement with Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (BNA) is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-4. Since November 2013, NextBridge has met with BNA community staff and leadership to provide updates on the Project. At the time of finalization of the EA Report, NextBridge and BNA had met in-person for six formal meetings. Further Project communication between NextBridge and BNA has been conducted through public open house, emails, mail-outs, and phone calls.

NextBridge provided capacity funding in the form of an executed agreement with BNA to support Project engagement, including meetings and the sharing of Project information. To date, no community meetings have been completed with BNA membership.

A summary of key issues and concerns BNA has raised to NextBridge to date is provided in Table 2-16.
Table 2-16: Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Concern over potential herbicide use and a request to use manual vegetation control methods as much as possible | March 12, 2014     | - The contractor will develop an Herbicide Management Plan that describes the storing, mixing, handling, and disposing of unused herbicides prior to construction of the Project for implementation during the operation phase. Herbicides will be applied under the direction of a provincially licensed applicator. The general application of herbicide near rare plants or rare ecological communities will be restricted by using spot spraying, wicking, mowing, or hand-picking for weed control in these areas (Section 12.6).  
- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse effects resulting from herbicide use:
  - Prohibit the use of herbicides within the 30 m water body buffer unless the herbicide application is conducted by ground application equipment or otherwise approved by the relevant regulatory agency.  
  - Storage, handling, and application of herbicide will comply with the Ontario Clean Water Act. Do not use herbicides within 100 m of identified wells. |
| Interested in economic opportunities arising from the Project                           | March 12, 2014     | - NextBridge will implement the following measures to support economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and individuals (Section 18.6):
  - Support local hiring of qualified personnel where appropriate  
  - Support local and regional procurement where practicable  
  - NextBridge intends to prioritize employment opportunities for local qualified Indigenous candidates  
  - NextBridge will communicate employment requirements to Indigenous communities in the labour market and economic development LSA |

LSA = Local Study Area.
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize a community meeting, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with BNA and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

2.2.5.5 Fort William First Nation

Fort William First Nation is a member of Bamkushwada LP, the group of six First Nation communities with whom NextBridge has been negotiating economic participation in the Project. These communities did not permit consultation activities to move forward until an economic participation deal had been finalized. An economic participation agreement was signed between these communities and NextBridge on June 15, 2017.

Each of these First Nations and NextBridge are pleased to confirm that these consultation activities have enhanced the First Nations’ understanding of the Project, its potential impacts and benefits, and has also enhanced NextBridge’s understanding of the concerns of the First Nations regarding their treaty and other rights in the Project lands, and other interests related to the Project. As a result of this positive dialogue, each of these First Nations have affirmed their support for NextBridge’s consultation interactions in respect of the Project and for NextBridge’s development of the Project and Project approvals, including the Project EA and the leave-to-construction application to the Ontario Energy Board. NextBridge and the six Bamkushwada LP communities will continue to be respectful of each other’s rights and interests, and will continue to engage and dialogue with each other and work cooperatively during the development, construction and operation of the Project.

Throughout the Project development phase NextBridge has repeatedly met with community staff and leadership to provide updates on the Project and has communicated Project information through phone calls, emails, and by mail. At the time of finalization of the EA Report, NextBridge had met with FWFN representatives 20 times. The record of consultation and engagement with FWFN is provided in Appendix 2-Ix, Table 2-Ix-5.

NextBridge provided capacity funding to support Project engagement activities in the form of a duly executed agreement with FWFN. Fort William First Nation hired a consultant to gather information from community members and the consultant, along with a FWFN staff member, attended an EA workshop on February 11, 2015 hosted by NextBridge representatives. NextBridge also participated in two Project open houses on the Fort William 52 Reserve on February 10, 2015, and January 30, 2017, that were attended by five and 29 community members, respectively. A member from FWFN was also hired as an Indigenous Observer in the breeding bird, vegetation, and Loon Lake visual assessment field studies as outlined in Section 2.2.2.4.

A summary of key issues and concerns raised by FWFN to date is provided in Table 2-17.
Table 2-17: Fort William First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Need for a capacity agreement to support engagement and consultation work and build capacity in the community</td>
<td>December 11, 2013</td>
<td>NextBridge has provided capacity funding to Fort William First Nation to support Project engagement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Potential economic and employment opportunities resulting from the Project              | December 2, 2013 January 13, 2014 January 30, 2017 January 30, 2017 April 18, 2016 | NextBridge will implement the following measures to support economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and individuals (Section 18.6):  
  - Support local hiring of qualified personnel where appropriate  
  - Support local and regional procurement where practicable  
  - NextBridge intends to prioritize employment opportunities for local qualified Indigenous candidates  
  - NextBridge will communicate employment requirements to Indigenous communities in the labour market and economic development LSA |
| Use of recreational vehicles (e.g., quads) by Project workers during time off          | March 6, 2017                           | Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by Project personnel is prohibited in the Project footprint.                                                   |
| Project workers fishing during time off                                                 | March 6, 2017                           | Hunting and fishing on the Project footprint by Project personnel is prohibited.                                                                     |

LSA = Local Study Area.
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize additional community meetings, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with FWFN and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

2.2.5.6 Ginoogaming First Nation

Since November 2013, NextBridge has continuously communicated with Ginoogaming First Nation community staff and leadership to provide updates on the Project. At the time of finalization of the EA Report, this included one in-person meeting and multiple emails, phone calls and by mail. The record of consultation and engagement with Ginoogaming First Nation is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-6.

A summary of key issues and concerns Ginoogaming First Nation has communicated to NextBridge to date is provided in Table 2-18.
### Table 2-18: Ginoogaming First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concerns regarding electricity planning for the Ring of Fire</td>
<td>February 24, 2014</td>
<td>NextBridge immediately responded to Ginoogaming First Nation that the Project is separate from planning related to the Ring of Fire.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To date, the community has not expressed interest in engaging with NextBridge on the Project. NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize a community meeting, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with Ginoogaming First Nation and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

2.2.5.7 Long Lake No. 58 First Nation

The record of consultation and engagement with Long Lake No. 58 First Nation is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-7. Since November 2013, NextBridge has met with community staff, membership, and leadership to provide updates on the Project. At the time of finalization of the EA Report, this included six in-person meetings and multiple phone calls, emails and by mail. NextBridge provided capacity funding in the form of an executed agreement with Long Lake No. 58 First Nation to support meetings and share information with the community.

Two community open house meetings took place where NextBridge representatives were also in attendance. The first open house was held in the City of Thunder Bay on August 24, 2014, and had 33 Long Lake No. 58 First Nation members in attendance. The second open house was held on the Long Lake 58 Reserve on October 22, 2014 and had 34 members in attendance, including members of Chief and Council. A final report was provided to NextBridge on November 10, 2014, that summarized issues raised at these events. NextBridge also supported Long Lake No. 58 First Nation in the completion of an independent, Project-specific Traditional Knowledge Assessment. This assessment relied on the results of the two community meetings described above, additional community meetings, individual interviews and community events where NextBridge representatives were not in attendance. The community provided NextBridge with an interim report that provided the results of these interviews on May 27, 2015. Information from these reports has been incorporated, where appropriate, into the Indigenous Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes section of the EA Report (Section 17) and into the summary list of key issues and concerns, below.

A summary of key issues and concerns Long Lake No. 58 First Nation has communicated to NextBridge to date is provided in Table 2-19.
Table 2-19: Long Lake No. 58 First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Need for the community to receive economic benefits and employment opportunities from the Project | December 12, 2013 January 17, 2014 February 27, 2014 November 10, 2014 | ▶ NextBridge will implement the following measures to support economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and individuals (Section 18.6):  
  ❏ Support local hiring of qualified personnel where appropriate  
  ❏ Support local and regional procurement where practicable  
  ❏ NextBridge intends to prioritize employment opportunities for local qualified Indigenous candidates  
  ▶ NextBridge will communicate employment requirements to Indigenous communities in the labour market and economic development LSA |
| Short Project schedules and capacity constraints                                           | December 12, 2013 February 27, 2014 April 16, 2014 | NextBridge has provided capacity funding to Long Lake No. 58 First Nation to support Project engagement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Potential for environmental impacts                                                      | February 27, 2014                       | The EA Report is designed to identify and assess environmental effects that may result from the Project and to establish potential mitigation measures to reduce potential effects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Potential effects on Aboriginal rights                                                    | February 27, 2014                       | Potential effects on Indigenous current land and resource use are assessed in Section 17 of the EA Report. This includes potential effects on First Nation wildlife harvesting, fishing, plant gathering activities and the use of culturally important sites and areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Concerns regarding confidentiality of community information                               | April 11, 2014                          | Addressed through signing of the capacity funding agreement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Concerns regarding the potential for fuels, construction materials, silt, and disturbed soils to enter water bodies | November 10, 2014                       | ▶ Potential effects on surface water are assessed in Section 7 of the EA Report. No primary effect pathways were identified for surface water as a result of the Project.  
  ▶ NextBridge will implement the following measures to reduce the potential for adverse effects on water bodies resulting from fuels (Section 7.6):  
  ❏ The transportation, storage, and handling of fuel will be in compliance with the Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000.  
  ❏ Fuel and hazardous materials will be transported in approved containers in licensed vehicles.  
  ❏ Isolate fuel storage tanks with a secondary containment tub to prevent fuels from escaping.  
  ❏ Re-fuelling or equipment maintenance activities are not to occur within 100 m of a water body. If re-fuelling within 100 m of a water body cannot be avoided, the Contractor is to provide and implement a spill prevention plan.  
  ❏ Machinery and equipment will be inspected for leaks routinely throughout the duration of construction.  
  ❏ Machinery is to arrive on site in a clean condition in accordance with the Clean Equipment Protocol for Industry (Halloran et al. 2013) and is to be maintained free of fluid leaks.  
  ❏ Provide adequate supply of spill prevention and emergency response equipment on site at all times. The Spill Prevention and Response Plan (Appendix 4-II, Section 6.1) will be adhered to if any spills occur. |
Table 2-19: Long Lake No. 58 First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ The Contractor will develop an Environmental Emergency Response Plan for review and approval by the Owner that describes response procedures to potential environmental incidents or emergencies (e.g., spills, fire, erosion or sedimentation), clearly indicates responsibilities for communication and reporting, and provides contact names and details for individuals to be contacted in case of emergency.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Hazardous materials will be transported in approved containers in licensed vehicles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ NextBridge will implement the following measures to reduce the potential for adverse effects on water bodies resulting from construction materials (Section 7.6):</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ The Contractor will develop a Waste Management Plan for review and approval by the Owner, that describes the appropriate management of waste, including:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- construction-related garbage, debris, and surplus materials,</td>
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<tr>
<td>- hazardous materials such as used oil, filter and grease cartridges, lubrication containers, and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- domestic garbage and camp waste (i.e., food and grey water).</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ NextBridge will implement the following measures to reduce the potential for adverse effects on water bodies resulting from silt and disturbed soils (Section 7.6):</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ If additional laydown yards, staging areas and camps are required, these will be located within previously disturbed areas and/or at reasonably flat with stable soil sites, wherever practicable.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Locate off-ROW workspaces outside the 30 m water body buffer, where practicable. If a water body is located within the boundary of an off-ROW workspace, Project activities will not occur within the 30 m water body buffer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Immediately remove trees, debris, or soil inadvertently deposited below the high watermark of water bodies to minimize disturbance to the bed and banks.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Install, monitor, and manage appropriate erosion and sedimentation control measures to minimize or avoid sediment mobilization from the disturbed area to drainages, or water bodies. Adequate and appropriate erosion and sedimentation control materials shall be on site and available prior to commencement of construction.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Table 2-19: Long Lake No. 58 First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Potential effects on water bodies, particularly those water bodies of significance to Long Lake No. 58 First Nation that flow out of Long Lake and into Lake Superior, and the need for adequate mitigation measures to address these potential effects | November 10, 2014 | ■ Potential effects on surface water are assessed in Section 7 of the EA report. No primary effect pathways were identified for surface water as a result of the Project.  
■ NextBridge will implement the following measures to reduce the potential for adverse effects on water bodies (Section 7.6):  
  ▪ If water taking is required for the purposes of construction and/or water supply, register the activity on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry or obtain a permit to take water from the MOECC as appropriate.  
  ▪ Water body crossings will be constructed in compliance with LRCA, DFO and/or MNRF regulatory permits and approvals (Table 1-1).  
  ▪ Follow applicable and feasible measures from MNRF’s *Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings* (MNR 1990), and *Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales* (MNR 2010a) and its associated *Background Rationale* document (MNR 2010b).  
  ▪ Remove temporary water body crossing structures (if constructed), restore and stabilize water body banks, and other disturbed areas when the crossing is no longer required.  
  ▪ Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8. |
| Project delays proposed by the OPA                                                      | November 10, 2014 | This concern is directed to the OPA                                                                                                                                                                                  |
## Table 2-19: Long Lake No. 58 First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Potential for disruption of game and related hunting and trapping success | May 27, 2015 | ■ Potential effects on Indigenous current land and resource use are assessed in Section 17 of the EA Report.  
■ NextBridge will implement the following measures to reduce the potential for adverse effects on Indigenous current land and resource use, which includes hunting and trapping (Section 17.6):  
  ▪ Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.  
  ▪ Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
  ▪ Hunting and fishing on the Project Site by Project personnel is prohibited.  
  ▪ Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by Project personnel is prohibited in the Project Site.  
  ▪ Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.  
  ▪ Limit public access by installing signage or gates on access roads where permissible by MNRF.  
  ▪ Notify Indigenous communities of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction.  
  ▪ Destruction or collection of Indigenous land and resource use sites (e.g., cultural site, camp, or trapline equipment) by Project personnel is prohibited.  
  ▪ In the event that a previously unidentified Indigenous land and resource use site is suspected or encountered during construction, follow the Indigenous Land and Resource Use Site Contingency Plan (Appendix 4-II, Section 6.7).  
  ▪ Access along the preferred route ROW will not be restricted during construction for Indigenous land users except where required for health and safety. |

**EA = Environmental Assessment; OPA = Ontario Power Authority; ECA = Environmental Compliance Approval; ROW = right-of-way.**
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize additional community meetings, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with Long Lake No.58 First Nation and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

2.2.5.8 Michipicoten First Nation

Michipicoten First Nation is a member of the Bamkushwada LP, the group of six First Nation communities with whom NextBridge has been negotiating economic participation in the Project. These communities did not permit consultation activities to move forward until an economic participation deal had been finalized. An economic participation agreement was signed between these communities and NextBridge on June 15, 2017.

Each of these First Nations and NextBridge are pleased to confirm that these consultation activities have enhanced the First Nations’ understanding of the Project, its potential impacts and benefits, and has also enhanced NextBridge’s understanding of the concerns of the First Nations regarding their treaty and other rights in the Project lands, and other interests related to the Project. As a result of this positive dialogue, each of these First Nations have affirmed their support for NextBridge’s consultation interactions in respect of the Project and for NextBridge’s development of the Project and Project approvals, including the Project EA and the leave-to-construction application to the Ontario Energy Board. NextBridge and the six Bamkushwada LP communities will continue to be respectful of each other’s rights and interests, and will continue to engage and dialogue with each other and work cooperatively during the development, construction and operation of the Project.

Throughout the Project development phase NextBridge has met with Michipicoten First Nation community staff and leadership to provide updates on the Project and has communicated Project information through phone calls, emails, and mail-outs. At the time of finalization of the EA Report, NextBridge had met with Michipicoten First Nation staff and leadership in-person five times to provide updates on the Project. NextBridge also participated in one open house with Michipicoten First Nation that was attended on March 7, 2017, by approximately 12 community members.

NextBridge provided capacity funding to support Michipicoten First Nation participating in Project engagement in the form of a duly executed agreement. Michipicoten First Nation provided NextBridge with a spatial GIS database of community land and resource use values that have been considered where appropriate into the Indigenous Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes assessment of the EA Report (Section 17).

The record of consultation with Michipicoten First Nation is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-8 and a summary of key issue and concerns expressed by Michipicoten First Nation to date is provided in Table 2-20.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potential for alienation of the land as a result of transferring provincial Crown lands to First Nation reserve lands.</td>
<td>February 6, 2017 February 23, 2017</td>
<td>NextBridge is committed to ongoing negotiations with Michipicoten First Nation and the Federal Government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential effects at Doré Lake due to the presence of multiple traplines and sensitive sites</td>
<td>March 7, 2017</td>
<td>Doré Lake is located immediately south of the preferred route ROW. NextBridge will continue to consult with Michipicoten First Nation to confirm if any site-specific sites or traplines are located on the Project footprint.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Concerns regarding the use of chemical sprays for vegetation suppression. Michipicoten First Nation recommends that a mechanical vegetation program be used instead. | March 7, 2017                          | - The contractor will develop an Herbicide Management Plan that describes the storing, mixing, handling, and disposing of unused herbicides prior to construction of the Project for implementation during the operation phase. Herbicides will be applied under the direction of a provincially licensed applicator. The general application of herbicide near rare plants or rare ecological communities will be restricted by using spot spraying, wicking, mowing, or hand-picking for weed control in these areas (Section 12.6).  
- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse effects resulting from herbicide use:  
  - Prohibit the use of herbicides within the 30 m water body buffer unless the herbicide application is conducted by ground application equipment or otherwise approved by the relevant regulatory agency.  
  - Storage, handling, and application of herbicide will comply with the Ontario Clean Water Act. Do not use herbicides within 100 m of identified wells.  |
| Potential for health effects from electromagnetic fields (EMF)                          | March 7, 2017                          | - Section 4.3.2 of the EA Report discusses the potential emissions related to electromagnetic fields.  
- Although they are often referred to together as EMF, electric fields and magnetic fields are distinct components of electricity. Electric fields around transmission lines are produced by electrical charges on the energized conductor. Electric field strength is directly proportional to the line’s voltage; that is, increased voltage produces a stronger electric field. Magnetic fields result from the flow of current through wires or electrical devices and increase in strength as the current increases. Both electric fields and magnetic fields decrease rapidly as the distance from the source increases.  
- Most of the interest regarding possible health effects is related to magnetic fields. So usually, when the term EMF level is used, it is referring to the magnetic field strength. There are currently no Canadian regulations limiting EMF emissions, nor are there guidelines for EMF exposure (Canadian Electricity Association 2010). Health Canada (2010) does not consider EMF guidelines necessary because scientific evidence is not strong enough to conclude that exposures cause health problems. |
**Table 2-20: Michipicoten First Nation Key Issues or Concerns**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Concerns regarding the need for the Project. Is the Project supporting natural resource development in the Ring of Fire and northern development?                                                                 | March 7, 2017      | - The Project is separate from planning related to the Ring of Fire.  
- The need for the Project is discussed in Section 1.5 of the EA Report.  
- The OEB considers this a priority project to support expansion of transmission infrastructure in northwestern Ontario. It is a priority to ensure that there is a reliable and cost-effective supply of electricity to northwestern Ontario for the long term.                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Potential for jobs from the Project                                                                                                          | March 7, 2017      | NextBridge will implement the following measures to support economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and individuals (Section 18.6):  
- Support local hiring of qualified personnel where appropriate  
- Support local and regional procurement where practicable  
- NextBridge intends to prioritize employment opportunities for local qualified Indigenous candidates  
- NextBridge will communicate employment requirements to Indigenous communities in the labour market and economic development LSA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Potential for the Project to push predators farther north resulting in increased pressure and predation on caribou                                                                 | March 21, 2017     | The potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat are discussed in Section 14 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including caribou (Section 14.6):  
- Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
- Salvage and retain coarse woody debris and organic materials at select locations and as needed to establish or re-establish suitable wildlife habitat after construction.  
- Minimize new access in caribou ranges. Where new access is required construct only intergrade access (snow roads), when possible, and decommission roads after construction by implementing cleanup and reclamation measures in Appendix 4-I Section 5.8 and installing rollback.  
- Complete construction as quickly and efficiently as possible near riparian areas and within caribou ranges to minimize the disturbance to fish and wildlife.  
- Within a caribou range, avoid activities within 10 km of known or potential high use areas (e.g., nursery areas, winter use areas, travel corridors) as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
- If avoidance of caribou high use areas is not possible, time construction to limit disturbance to caribou during sensitive periods such as reproduction and rearing, inter-aggregation and foraging, and seasonal dispersal: Nursery Areas (May 1 to July 14 very low tolerance, July 15 to September 15 low tolerance) (MNRF, no date), Best Management Practices for Mineral Exploration and Development Activities and Woodland Caribou in Ontario. |
Table 2-20: Michipicoten First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If avoidance of caribou high use areas is not practicable, consider installing natural barriers such as earth berms (e.g., mounding) or retaining compatible vegetation (e.g., below 2 m in height) in the ROW to reduce the line of sight.</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Consider designing and constructing bends in the temporary access roads in caribou ranges to restrict the line of sight along the road in a manner that it is safe for vehicle travel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Consider designing and constructing bends in the temporary access roads in caribou ranges to restrict the line of sight along the road in a manner that it is safe for vehicle travel.</td>
<td></td>
<td>- In the caribou ranges, consider planting native trees, preferably conifers, to accelerate revegetation of the access roads and other temporary facilities off the ROW.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Report wildlife sightings, issues, and incidents with wildlife or nuisance wildlife as soon as it is safe to do so to the Owner, who shall determine corrective and/or emergency action to be taken in the field. The Owner will determine what regulatory reporting is required.</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by Project personnel is prohibited in the Project Site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The Owner will develop the environmental and safety orientation program, to be implemented by the Contractor.</td>
<td></td>
<td>- The Owner will develop the environmental and safety orientation program, to be implemented by the Contractor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, follow mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, follow mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Limit public access by installing signage and gates on access roads and travel lanes where permissible by the MNRF.</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Limit public access by installing signage and gates on access roads and travel lanes where permissible by the MNRF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Hunting and fishing on the Project Site by Project personnel is prohibited.</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Hunting and fishing on the Project Site by Project personnel is prohibited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Avoid construction during a wildlife RAP, migratory bird nesting period, or fish and fish habitat restricted activity timing window. If construction during a RAP, restricted activity timing window or within a setback cannot be avoided, notify the Owner as soon as possible. A resource specialist may need to survey the area for sensitive wildlife and if sensitive features are identified, additional mitigation may be developed by the Owner. Work may not be conducted during the RAP, restricted activity timing window, or within a setback unless approval is obtained from the appropriate regulatory agencies, where required.</td>
<td>April 27, 2017</td>
<td>NextBridge invited Michipicoten First Nation to attend a 2017 field-survey “kick-off” in the City of Thunder Bay on June 5, 2017, to provide information related to field-survey monitoring opportunities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ROW = right-of-way; EA = Environmental Assessment; RAP = Restricted Activity Period; EMF = electromagnetic fields; LSA = Local Study Area.
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize additional community meetings, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with Michipicoten First Nation and will respond to any community issues and concerns as they are raised.

2.2.5.9 Missanabie Cree First Nation

The record of consultation and engagement with Missanabie Cree First Nation (MCFN) is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-9. Since December 2013, NextBridge has met with community staff, membership, and leadership to provide updates on the Project. At the time of finalization of the EA Report, NextBridge had completed three in-person meetings with MCFN staff and shared Project information through multiple phone calls, emails and by mail. NextBridge representatives also attended a MCFN job fair on August 19, 2014, and conducted a Project presentation for approximately 20 community members on March 24, 2017.

NextBridge entered into a specific data sharing agreement with MCFN that allowed the community to provide NextBridge map files of traditional values to include into the EA Report. The community provided NextBridge with spatial GIS database of traditional land use values in January 2016. This information has been considered and incorporated, where appropriate, into the Indigenous current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes assessment of the EA Report (Section 17).

A summary of key issues and concerns expressed by MCFN to NextBridge to date is provided in Table 2-21.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concerns with the need for new Project clearing as a result of the Project being routed outside of Pukaskwa National Park</td>
<td>January 8 and 9, 2014</td>
<td>Parks Canada has determined that it is not prepared to authorize access to study a new transmission line through Pukaskwa National Park. The alternative around the park that is adjacent to a 115 kV transmission line and logging roads and crosses a cutover area is considered the best feasible alternative and, therefore, forms part of the preliminary preferred route.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Potential effects on trappers | January 8 and 9, 2014 | Potential effects on Indigenous current land and resource use are assessed in Section 17 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following measures to reduce the potential for adverse effects on Indigenous current land and resource use, which includes trapping (Section 17.6):  
- Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.  
- Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
- Hunting and fishing on the Project Site by Project personnel is prohibited.  
- Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by Project personnel is prohibited in the Project Site.  
- Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.  
- Limit public access by installing signage and gates on access roads and travel lanes where permissible by MNRF.  
- Notify Indigenous communities of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction.  
- Destruction or collection of Indigenous land and resource use sites (e.g., cultural site, camp, or trapline equipment) by Project personnel is prohibited.  
- In the event that a previously unidentified Indigenous land and resource use site is suspected or encountered during construction, follow the Indigenous Land and Resource Use Site Contingency Plan (Appendix 4-II, Section 6.7).  
- Access along the preferred route ROW will not be restricted during construction for Indigenous land users except where required for health and safety. |
| Potential for the proposed Project route to affect burial and spiritual sites | January 8 and 9, 2014 | - Potential effects on Indigenous current land and resource use, which includes cultural and spiritual sites are assessed in Section 17 of the EA Report. No cultural sites identified by MCFN to date are located on the Project footprint. In the event that a cultural or spiritual sites is identified by MCFN on the Project footprint, NextBridge will discuss the potential need for additional mitigation with MCFN during ongoing consultation and engagement.  
- No burial sites have been identified by Indigenous communities on the Project footprint to date. In the event that a burial site is suspected or encountered unexpectedly during construction, follow the Discovery of Heritage and Archaeological Resources Contingency Plan (Appendix 4-II Section 6.4).  
- Archaeological field studies are ongoing for the Project. |
### Table 2-21: Missanabie Cree First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue ExpRESSED</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Potential effects on medicinal plants | January 8 and 9, 2014 | - The potential for the Project to result in changes to vegetation is addressed in Section 12 of the EA Report. Net effects on upland ecosystems, riparian ecosystems, and wetland ecosystems are predicted to not be significant.
- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on the vegetation and wetlands from the Project during construction and operations:
  - Selective clearing and retention of shrub vegetation, trees, wildlife trees, and coarse woody debris in environmentally sensitive areas as much as practicable.
  - Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.
  - Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.
  - Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-ll, Section 5.8.
  - On provincial Crown land, allow for natural regeneration or use certified native seed in consultation with the appropriate Land Administrator. Natural recovery is the preferred method of reclamation on level terrain where erosion is not expected.
  - The Contractor will develop a Weed Management Plan for review and approval by the Owner that describes the appropriate management of construction materials and equipment to prevent the infiltration and spread of weeds.
- NextBridge will discuss the potential need for additional mitigation for any medicinal plant locations identified on the Project footprint with MCFN during ongoing consultation and engagement. |
| Potential for herbicide application to affect berries and medicinal plants, with community support for mechanical clearing rather than herbicide use | January 8 and 9, 2014 | - The contractor will develop an Herbicide Management Plan that describes the storing, mixing, handling, and disposing of unused herbicides prior to construction of the Project for implementation during the operation phase. Herbicides will be applied under the direction of a provincially licensed applicator. The general application of herbicide near rare plants or rare ecological communities will be restricted by using spot spraying, wicking, mowing, or hand-picking for weed control in these areas (Section 12.6).
- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse effects resulting from herbicide use:
  - Prohibit the use of herbicides within the 30 m water body buffer unless the herbicide application is conducted by ground application equipment or otherwise approved by the relevant regulatory agency.
  - Storage, handling, and application of herbicide will comply with the Ontario Clean Water Act. Do not use herbicides within 100 m of identified wells. |
| Capacity funding needs in the community | January 8 and 9, 2014 | NextBridge signed a capacity funding agreement Missanabie Cree First Nation to support Project engagement |
## Missanabie Cree First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest in employment, business and training opportunities associated with the Project</td>
<td>July 16, 2014</td>
<td>NextBridge will implement the following measures to support economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and individuals (Section 18.6):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Support local hiring of qualified personnel where appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Support local and regional procurement where practicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- NextBridge intends to prioritize employment opportunities for local qualified Indigenous candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- NextBridge will communicate employment requirements to Indigenous communities in the labour market and economic development LSA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EA = Environmental Assessment; MCFN = Missanabie Cree First Nation; LSA = Local Study Area.
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize additional community meetings, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with MCFN and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

### 2.2.5.10 Ojibways of Batchewana

Since January 2014, NextBridge has communicated with community staff and leadership to provide updates on the Project, including eight in-person meetings and multiple emails, phone calls and by mail. NextBridge provided capacity funding to support this and other engagement activities in the form of a duly executed agreement with the Ojibways of Batchewana to hold meetings and share information. Currently, NextBridge is working with the community to begin a Project-specific Traditional Knowledge Assessment. The record of consultation and engagement with the Ojibways of Batchewana is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-10. No key issues or concerns have been noted to date.

NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize a community meeting, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge conducted three community open houses with Ojibways of Batchewana on May 30, 31 and June 1, 2017, which were each attended by approximately five to six community members. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with the Ojibways of Batchewana and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

### 2.2.5.11 Ojibways of Garden River

The record of consultation and engagement with the Ojibways of Garden River is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-11. Since February 2014, NextBridge has met with community staff and leadership to provide updates on the Project. At the time of finalization of the EA Report, this included three in-person meetings between NextBridge and Ojibways of Garden River representatives and multiple other communications, including phone calls, emails and by mail. The community has verbally acknowledged that the Project is a considerable distance from their traditional territory; however, they have requested to be kept informed of Project activities. They requested a meeting with community elders to discuss and determine potential impacts from the Project.

A summary of key issues and concerns the Ojibways of Garden River has communicated to NextBridge to date is provided in Table 2-22:
Table 2-22: Ojibways of Garden River Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How will the land under the line be revegetated?</td>
<td>May 9, 2014</td>
<td>NextBridge will implement the following measures related to the reseeding of the Project footprint (Section 12.6):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Allow compatible vegetation in the ROW to grow back to a maximum height of 2 m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ On provincial Crown land, allow for natural regeneration or use certified native seed in consultation with appropriate Land Administrator. Natural recovery is the preferred method of reclamation on level terrain where erosion is not expected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Use natural recovery in wetlands.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Propagate species or component species, in the case of rare vegetation communities, via vegetative or reproductive means (e.g., harvesting of seed, salvaging and transplanting portions of sod and surrounding vegetation or collecting of cuttings).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Use certified native seed mix as required for site revegetation and provide the analysis certificate to the Owner.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ The Contractor will develop a Weed Management Plan for review and approval by the Owner, that describes the appropriate management of construction materials and equipment to prevent the infiltration and spread of weeds, including:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>− cleaning and inspection of vehicles and equipment prior to arriving at the job,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>− re-cleaning vehicles and equipment if an area of weed infestation is encountered on the Project Site (i.e., Project footprint), prior to advancing to a weed-free area,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>− locating and management of vehicle and equipment cleaning locations on the Project footprint, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>− monitoring and management of weeds as needed during construction on the Project footprint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The community is interested in receiving economic and employment opportunities related to the Project</td>
<td>September 4, 2014</td>
<td>NextBridge will implement the following measures to support economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and individuals (Section 18.6):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 23, 2017</td>
<td>▪ Support local hiring of qualified personnel where appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Support local and regional procurement where practicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ NextBridge intends to prioritize employment opportunities for local qualified Indigenous candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ NextBridge will communicate employment requirements to Indigenous communities in the labour market and economic development LSA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EA = Environmental Assessment; ROW = right-of-way; LSA = Local Study Area.
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize a community meeting, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with the Ojibways of Garden River and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

2.2.5.12 Pays Plat First Nation

PPFN is a member of Bamkushwada LP, the group of six First Nations with whom NextBridge has been negotiating economic participation in the Project. These communities did not permit consultation activities to move forward until an economic participation deal had been finalized. An economic participation agreement was signed between these communities and NextBridge on June 15, 2017.

Each of these First Nations and NextBridge are pleased to confirm that these consultation activities have enhanced the First Nations’ understanding of the Project, its potential impacts and benefits, and has also enhanced NextBridge’s understanding of the concerns of the First Nations regarding their treaty and other rights in the Project lands, and other interests related to the Project. As a result of this positive dialogue, each of these First Nations have affirmed their support for NextBridge’s consultation interactions in respect of the Project and for NextBridge’s development of the Project and Project approvals, including the Project EA and the leave-to-construction application to the Ontario Energy Board. NextBridge and the six Bamkushwada LP communities will continue to be respectful of each other’s rights and interests, and will continue to engage and dialogue with each other and work cooperatively during the development, construction and operation of the Project.

Throughout the Project development phase, NextBridge has repeatedly met with community staff and leadership to provide updates on the Project as well as communicating Project information through phone calls, emails, and by mail. At the time of finalization of the EA Report, NextBridge had conducted 27 in-person meetings with PPFN representatives. A record of consultation and engagement with PPFN is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-12.

NextBridge provided capacity funding to support Project engagement activities in the form of a duly executed agreement with the PPFN to hold meetings and share information. NextBridge representatives participated in an open house for PPFN community members on the Pays Plat 51 Reserve on September 21, 2014, and a second open house on February 1, 2017, which was attended by approximately 20 PPFN community members. PPFN hired two consultation coordinators to gather information from community members. Both coordinators attended an EA workshop on February 11, 2015, hosted by NextBridge representatives. The consultation coordinators have held interviews to complete a traditional land use map specific to the Project. To date, the full results of those interviews have not been provided to NextBridge, but a summary of issues raised has been provided (Table 2-23). This summary of issues was indicated to be an ‘interim’ document as PPFN may continue to gather data related to the Project. NextBridge expects that any additional data gathered by the community will be provided in a review of the draft EA report being completed on behalf of PPFN and expected in July 2017. The community provided NextBridge with a spatial GIS database of traditional land use values in May 2016. This information has been considered, and incorporated where appropriate, in the Indigenous Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes assessment in the EA Report (Section 17). Two members from PPFN acted as Indigenous Observers during the summer 2014 geotechnical studies and a PPFN member acted as an Indigenous Observer during the summer 2016 breeding bird and vegetation field studies.

A summary of key issues and concerns raised by PPFN during Project communication to date is presented in Table 2-23.
### Table 2-23: Pays Plat First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expessed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Concerns regarding herbicide and chemical application to vegetation, including whether the community will be notified when and where herbicide application is taking place | May 17, 2016             | - The contractor will develop an Herbicide Management Plan that describes the storing, mixing, handling, and disposing of unused herbicides prior to construction of the Project for implementation during the operation phase. Herbicides will be applied under the direction of a provincially licensed applicator. The general application of herbicide near rare plants or rare ecological communities will be restricted by using spot spraying, wicking, mowing, or hand-picking for weed control in these areas (Section 12.6).  
- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse effects resulting from herbicide use:  
  - Prohibit the use of herbicides within the 30 m water body buffer unless the herbicide application is conducted by ground application equipment or otherwise approved by the relevant regulatory agency.  
  - Storage, handling, and application of herbicide will comply with the Ontario Clean Water Act. Do not use herbicides within 100 m of identified wells. |
| Employment and training opportunities                                                  | May 17, 2016             | NextBridge will implement the following measures to support economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and individuals (Section 18.6):  
- Support local hiring of qualified personnel where appropriate  
- Support local and regional procurement where practicable  
- NextBridge intends to prioritize employment opportunities for local qualified Indigenous candidates  
- NextBridge will communicate employment requirements to Indigenous communities in the labour market and economic development LSA |
| Potential for effects on water and water bodies, including upstream effects on Lake Superior | May 17, 2016             | NextBridge will implement the following measures to support economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and individuals (Section 18.6):  
- Support local hiring of qualified personnel where appropriate  
- Support local and regional procurement where practicable  
- NextBridge intends to prioritize employment opportunities for local qualified Indigenous candidates  
- NextBridge will communicate employment requirements to Indigenous communities in the labour market and economic development LSA |
Table 2-23: Pays Plat First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

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</table>
| Potential effects at watercourse crossings     | February 1, 2017    | - Potential effects on surface water are assessed in Section 7 of the EA Report. No primary effect pathways were identified for surface water as a result of the Project.  
- NextBridge will implement the following measures to reduce the potential for adverse effects on water bodies (Section 7.6):  
  - If water taking is required for the purposes of construction and/or water supply, register the activity on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry or obtain a permit to take water from the MOECC as appropriate.  
  - Water body crossings will be constructed in compliance with LRCA, DFO and/or MNRF regulatory permits and approvals (Table 1-1).  
- Follow applicable and feasible measures from MNRF’s Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings (MNRF 1990), and Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales (MNRF 2010a) and its associated Background Rationale document (MNRF 2010b).  
- Remove temporary water body crossing structures (if constructed), restore and stabilize water body banks, and other disturbed areas when the crossing is no longer required.  
- Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the list list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.  
- Re-fuelling or equipment maintenance activities are not to occur within 100 m of a water body. If re-fuelling within 100 m of a water body cannot be avoided, the Contractor is to provide and implement a spill prevention plan. |
| Concerns regarding the potential for erosion   | May 17, 2016        | Information related to geology, terrain, and soils is provided in Section 6 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures related to erosion (Section 6.6):  
- Tackify, cover, seed, apply water, or pack the topsoil stockpiles and windrows with approved equipment, if soils prone to wind erosion. Install, monitor, and manage appropriate erosion and sedimentation control measures to minimize or avoid sediment mobilization from the disturbed area to drainages, or water bodies. Adequate and appropriate erosion and sedimentation control materials shall be on site and available prior to commencement of construction  
- Install temporary sediment barriers (e.g., berms, silt fences) on approach slopes to water bodies. Erect silt fences or other sediment control structures near the base of approach slopes to water bodies prior to grading (Appendix 4-II, Figures B-3 and B-4). Inspect the temporary sediment control structures on a regular basis and repair, if warranted, as soon as practicable after noticing repairs are necessary  
- Temporary erosion control measures must be:  
  - properly installed;  
  - installed before or immediately after initial disturbance; and  
  - inspected and properly maintained (e.g., repaired, replaced or supplemented with functional materials) throughout construction until permanent erosion control is established or reclamation is complete. |

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### Table 2-23: Pays Plat First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

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<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
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</table>
| Need for Pays Plat First Nation to receive economic and social benefits from the Project | May 17, 2016       | NextBridge will implement the following measures to support economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and individuals (Section 18.6):  
- Support local hiring of qualified personnel where appropriate  
- Support local and regional procurement where practicable  
- NextBridge intends to prioritize employment opportunities for local qualified Indigenous candidates  
- NextBridge will communicate employment requirements to Indigenous communities in the labour market and economic development LSA |
| Potential for effects on wildlife, including endangered species                          | May 17, 2016       | The potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat are discussed in Section 14 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including endangered species, moose and beaver (Section 14.6):  
- Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
- Salvage and retain coarse woody debris and organic materials at select locations and as needed to establish or re-establish suitable wildlife habitat after construction.  
- Minimize new access in caribou ranges. Where new access is required construct only winter grade access (snow roads), when possible, and decommission roads after construction by implementing cleanup and reclamation measures in Appendix 4-II Section 5.8 and installing rollback.  
- If avoidance of caribou high use areas is not possible, time construction to limit disturbance to caribou during sensitive periods such as reproduction and rearing, winter aggregation and foraging, and seasonal dispersal: Nursery Areas (May 1 to July 14 very low tolerance, July 15 to September 15 low tolerance) (MNRF [no date]: Best Management Practices for Mineral Exploration and Development Activities and Woodland Caribou in Ontario).  
- In the caribou ranges, consider planting native trees, preferably conifers, to accelerate revegetation of the access roads and other temporary facilities off the ROW.  
- Report wildlife sightings, issues, and incidents with wildlife or nuisance wildlife as soon as it is safe to do so to the Owner, who shall determine corrective and/or emergency action to be taken in the field. The Owner will determine what regulatory reporting is required.  
- Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by Project personnel is prohibited in the Project Site. |
| Protection of moose habitat                                                              | February 1, 2017    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Protection of beaver habitat                                                            | February 1, 2017    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
### Table 2-23: Pays Plat First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

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| Potential negative effects resulting from blasting on wildlife | May 17, 2016 | In addition to the mitigation measures related to wildlife and wildlife habitat described above, NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures related to blasting (Section 14.6):  
- Use of explosives for foundation excavations will be limited to conditions that do not allow for typical or standard drilling methods.  
- Ripping is preferred over blasting where rock is encountered.  
- The Contractor will develop a Blasting Management Plan that describes specific measures that would be implemented if blasting is required. The plan must follow applicable regulations and guidelines for transportation, handling, storage, and use of explosives. The Blasting Management Plan will be submitted to the Owner for review and approval. |
| Potential for effects on burial sites in the event they are identified on the Project footprint | May 17, 2016 | - No burial sites have been identified by Indigenous communities on the Project footprint to date. In the event that a burial site is suspected or encountered unexpectedly during construction, follow the Discovery of Heritage and Archaeological Resources Contingency Plan (Appendix 4-II Section 6.4).  
- Archaeological field studies are ongoing. |
### Table 2-23: Pays Plat First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

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| Need assurances that environmentally important areas (e.g., wetlands) are going to be protected | May 17, 2016       | The potential effects on vegetation and wetlands are discussed in Section 12 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on wetlands (Section 12.6):  
  - Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.  
  - Use clearing equipment that minimizes surface disturbance, soil compaction, and topsoil loss (e.g., equipment with low ground pressure tracks or tires, blade shores, and brush), where feasible.  
  - Prior to the commencement of travel lane and/or workspace construction, discuss the manner in which the ROW and/or workspaces will be constructed and possible mitigation.  
  - Access road and travel lane construction activities will include flagging, stripping, soil salvage, grading, and installation of equipment crossings to maintain surface water flow (Appendix 4-II).  
  - Avoid the construction of temporary (e.g., access road, travel lane) and permanent (tower foundations) structures in wetlands or within setback from a wetland, where feasible. The setbacks associated with wetlands are indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
  - Selectively cut vegetation and restrict grubbing in areas with steep slopes or soils with risk of erosion.  
  - Under non-frozen conditions and where regulatory approvals allow, install rig mats to limit impacts to water bodies and wetlands, if warranted and surface conditions require (Appendix 4-II, Figure B-9).  
  - Proposed locations of construction camps, laydown, and storage yards will be field-verified to avoid wetlands including bogs and fens, where feasible.  
  - Where feasible, schedule work activities in wet areas during frozen conditions.  
  - If construction cannot avoid wetlands and setback, notify the Owner as soon as possible. Additional mitigation may be developed by the Owner. Regulators will be consulted and a permit obtained if necessary, prior to construction within 30 m of a wetland or within 120 m from a Provincially Significant Wetland.  
  - Install temporary wetland crossings using best management practices (Appendix 4-II, Figure B-10) and following all environmental approval conditions.  
  - Install, monitor, and manage appropriate erosion and sedimentation control measures to minimize or avoid sediment mobilization from the disturbed area to drainages, or water bodies. Adequate and appropriate erosion and sedimentation control materials shall be on site and available prior to commencement of construction.  
  - Install temporary sediment barriers (e.g., berms, silt fences) on approach slopes to water bodies. Erect silt fences or other sediment control structures near the base of approach slopes to water bodies prior to grading (Appendix 4-II, Figures B-3 and B-4). Inspect the temporary sediment control structures on a regular basis and repair, if warranted, as soon as practicable after noticing repairs are necessary.  
  - Restore surface drainage patterns in the vicinity of the occurrence to pre-construction conditions as much as practicable. |
Table 2-23: Pays Plat First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

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</table>
| Removal of forested land and timber for the proposed route ROW. What will happen to removed wood? | May 17, 2016 | - The Project has been designed to parallel existing linear disturbances, where possible, to reduce the need for new disturbance. Existing roads and trails will be where feasible.  
- The local forest company in the area with the forest license and the property owner will have the first opportunity to collect timber. NextBridge can discuss the possibility of the community having access to the timber if the forestry license operation and property owner are not interested in the timber. |
| Location of new access roads, and the opportunity to discuss leaving some access roads open after construction to provide hunting access for community members | May 17, 2016, February 1, 2017 | NextBridge is committed to ongoing discussions regarding road access and road management |
| Proximity of the Project to the Pays Plat River and corresponding potential effects on a fish spawning area in the river | May 17, 2016 | The potential effects on fish and fish habitat are discussed in Section 13 of the EA Report. No primary effect pathways were identified for fish and fish habitat as a result of the Project. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on fish and fish habitat (Section 13.6):  
- Minimize the number of temporary and permanent water body crossings required for the Project (e.g., plan the development of upgraded existing and new access roads).  
- Water body crossings will be constructed in compliance with LRCA, DFO, and/or MNRF regulatory permits and approvals (Table 1.1).  
- Follow applicable and feasible measures from MNRF’s Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings (MNRF 1990), and Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales (MNRF 2010a) and its associated Background Rationale document (MNRF 2010b).  
- Complete instream construction in isolation of flowing water (i.e., use isolation methods for the installation and removal of culverts where surface water exists at the time of construction) (Appendix 4-II, Figure B-5).  
- Apply DFO’s Measures to Avoid Causing Harm to Fish and Fish Habitat Including Aquatic Species at Risk (DFO 2016). Construct or install water body crossings structures in a manner that protects the banks from erosion and maintains the flow in the water body. For isolations/diversions, maintain 100% downstream flow. Pump intakes should not disturb the bed. Water diversion hoses will be screened as per the Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guidelines (DFO 1995).  
- To minimize the duration and severity of disturbance, complete instream activity in the shortest timeframe practicable.  
- Use existing bridges to cross water bodies where available. The use of existing bridges will be subject to agreements with landowners and to permits and approvals by appropriate regulatory agencies. Regularly inspect and properly maintained the existing bridge as required.  
- Under non-frozen conditions and where regulatory approvals allow, install rig mats to limit impacts to water bodies, if warranted and surface conditions require.  
- Avoid construction during a fish and fish habitat restricted activity timing window. Work may not be conducted during the restricted activity timing window, or within a setback unless approval is obtained from the appropriate regulatory agencies, where required.  
- For the equipment crossing structures, the restricted activity timing windows are applicable if any work is completed below the high water mark. |
Table 2-23: Pays Plat First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

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<th>Communication Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potential effects and compensation for trapline holders</td>
<td>May 17, 2016</td>
<td>NextBridge will negotiate with affected registered trapline holders who would no longer be able to trap within the Project footprint, or whose trapline areas will be severed or isolated as a result of the Project (e.g., compensation or relocation). Where feasible, coordinate the relocation of traps in advance of construction and maintain ongoing communication with the local trapping groups and associations (Section 19.6).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pays Plat First Nation recommends that a formal recognition and thank you is provided</td>
<td>February 1, 2017</td>
<td>NextBridge is committed to discussing recognition of land users with Pays Plat First Nation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to trappers, land users and Elders in the community prior to construction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of recreational vehicles (e.g., quads) by Project workers during time off</td>
<td>March 6, 2017</td>
<td>Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by Project personnel is prohibited in the Project footprint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project workers fishing during time off</td>
<td>March 6, 2017</td>
<td>Hunting and fishing on the Project footprint by Project personnel is prohibited.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LSA = Local Study Area; MOECC = Ministry of Environment and Climate Change; LRCA = Lakehead Region Conservation Authority; DFO = Fisheries and Oceans Canada; MNRF = Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; EA = Environmental Assessment; ROW = right-of-way.
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize a community meeting, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with PPFN and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

### 2.2.5.13 Pic Mobert First Nation

Pic Mobert First Nation is a member of Bamkushwada LP, the group of six First Nations with whom NextBridge has been negotiating economic participation in the Project. These communities did not permit consultation activities to move forward until an economic participation deal had been finalized. An economic participation agreement was signed between these communities and NextBridge on June 15, 2017.

Each of these First Nations and NextBridge are pleased to confirm that these consultation activities have enhanced the First Nations’ understanding of the Project, its potential impacts and benefits, and has also enhanced NextBridge’s understanding of the concerns of the First Nations regarding their treaty and other rights in the Project lands, and other interests related to the Project. As a result of this positive dialogue, each of these First Nations have affirmed their support for NextBridge’s consultation interactions in respect of the Project and for NextBridge’s development of the Project and Project approvals, including the Project EA and the leave-to-construction application to the Ontario Energy Board. NextBridge and the six Bamkushwada LP communities will continue to be respectful of each other’s rights and interests, and will continue to engage and dialogue with each other and work cooperatively during the development, construction and operation of the Project.

Throughout the project development phase NextBridge has repeatedly met with community staff and leadership to provide updates on the Project as well as communicating Project information through phone calls, emails and by mail. At the time of finalization of the EA Report, NextBridge had conducted four in-person meetings with Pic Mobert First Nation representatives. NextBridge also has conducted two community meetings to date. One attended by 11 community members on December 3, 2014 and the second on February 16, 2017, that was attended by approximately 40 community members. Members from Pic Mobert First Nation acted as Indigenous Observers on the summer 2016 breeding bird, vegetation and visual assessment field studies (Section 2.2.4.4). The record of consultation and engagement with Pic Mobert First Nation is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-13.

NextBridge has provided capacity funding in the form of a duly executed agreement with the First Nation to hold meetings and share information. The community is conducting independent interviews with community members to complete a traditional land use map specific to the Project. At the time of report finalization, Pic Mobert First Nation had provided NextBridge with maps and spatial data of the land and resource use data. This information has been considered and incorporated, where appropriate, into the Indigenous current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes assessment of the EA Report (Section 17).

A summary of key issues and concerns Pic Mobert First Nation has communicated to NextBridge to date is provided in Table 2-24.
### Pic Mobert First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pic Mobert First Nation indicated the need for their information to be included the EA Report</td>
<td>July 24, 2014</td>
<td>NextBridge has included information provided by Pic Mobert First Nation in Section 17 of the EA Report.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Concerns regarding the proposed route selection going around Pukaskwa National Park as this route may impact traplines | June 25, 2014      | - Parks Canada has determined that it is not prepared to authorize access to study a new transmission line through Pukaskwa National Park. The alternative around the park that is adjacent to a 115 kV transmission line and logging roads and crosses a cutover area is considered the best feasible alternative and, therefore, forms part of the preliminary preferred route.  
- Potential effects on Indigenous current land and resource use are assessed in Section 17 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following measures to reduce the potential for adverse effects on Indigenous current land and resource use, which includes hunting and trapping (Section 17.6):  
  - Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.  
  - Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
  - Hunting and fishing on the Project Site by Project personnel is prohibited.  
  - Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by Project personnel is prohibited in the Project Site.  
  - Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.  
  - Limit public access by installing signage and gates on access roads and travel lanes where permissible by MNRF.  
  - Notify Indigenous communities of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction.  
  - Destruction or collection of Indigenous land and resource use sites (e.g., cultural site, camp, or trapline equipment) by Project personnel is prohibited.  
  - In the event that a previously unidentified Indigenous land and resource use site is suspected or encountered during construction, follow the Indigenous Land and Resource Use Site Contingency Plan (Appendix 4-II, Section 6.7).  
  - Access along the preferred route ROW will not be restricted during construction for Indigenous land users except where required for health and safety. |
| Potential for impacts to trapping and other traditional values                            | December 3, 2014    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
Table 2-24: Pic Mobert First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

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| Potential for impacts to blueberry patches between the highway and the Project ROW      | February 16, 2017  | - NextBridge is following up with Pic Mobert First Nation to confirm the exact location of these blueberry patches in relation to the Project footprint. NextBridge will discuss the potential need for additional mitigation at the confirmed locations with Pic Mobert First Nation during ongoing consultation and engagement.  
- The potential for the Project to result in changes to vegetation is addressed in Section 12 of the EA Report. Net effects on upland ecosystems, riparian ecosystems and wetland ecosystems are predicted to not significant.  
- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on the vegetation and wetlands from the Project during construction and operations:  
  - Selective clearing and retention of shrub vegetation, trees, wildlife trees, and coarse woody debris in environmentally sensitive areas as much as practicable.  
  - Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.  
  - Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
  - Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.  
  - On provincial Crown land, allow for natural regeneration or use certified native seed in consultation with the appropriate Land Administrator. Natural recovery is the preferred method of reclamation on level terrain where erosion is not expected.  
  - The Contractor will develop a Weed Management Plan for review and approval by the Owner, that describes the appropriate management of construction materials and equipment to prevent the infiltration and spread of weeds. |
| Potential for increased hunting by non-Indigenous hunters as a result of new access resulting from the Project | February 16, 2017  | NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse effects resulting from new access:  
- Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.  
- Limit public access by installing signage and gates on access roads and travel lanes where permissible by MNRF. |
### Table 2-24: Pic Mobert First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

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| Potential for increased predation of moose by wolves due to the ROW                      | February 16, 2017  | - The potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat are discussed in Section 14 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including caribou (Section 14.6):  
  - Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
  - Salvage and retain coarse woody debris and organic materials at select locations and as needed to establish or re-establish suitable wildlife habitat after construction.  
  - Minimize new access in caribou ranges. Where new access is required construct only inter grade access (snow roads), when possible, and decommission roads after construction by implementing cleanup and reclamation measures in Appendix 4-II Section 5.8 and installing rollback.  
  - If avoidance of caribou high use areas is not possible, time construction to limit disturbance to caribou during sensitive periods such as reproduction and rearing, inter aggregation and foraging, and seasonal dispersal: Nursery Areas (May 1 to July 14 very low tolerance, July 15 to September 15 low tolerance) (MNRF [no date]: Best Management Practices for Mineral Exploration and Development Activities and Woodland Caribou in Ontario).  
  - In the caribou ranges, consider planting native trees, preferably conifers, to accelerate revegetation of the access roads and other temporary facilities off the ROW.  
  - Report wildlife sightings, issues, and incidents with wildlife or nuisance wildlife as soon as it is safe to do so to the Owner, who shall determine corrective and/or emergency action to be taken in the field. The Owner will determine what regulatory reporting is required.  
  - Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by Project personnel is prohibited in the Project Site.  
    - NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential noise from the Project during construction or operations:  
      - Ensure that noise abatement equipment on machinery is properly maintained and in good working order.  
      - Design routes to minimize reversing where practicable, which is expected to reduce noise from backup beepers.  
      - Where reasonable and practicable, vehicles and equipment will be turned off when not in use, unless weather and/or safety conditions dictate the need for them to remain turned on and in a safe operating condition.  
      - Address noise concerns as they arise through a noise complaint process.  
      - Operate equipment such that impulsive noises are minimized where feasible. |
| Potential effects on wildlife, including habitat loss and noise from operations            | February 16, 2017  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
Table 2-24: Pic Mobert First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

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| Pic Mobert First Nation requested the use of manual vegetation management techniques within 50 km of their reserve. | February 16, 2017  | - The contractor will develop an Herbicide Management Plan that describes the storing, mixing, handling, and disposing of unused herbicides prior to construction of the Project for implementation during the operation phase. Herbicides will be applied under the direction of a provincially licensed applicator. The general application of herbicide near rare plants or rare ecological communities will be restricted by using spot spraying, wicking, mowing, or hand-picking for weed control in these areas (Section 12.6).
- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse effects resulting from herbicide use:
  - Apply approved herbicides under the direction of a provincially-licensed applicator.
  - Restrict the general application of herbicide near rare plants or rare ecological communities. Spot spraying, wicking, mowing, or hand-picking are acceptable measures for weed control in these areas.
  - Prohibit the use of herbicides within the 30 m water body buffer unless the herbicide application is conducted by ground application equipment or otherwise approved by the relevant regulatory agency.
  - Storage, handling, and application of herbicide will comply with the Ontario Clean Water Act. Do not use herbicides within 100 m of identified wells. |
| Concerns about herbicide application                                                    | March 21, 2017     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
### Pic Mobert First Nation Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
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</table>
| Pic Mobert First Nation recommends replanting and reseeding with berry bushes.          | March 21, 2017     | - Information related to vegetation is provided in Section 12 of the EA Report.  
- NextBridge will implement the following measures related to the reseeding of the Project footprint (Section 12.6):  
  - Allow compatible vegetation in the ROW to grow back to a maximum height of 2 m.  
  - On provincial Crown land, allow for natural regeneration or use certified native seed in consultation with the appropriate Land Administrator. Natural recovery is the preferred method of reclamation on level terrain where erosion is not expected.  
  - Use natural recovery in wetlands.  
  - Propagate species or component species, in the case of rare vegetation communities, via vegetative or reproductive means (e.g., harvesting of seed, salvaging and transplanting portions of sod and surrounding vegetation or collecting of cuttings).  
  - Use certified native seed mix as required for site revegetation and provide the analysis certificate to the Owner.  
  - The Contractor will develop a Weed Management Plan for review and approval by the Owner, that describes the appropriate management of construction materials and equipment to prevent the infiltration and spread of weeds, including:  
    - cleaning and inspection of vehicles and equipment prior to arriving at the job.  
    - re-cleaning vehicles and equipment if an area of weed infestation is encountered on the Project Site (i.e., Project footprint), prior to advancing to a weed-free area,  
    - locating and management of vehicle and equipment cleaning locations on the Project footprint, and  
    - monitoring and management of weeds as needed during construction on the Project footprint. |
| Would communities be able to collect wood debris or merchantable timber for their own purposes? | March 21, 2017     | The local forest company in the area with the forest licence and the property owner will have the first opportunity to collect timber. NextBridge can discuss the possibility of the community having access to the timber if the forestry licence operation and property owner are not interested in the timber. |
| Concerns regarding areas of new cut (i.e., not paralleling an existing disturbance), especially south of White River | March 28, 2017     | The Project has been designed to parallel existing linear disturbances, where possible, to reduce the need for new disturbance. Existing roads and trails will be where feasible.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Pic Mobert First Nation would like information regarding the timing of construction along the ROW | March 28, 2017     | NextBridge will notify Indigenous communities of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

EA = Environmental Assessment; ROW = right-of-way; MNRF = Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize community meetings, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with Pic Mobert First Nation and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

2.2.5.14 Red Rock Indian Band

RRIB is a member of Bamkushwada LP, the group of six First Nations with whom NextBridge has been negotiating economic participation in the Project. These communities did not permit consultation activities to move forward until an economic participation deal had been finalized. An economic participation agreement was signed between these communities and NextBridge on June 15, 2017.

Each of these First Nations and NextBridge are pleased to confirm that these consultation activities have enhanced the First Nations’ understanding of the Project, its potential impacts and benefits, and has also enhanced NextBridge’s understanding of the concerns of the First Nations regarding their treaty and other rights in the Project lands, and other interests related to the Project. As a result of this positive dialogue, each of these First Nations have affirmed their support for NextBridge’s consultation interactions in respect of the Project and for NextBridge’s development of the Project and Project approvals, including the Project EA and the leave-to-construction application to the Ontario Energy Board. NextBridge and the six Bamkushwada LP communities will continue to be respectful of each other’s rights and interests, and will continue to engage and dialogue with each other and work cooperatively during the development, construction and operation of the Project.

Throughout the project development phase NextBridge has repeatedly met with community staff and leadership to provide updates on the Project as well as communicating Project information through phone calls, emails and by mail. At the time of report finalization, NextBridge had conducted 25 in-person meetings with RRIB representatives. A member from RRIB acted as an Indigenous Observer on the summer 2016 breeding bird field study. The record of consultation and engagement with RRIB is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-14.

NextBridge has provided capacity funding in the form of an executed agreement with the RRIB to hold meetings and share information. NextBridge has participated in four community open house meetings on the Helen Lake 53 Reserve, on September 20, 2014, December 6, 2014, March 3, 2016, and February 2, 2017. These meetings were attended by approximately 25, 40, 20, and 15 community members, respectively, in addition to community leadership.

RRIB hired a consultation coordinator to gather information from community members and the consultant attended an EA workshop conducted by NextBridge’s consultants Dillon Environmental, on February 11, 2015. The consultation coordinator undertook independent interviews with RRIB members and on May 24, 2016, provided an Interim Report for NextBridge that provided the progress and planned approach and methods of the final report.

A summary of key issues and concerns RRIB has communicated to NextBridge to date is provided in Table 2-25.
Table 2-25:  Red Rock Indian Band Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Request for community monitors to oversee Project work</td>
<td>May 7, 2014</td>
<td>Red Rock Indian Band had one observer join a 2016 environmental field study and</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NextBridge invited RRIB to attend a 2017 field-survey “kick-off” in the City of Thunder Bay on June 5, 2017, to provide information related to field-survey monitoring opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need to build community capacity to participate in Project engagement</td>
<td>May 16, 2014</td>
<td>NextBridge has provided capacity funding to RRIB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 2, 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern regarding herbicide application for the Project, and recommendations for different (i.e., manual) forms of vegetation maintenance and the resulting effects on humans, vegetation and wildlife</td>
<td>May 24, 2016</td>
<td>■ The contractor will develop an Herbicide Management Plan that describes the storing, mixing, handling, and disposing of unused herbicides prior to construction of the Project for implementation during the operation phase. Herbicides will be applied under the direction of a provincially licensed applicator. The general application of herbicide near rare plants or rare ecological communities will be restricted by using spot spraying, wicking, mowing, or hand-picking for weed control in these areas (Section 12.6). ▪ NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse effects resulting from herbicide use: ▪ Prohibit the use of herbicides within the 30 m water body buffer unless the herbicide application is conducted by ground application equipment or otherwise approved by the relevant regulatory agency. ▪ Storage, handling, and application of herbicide will comply with the Ontario Clean Water Act. Do not use herbicides within 100 m of identified wells. ▪ The potential for herbicide use to affect human health was assessed in Section 21 of the EA Report. Herbicide application will be used to prevent the establishment and spread of invasive plants in the ROW during the operation phase. With effective implementation of the mitigation summarized in Table 21-4 and the EPP (Appendix 4-I), changes in environmental quality (i.e., soil, surface water, groundwater and food quality) as a result of herbicide application are not expected to result in a net effect on human health. For this reason, this pathway was classified as having “no pathway” for human health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring requirements for water, fish and wildlife</td>
<td>May 24, 2016</td>
<td>NextBridge will implement a comprehensive and effective monitoring program to indicate if the assumptions used in the EA Report were correct and if mitigation measures were effective. Additional information regarding proposed monitoring plans is available in Section 23 of the EA Report.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2-25: Red Rock Indian Band Key Issues or Concerns

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</table>
| Loss of vegetation, including loss of timber | May 24, 2016 | - The potential for the Project to result in changes to vegetation is addressed in Section 12 of the EA Report. Net effects on upland ecosystems, riparian ecosystems and wetland ecosystems are predicted to not significant.  
- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on the vegetation and wetlands from the Project during construction and operations:  
  - Selective clearing and retention of shrub vegetation, trees, wildlife trees, and coarse woody debris in environmentally sensitive areas as much as practicable.  
  - Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.  
  - Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
  - Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.  
  - On provincial Crown land, allow for natural regeneration or use certified native seed in consultation with appropriate Land Administrator. Natural recovery is the preferred method of reclamation on level terrain where erosion is not expected.  
  - The Contractor will develop a Weed Management Plan for review and approval by the Owner, that describes the appropriate management of construction materials and equipment to prevent the infiltration and spread of weeds. |
### Table 2-25: Red Rock Indian Band Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Potential for effects on wildlife, wildlife habitat, including bald eagles and bird migration routes</td>
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<tr>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
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| May 24, 2016       | The potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat are discussed in Section 14 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including birds (Section 14.6):  
  - Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
  - Salvage and retain coarse woody debris and organic materials at select locations and as needed to establish or re-establish suitable wildlife habitat after construction.  
  - Minimize new access in caribou ranges. Where new access is required construct only intergrade access (snow roads), when possible, and decommission roads after construction by implementing cleanup and reclamation measures in Appendix 4-II Section 5.8 and installing rollback.  
  - Bird flight diverters and perch discouragers will be installed on the transmission line in areas of concern (e.g., near water bodies known to represent staging areas).  
  - Avoid construction within required setbacks during a wildlife RAP, migratory bird nesting period, or fish and fish habitat restricted activity timing window. If constructing during an RAP, restricted activity timing window or within a setback cannot be avoided, notify the Owner as soon as possible. A resource specialist may need to survey the area for sensitive wildlife and if sensitive features are identified, additional mitigation may be developed by the Owner. Work may not be conducted during the RAP, restricted activity timing window, or within a setback unless approval is obtained from the appropriate regulatory agencies, where required. If vegetation removal cannot be avoided during the nesting period then implement the procedures in the Nest Sweep Protocol (Appendix 4-II).  
  - Similar measures to the procedures in the Nest Sweep Protocol (Appendix 4-II) will be taken for vegetation removal during routine preferred route ROW maintenance during the operation phase of the Project.  
  - Industry standards to avoid electrocutions have been incorporated in tower design.  
  - Implementation of the air quality and dust control mitigation measures presented in Section 9.6.  
  - Vehicles will not exceed speed limits established by the Owner and will low er speeds in specific conditions such as areas of high erosion hazard. Clearly mark speed limits along the access roads and travel lane as required.  
  - Hunting and fishing on the Project Site by Project personnel is prohibited. |
### Table 2-25: Red Rock Indian Band Key Issues or Concerns

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| Potential effects on traplines and hunting areas | May 24, 2016 | Potential effects on Indigenous current land and resource use are assessed in Section 17 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following measures to reduce the potential for adverse effects on Indigenous current land and resource use, which includes hunting and trapping (Section 17.6):  
- Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.  
- Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
- Hunting and fishing on the Project Site by Project personnel is prohibited.  
- Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by Project personnel is prohibited in the Project Site.  
- Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.  
- Limit public access by installing gates and fencing on access roads where permissible or required by MNRF.  
- Notify Indigenous communities of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction.  
- Destruction or collection of Indigenous land and resource use sites (e.g., cultural site, camp, or trapline equipment) by Project personnel is prohibited.  
- In the event that a previously unidentified Indigenous land and resource use site is suspected or encountered during construction, follow the Indigenous Land and Resource Use Site Contingency Plan (Appendix 4-II, Section 6.7).  
- Access along the preferred route ROW will not be restricted during construction for Indigenous land users except where required for health and safety. |
| Potential long-term effects of the Project | May 24, 2016 | NextBridge will implement a comprehensive suite of mitigation measures to reduce the potential for adverse effects of the Project. |
| Safety concerns | May 24, 2016 | ■ NextBridge will identify potential safety, health, and environmental concerns related to the Project phases. Prevention measures and response procedures will be described in a Spill Prevention and Response Contingency Plan that will be included in the EPP (Section 23 and Appendix 4-II).  
■ Project personnel will receive applicable training in health and safety and emergency response.  
■ Refer to Section 4.4 of the EA Report for additional information. |
### Table 2-25: Red Rock Indian Band Key Issues or Concerns

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</table>
| General concerns related to the need for transmission lines   | May 24, 2016         | ‣ The need for the Project is discussed in Section 1.5 of the EA Report.  
 ‣ The OEB considers this a priority project to support expansion of transmission infrastructure in northwestern Ontario. It is a priority to ensure that there is a reliable and cost-effective supply of electricity to northwestern Ontario for the long term.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
Table 2-25: Red Rock Indian Band Key Issues or Concerns

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<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
<th>Communication Date</th>
<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What protocol is in place in the event of discovery of archaeological artifacts or human remains?</td>
<td>March 6, 2017</td>
<td>No burial sites have been identified by Indigenous communities on the Project footprint to date. Archaeological field studies are ongoing for the Project. In the event that archaeological resources or a burial site is suspected or encountered unexpectedly during construction, follow the Discovery of Heritage and Archaeological Resources Contingency Plan (Appendix 4-II Section 6.4).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of recreational vehicles (e.g., quads) by Project workers during time off</td>
<td>March 6, 2017</td>
<td>Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by Project personnel is prohibited in the Project footprint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project workers fishing during time off</td>
<td>March 6, 2017</td>
<td>Hunting and fishing on the Project footprint by Project personnel is prohibited.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EPP = Environmental Protection Plan; EA = Environmental Assessment; RAP = Restricted Activity Period; MNRF = Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; LSA = Local Study Area; RRIB = Red Rock Indian Band.
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize additional community meetings, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with RRIB and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

2.2.5.15 Métis Nation of Ontario

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) represents Métis citizens and communities throughout the province. On December 9, 2015, the Ontario legislature passed the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act, 2015 (the “MNO Act”). This legislation recognizes that the MNO "was created to represent and advocate on behalf of its registered citizens, and the Métis communities comprised of those citizens, with respect to their collective rights, interests and aspirations." Based on the mandate it receives from its citizens, the MNO has established governance structures at the local, regional, and provincial levels. The MNO Act goes on to state that MNO citizens "identify as descendants of the Métis people that emerged in west central North America with their own language (Michif), culture, traditions and way of life" and that "[t]hese Métis people collectively refer to themselves as the Métis Nation, which includes Métis communities within Ontario."

Specific to the Project, the MNO asserts it represents a rights-bearing Métis community in the northern Lake Superior region, which meets the criteria set out by the Supreme Court of Canada in R. v. Powley, [2003] 2 S.C.R. 207, and that this community’s traditional territory will be traversed by the Project. The MNO further asserts this Métis community is represented through its governance structures at the regional and local levels, including the Thunder Bay Métis Council, the Northshore Métis Council and the Greenstone Métis Council (the "MNO Community Councils").

These three MNO Community Councils were identified as part of 18 Indigenous communities identified by the Ministry of Energy for Crown consultation purposes. NextBridge has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the MNO, signed by the Thunder Bay Métis Council, the Superior North Shore Métis Council and the Greenstone Métis Council (the “Community Councils”) acknowledging that they are part of the MNO and have agreed to collectively work together through the MNO’s governance structures and administration to carry out meaningful consultation, and, if required, accommodation, related to the Project. In November 2016, the Ministry of Energy wrote to NextBridge reiterating “Ontario’s assessment that there are strong Métis claims to section 35 rights in the area of the proposed East-West Tie line.”

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding and the MNO Act, NextBridge has worked exclusively with the MNO, which in turn has directly engaged with its citizens through its regional and local governance structures.

Since Project commencement, NextBridge has communicated with MNO staff and members of Métis regional leadership to provide updates on the Project. This has provided opportunities for MNO to share concerns and issues regarding the Project, and allowed NextBridge to respond to issues as they arise. NextBridge provided capacity funding in the form of a duly executed agreement with the MNO to hold meetings and share information. NextBridge is currently organizing a community open house with MNO in Thunder Bay expected to be held in July 2017. A record of consultation with the MNO (representing the Superior North Shore, Greenstone and Thunder Bay Métis Councils) is included in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-15.

The MNO held a workshop with MNO staff, leadership, and consultants on March 14, 2014 to review the evaluation criteria in the ToR. At the request of MNO, NextBridge was not present, but the results from this workshop were included in a valued ecosystem component report that was provided to NextBridge. NextBridge also received the Métis Nation of Ontario Project Specific Traditional Land Use Study and Evaluation Criteria Summary and an associated Métis Nation of Ontario Integration Document (Appendix 17-I) on November 25, 2016. MNO provided
a supplementary Métis Nation of Ontario Occupied Lands Report to NextBridge on March 31, 2017 and a revised version on June 15, 2017. This information has been incorporated into the Indigenous current land and resource use assessment (Section 17).

A summary of key issues and concerns MNO has communicated to NextBridge to date is provided in Table 2-26.
### Table 2-26: Métis Nation of Ontario Key Issues or Concerns

<table>
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| Ability for NextBridge to offset, mitigate, or compensate effects on Indigenous communities | January 14, 2014    | Potential effects on Indigenous current land and resource use are assessed in Section 17 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following measures to reduce the potential for adverse effects on Indigenous current land and resource use, which includes hunting and trapping (Section 17.6):  
  - Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.  
  - Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
  - Hunting and fishing on the Project Site by Project personnel is prohibited.  
  - Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by Project personnel is prohibited in the Project Site.  
  - Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, follow mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.  
  - Limit public access by installing gates and fencing on access roads where permissible or required by the MNRF.  
  - Notify Indigenous communities of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction.  
  - Destruction or collection of Indigenous land and resource use sites (e.g., cultural site, camp, or trapline equipment) by Project personnel is prohibited.  
  - In the event that a previously unidentified Indigenous land and resource use site is suspected or encountered during construction, follow the Indigenous Land and Resource Use Site Contingency Plan (Appendix 4-II, Section 6.7).  
  - Access along the preferred route ROW will not be restricted during construction for Indigenous land users except where required for health and safety.  
  - NextBridge will continue to discuss the potential need for additional mitigation measures to address potential effects on sites on the Project footprint with MNO, as requested. |
| Potential damage to Métis cultural landscapes and sites      | January 28, 2014    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Potential effects on Métis traplines                        | January 28, 2014    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Increased restrictions to activities and disruption of the exercise of Aboriginal rights, including hunting | March 26, 2014      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Potential effects on fish and the Métis right to fish       | November 15, 2016   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Concerns with respect to Pukaskwa National Park and the assessment of potential Project effects on federal lands | January 28, 2014    | Parks Canada has determined that it is not prepared to authorize access to study a new transmission line through Pukaskwa National Park. The alternative around the park that is adjacent to a 115 kV transmission line and logging roads and crosses a cutover area is considered the best feasible alternative and, therefore, forms part of the preliminary preferred route. |
### Table 2-26: Métis Nation of Ontario Key Issues or Concerns

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| Economic and employment issues. MNO would like access to contracting and procurement opportunities for ongoing maintenance | March 26, 2014, November 15, 2016 | NextBridge will implement the following measures to support economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and individuals (Section 18.6):  
  - Support local hiring of qualified personnel where appropriate.  
  - Support local and regional procurement where practicable.  
  - NextBridge intends to prioritize employment opportunities for local qualified Indigenous candidates.  
  - NextBridge will communicate employment requirements to Indigenous communities in the labour market and economic development LSA. |
| Project disturbance, including the requirement for additional land and new access roads and the resulting removal of MNO traditional lands | January 28, 2014, March 26, 2014, November 15, 2016 | The Project has been designed to parallel existing linear disturbances, where possible, to reduce the need for new disturbance. Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible. |
| Potential for increased traffic and increased accessibility to non-Métis harvesters due to the clearing of new roads | January 28, 2014, March 26, 2014, November 15, 2016 | NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse effects resulting from new access:  
  - Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.  
  - Limit public access by installing gates and fencing on access roads where permissible or required by MNRF. |
### Table 2-26: Métis Nation of Ontario Key Issues or Concerns

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</table>
| Potential for noise, including from construction and line hum | March 26, 2014, November 15, 2016 | - The potential for Project noise effects is addressed in Section 11 of the EA Report (Acoustic Environment). No primary pathways were identified for the acoustic environment (Section 11.6).  
- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential noise from the Project during construction or operations:  
  - Near residential and recreational areas, parks, or campsites, schedule noisy activities in accordance with municipal bylaws or MOECC Noise Guideline NPC-300 (MOECC 2013). The Owner will apply best efforts to work with the MNRF to plan construction around the peak park season, generally from June to September.  
  - Construction activities will occur during the daytime period from 07:00 to 19:00. In the event construction will occur beyond the daytime period, NextBridge will re-evaluate the potential Project-related effects and if required, review mitigation requirements.  
  - Ensure that noise abatement equipment on machinery is properly maintained and in good working order.  
  - Design routes to minimize reversing where practicable, which is expected to reduce noise from backup beepers.  
  - Notify Indigenous communities of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction.  
  - Where reasonable and practicable, vehicles and equipment will be turned off when not in use, unless weather and/or safety conditions dictate the need for them to remain turned on and in a safe operating condition.  
  - Address noise concerns as they arise through a noise complaint process.  
  - Operate equipment such that impulsive noises are minimized where feasible. |
| Potential safety concerns resulting from the Project          | March 26, 2014, November 15, 2016 | - NextBridge will identify potential safety, health, and environmental concerns related to the Project phases. Prevention measures and response procedures will be described in a Spill Prevention and Response Contingency Plan that will be included in the EPP (Section 23 and Appendix 4-II).  
- Project personnel will receive applicable training in health and safety and emergency response.  
- Refer to Section 4.4 of the EA Report for additional information. |
Table 2-26: Métis Nation of Ontario Key Issues or Concerns

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</table>
| Use of herbicides as a part of right-of-way maintenance, and the resulting effects on flora, fauna, and people | March 26, 2014            | • The contractor will develop an Herbicide Management Plan that describes the storing, mixing, handling, and disposing of unused herbicides prior to construction of the Project for implementation during the operation phase. Herbicides will be applied under the direction of a provincially licensed applicator. The general application of herbicide near rare plants or rare ecological communities will be restricted by using spot spraying, wicking, mowing, or hand-picking for weed control in these areas (Section 12.6).  
• NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse effects resulting from herbicide use:  
  ▪ Apply approved herbicides under the direction of a provincially-licensed applicator.  
  ▪ Restrict the general application of herbicide near rare plants or rare ecological communities. Spot spraying, wicking, mowing, or hand-picking are acceptable measures for weed control in these areas.  
  ▪ Prohibit the use of herbicides within the 30 m water body buffer unless the herbicide application is conducted by ground application equipment or otherwise approved by the relevant regulatory agency.  
  ▪ Storage, handling, and application of herbicide will comply with the Ontario Clean Water Act. Do not use herbicides within 100 m of identified wells. |
| Potential for adverse effects on wildlife, including increased predation along the ROW and disruptions in animal migration | March 26, 2014            | The potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat are discussed in Section 14 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including caribou (Section 14.6):  
• Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
• Salvage and retain coarse woody debris and organic materials at select locations and as needed to establish or re-establish suitable wildlife habitat after construction.  
• Report wildlife sightings, issues, and incidents with wildlife or nuisance wildlife as soon as it is safe to do so to the Owner, who shall determine corrective and/or emergency action to be taken in the field. The Owner will determine what regulatory reporting is required.  
• Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by Project personnel is prohibited in the Project Site. |

March 26, 2014  
November 15, 2016  
March 26, 2014  
November 15, 2016
### Table 2-26: Métis Nation of Ontario Key Issues or Concerns

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| Potential effects on calving areas. MNO recommended that construction does not occur during calving season (spring) | November 15, 2016        | In addition to the above, NextBridge will also implement the following mitigation measures related to caribou:  
- Minimize new access in caribou ranges. Where new access is required construct only inter grade access (snow roads), when possible, and decommission roads after construction by implementing cleanup and reclamation measures in Appendix 4-II Section 5.8 and installing rollback.  
- Within a caribou range, avoid activities within 10 km of known or potential high use areas (e.g., nursery areas, winter use areas, travel corridors) as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
- If avoidance of caribou high use areas is not possible, time construction to limit disturbance to caribou during sensitive periods such as reproduction and rearing, winter aggregation and foraging, and seasonal dispersal: Nursery Areas (May 1 to July 14 very low tolerance, July 15 to September 15 low tolerance) (MNRF [no date]: Best Management Practices for Mineral Exploration and Development Activities and Woodland Caribou in Ontario).  
- In the caribou ranges, consider planting native trees, preferably conifers, to accelerate revegetation of the access roads and other temporary facilities off the ROW. |
| Effects on riparian zones                                                                | March 26, 2014 and November 15, 2016 | The potential for the Project to result in changes to vegetation is addressed in Section 12 of the EA Report. Net effects on riparian ecosystems are predicted to be not significant.  
- NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on the vegetation and wetlands from the Project during construction and operations.  
  - Selective clearing and retention of shrub vegetation, trees, wildlife trees, and coarse woody debris in environmentally sensitive areas as much as practicable.  
  - Existing roads and trails will be used where feasible.  
  - Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
  - Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.  
  - On provincial Crown land, allow for natural regeneration or use certified native seed in consultation with appropriate Land Administrator. Natural recovery is the preferred method of reclamation on level terrain where erosion is not expected.  
  - The Contractor will develop a Weed Management Plan for review and approval by the Owner, that describes the appropriate management of construction materials and equipment to prevent the infiltration and spread of weeds. |
### Table 2-26: Métis Nation of Ontario Key Issues or Concerns

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<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
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| Effects on water including changes or disruption of water crossings | March 26, 2014, November 15, 2016 | ■ Potential effects on surface water are assessed in Section 7 of the EA Report. No primary effect pathways were identified for surface water as a result of the Project.  
■ NextBridge will implement the following measures to reduce the potential for adverse effects on water bodies (Section 7.6):  
  ▪ If water taking is required for the purposes of construction and/or water supply, register the activity on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry or obtain a permit to take water from the MOECC as appropriate.  
  ▪ Water body crossings will be constructed in compliance with LRCA, DFO, and/or MNRF regulatory permits and approvals (Table 1-1).  
  ▪ Follow applicable and feasible measures from MNRF’s *Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings* (MNR 1990), and *Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales* (MNR 2010a) and its associated Background Rationale document (MNR 2010b).  
  ▪ Complete instream construction in isolation of flowing water (i.e., use isolation methods for the installation and removal of culverts where surface water exists at the time of construction) (Appendix 4-II, Figure B 5).  
  ▪ Remove temporary water body crossing structures (if constructed), restore and stabilize water body banks, and other disturbed areas when the crossing is no longer required.  
  ▪ Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8. |
Table 2-26: Métis Nation of Ontario Key Issues or Concerns

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| Potential effects on spawning areas. MNO recommended that construction does not occur in streams during spawning season (October/November) | November 15, 2016  | The potential effects on fish and fish habitat are discussed in Section 13 of the EA Report. No primary effect pathways were identified for fish and fish habitat as a result of the Project. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on fish and fish habitat (Section 13.6):
- Minimize the number of temporary and permanent water body crossings required for the Project (e.g., plan the development of upgraded existing and new access roads).
- Water body crossings will be constructed in compliance with LRCA, DFO, and/or MNRF regulatory permits and approvals (Table 1-1).
- Follow applicable and feasible measures from MNRF's *Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings* (MNR 1990), and *Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales* (MNR 2010a) and its associated *Background Rationale* document (MNR 2010b).
- Complete instream construction in isolation of flowing water (i.e., use isolation methods for the installation and removal of culverts where surface water exists at the time of construction) (Appendix 4-II, Figure B-5).
- Apply DFO's *Measures to Avoid Causing Harm to Fish and Fish Habitat Including Aquatic Species at Risk* (DFO 2016). Construct or install water body crossings structures in a manner that protects the banks from erosion and maintains the flow in the water body. For isolations/diversions, maintain 100% downstream flow. Pump intakes should not disturb the bed. Water diversion hoses will be screened as per the *Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guidelines* (DFO 1995).
- To minimize the duration and severity of disturbance, complete instream activity in the shortest timeframe practicable.
- Use existing bridges to cross water bodies where available. The use of existing bridges will be subject to agreements with landowners and to permits and approvals by appropriate regulatory agencies. Regularly inspect and properly maintain the existing bridge as required.
- Under non-frozen conditions and where regulatory approvals allow, install rig mats to limit impacts to water bodies, if warranted and surface conditions require.
- Avoid construction during a fish and fish habitat restricted activity timing window. Work may not be conducted during the restricted activity timing window, or within a setback unless approval is obtained from the appropriate regulatory agencies, where required.
- For the equipment crossing structures, the restricted activity timing windows are applicable if any work is completed below the high water mark.
- For the equipment crossing structures, the restricted activity timing windows are not applicable if all work is completed above the high water mark, if the water body is frozen and an ice bridge/snow fill is constructed, or when using the equipment crossing structures.
- Remove temporary water body crossing structures (if constructed), restore and stabilize water body banks, and other disturbed areas when the crossing is no longer required. |
Table 2-26: Métis Nation of Ontario Key Issues or Concerns

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<tr>
<td>Construct water body crossing structures according to the crossing method identified on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps and in accordance with regulatory approvals. Alternatives or modifications to the crossing requirements specified in approvals must be approved by the Owner before construction begins.</td>
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<td>Fording of water bodies is not permitted, unless approved by the regulatory agencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Locate off-ROW workspaces outside the 30 m water body buffer, wherever practicable. If a water body is located within the boundary of an off-ROW workspace, Project activities will not occur within the 30 m water body buffer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential for accidents or malfunctions</td>
<td>March 26, 2014 November 15, 2016</td>
<td>Occasionally, emergencies occur requiring an immediate response. These emergencies may include events such as tower collapse resulting from tornadoes, ice storms, fires, and other natural events. An immediate response is required and may involve the use of helicopters or heavy equipment. These emergencies generally are localized in nature. The impact of not responding quickly can result in serious effects on people who depend on electricity for heating in winter and air conditioning in summer and for economic development and commerce. A response plan will be developed to allow for isolation of components in response to system events (e.g., lightning strike). Refer to Section 4.3.2.6 for additional information related to repairs and event response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative effects</td>
<td>March 26, 2014 November 15, 2016</td>
<td>In addition to assessing the incremental net environmental effects of the Project itself, the EA Report also evaluates and determines the significance of net effects from the Project that overlap temporally and spatially with effects from other past, present, and RFDs and activities. Refer to Section 5.6 for additional information related to the cumulative effects assessment</td>
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| Archaeological assessment methods and process | March 19, 2014     | - Desktop studies (Stage 1 archaeological assessment) were undertaken for the preferred route ROW, access roads, laydown yards, and construction camps, in compliance with the Ontario Heritage Act, and the Standards and Guidelines for Consulting Archaeologists (MTCS 2011). This assessment was undertaken to compile available information about the known and potential archaeological resources that could be affected by the Project, and provide specific direction for the protection, management, and/or recovery of these resources in compliance with the provincial standards and guidelines. Refer to Appendix 15-I for the Stage 1 Archaeological Reports.  
- Additional Stage 1 archaeological assessment(s) are in progress to address approximately 2.2% of the Project footprint that has been revised since the Stage 1 archaeological assessments were completed in November 17, 2016. If future Project refinements result in additional portions of the Project footprint being located outside of the archaeology resources RSA, additional Stage 1 archaeological assessments will be completed. Stage 2 field investigations to identify potential archaeological resources will be undertaken prior to the Project construction phase.  
- Numerous criteria are used to determine the potential for Indigenous and historical Euro-Canadian archaeological sites. Areas of archaeological potential require ground-truthing, through archaeological survey (i.e., Stage 2, and potentially Stage 3 and Stage 4, archaeological assessment), before Project ground disturbance. Key indicators of archaeological potential in the Stage 1 report for the Reference Route (Appendix 15-I) include proximity to navigable water bodies where well-drained soils are present, railway infrastructure, glacial shorelines, early transportation routes and known archaeological sites.  
- Refer to Section 15 of the EA Report for additional information. |
| Concerns regarding garbage and dumping       | November 15, 2016  | - The Contractor will develop a Waste Management Plan for review and approval by the Owner, that describes the appropriate management of waste, including:  
  - construction-related garbage, debris, and surplus materials,  
  - hazardous materials such as used oil, filter and grease cartridges, lubrication containers, and  
  - domestic garbage and camp waste (i.e., food and grey water).  
- Solid waste will be managed and disposed of in compliance with an ECA, as required. |
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize community meetings, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to engage with MNO members and resolve any new concerns or issues expressed by MNO.

### 2.2.5.16 Red Sky Métis Independent Nation

A record of consultation with Red Sky Métis Independent Nation (RSMIN) is provided in Appendix 2-IX, Table 2-IX-16. NextBridge has communicated with community staff and leadership to provide updates on the Project and provide the community opportunities to raise issues and concerns. NextBridge signed a capacity funding agreement with RSMIN in 2017.

Key issues and concerns raised by RSMIN are presented in Table 2-27.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern/Issue Expressed</th>
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</table>
| Re-seeding of forested areas should include berry bushes to provide habitat for bears in the forest | May 7, 2014 | - Information related to vegetation is provided in Section 12 of the EA Report.  
- NextBridge will implement the following measures related to the reseeding of the Project footprint (Section 12.6):  
  - Allow compatible vegetation in the ROW to grow back to a maximum height of 2 m.  
  - On provincial Crown land, allow for natural regeneration or use certified native seed in consultation with appropriate Land Administrator. Natural recovery is the preferred method of reclamation on level terrain where erosion is not expected.  
  - Use natural recovery in wetlands.  
  - Propagate species or component species, in the case of rare vegetation communities, via vegetative or reproductive means (e.g., harvesting of seed, salvaging and transplanting portions of sod and surrounding vegetation or collecting of cuttings).  
  - Use certified native seed mix as required for site revegetation and provide the analysis certificate to the Owner.  
  - The Contractor will develop a Weed Management Plan for review and approval by the Owner, that describes the appropriate management of construction materials and equipment to prevent the infiltration and spread of weeds, including:  
    - cleaning and inspection of vehicles and equipment prior to arriving at the job,  
    - re-cleaning vehicles and equipment if an area of weed infestation is encountered on the Project Site (i.e., Project footprint), prior to advancing to a weed-free area,  
    - locating and management of vehicle and equipment cleaning locations on the Project footprint, and  
    - monitoring and management of weeds as needed during construction on the Project footprint. |
| Time and capacity needs to participate in the Draft EA review process | January 30, 2017 | NextBridge has signed a capacity funding agreement with Red Sky Métis Independent Nation. |
Table 2-27: Red Sky Métis Independent Nation Key Issues or Concerns

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<tr>
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<th>Where/How Addressed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potential for effects on walleye and sturgeon, which are</td>
<td>January 30, 2017</td>
<td>The potential effects on fish and fish habitat are discussed in Section 13 of the EA Report. No primary effect pathways were identified for fish and fish habitat as a result of the Project. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on fish and fish habitat (Section 13.6):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>species of concern for RSMIN</td>
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<td>- Minimize the number of temporary and permanent water body crossings required for the Project (e.g., plan the development of upgraded existing and new access roads).</td>
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<td>- A reconnaissance for undocumented water bodies within the Project Site (i.e., along the access road and travel lane, or within the footprint of facilities) will be completed prior to construction, in order to document water bodies not included on the water body crossing list (Appendix 4-II).</td>
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<td>- In the event that a previously unidentified water body is suspected or encountered unexpectedly, implement the Undocumented Water Body Discovery Contingency Plan (Appendix 4-II, Section 6.6).</td>
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<td>- Water body crossings will be constructed in compliance with LRCA, DFO and/or MNRF regulatory permits and approvals (Table 1-1).</td>
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<td>- Follow applicable and feasible measures from MNRF’s Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings (MNRF 1990), and Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales (MNRF 2010a) and its associated Background Rationale document (MNRF 2010b).</td>
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<td>- Complete instream construction in isolation of flowing water (i.e., use isolation methods for the installation and removal of culverts where surface water exists at the time of construction) (Appendix 4-II, Figure B-5).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>- Apply DFO’s Measures to Avoid Causing Harm to Fish and Fish Habitat Including Aquatic Species at Risk (DFO 2016). Construct or install water body crossings structures in a manner that protects the banks from erosion and maintains the flow in the water body. For isolations/diversions, maintain 100% downstream flow. Pump intakes should not disturb the bed. Water diversion hoses will be screened as per the Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guidelines (DFO 1995).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>- To minimize the duration and severity of disturbance, complete instream activity in the shortest timeframe practicable.</td>
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<td>- Use existing bridges to cross water bodies where available. The use of existing bridges will be subject to agreements with landowners and to permits and approvals by appropriate regulatory agencies. Regularly inspect and properly maintain the existing bridge as required.</td>
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<td>- Under non-frozen conditions and where regulatory approvals allow, install rig mats to limit impacts to water bodies, if warranted and surface conditions require.</td>
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<td>- Avoid construction during a fish and fish habitat restricted activity timing window. Work may not be conducted during the restricted activity timing window, or within a setback unless approval is obtained from the appropriate regulatory agencies, where required.</td>
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<td>- For the equipment crossing structures, the restricted activity timing windows are applicable if any work is completed below the high water mark.</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potential for effects on moose, which is a species of concern for RSMIN</td>
<td>January 30, 2017</td>
<td>The potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat are discussed in Section 14 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including moose (Section 14.6):</td>
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<td>■ Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.</td>
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<td>■ Salvage and retain coarse woody debris and organic materials at select locations and as needed to establish or re-establish suitable wildlife habitat after construction.</td>
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<td>■ Report wildlife sightings, issues, and incidents with wildlife or nuisance wildlife as soon as it is safe to do so to the Owner, who shall determine corrective and/or emergency action to be taken in the field. The Owner will determine what regulatory reporting is required.</td>
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<td>■ Recreational use of all-terrain vehicles by Project personnel is prohibited in the Project Site. The Owner will develop the environmental and safety orientation program, to be implemented by the Contractor.</td>
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<td>■ Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-II, Section 5.8.</td>
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<td>■ Limit public access by installing signage and gates on access roads and travel lanes where permissible by MNRF.</td>
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<td>■ Hunting and fishing on the Project Site by Project personnel is prohibited.</td>
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</table>
The potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat are discussed in Section 14 of the EA report. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including birds (Section 14.6):

- Bird flight diverters and perch discouragers will be installed on the transmission line in areas of concern (e.g., near water bodies known to represent staging areas).
- Avoid construction within required setbacks during a wildlife RAP, migratory bird nesting period, or fish and fish habitat restricted activity timing window. If constructing during an RAP, restricted activity timing window or within a setback cannot be avoided, notify the Owner as soon as possible. A resource specialist may need to survey the area for sensitive wildlife and if sensitive features are identified, additional mitigation may be developed by the Owner. Work may not be conducted during the RAP, restricted activity timing window, or within a setback unless approval is obtained from the appropriate regulatory agencies, where required. If vegetation removal cannot be avoided during the nesting period then implement the procedures in the Nest Sweep Protocol (Appendix 4-8).
- Similar measures to the procedures in the Nest Sweep Protocol (Appendix 4-8) will be taken for vegetation removal during routine preferred route ROW maintenance during the operation phase of the Project.
- Industry standards to avoid electrocutions have been incorporated in tower design.
- Implementation of the air quality and dust control mitigation measures presented in Section 9.6.
- Vehicles will not exceed speed limits established by the Owner and will lower speeds in specific conditions such as areas of high erosion hazard. Clearly mark speed limits along the access roads and travel lane as required.

Guy wires will be marked or covered with high visibility material from ground level to above the seasonal high snow embankment.

Hunting and fishing on the Project Site by Project personnel is prohibited.

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| Potential for bird injury or mortality from the Project, especially for eagles | January 30, 2017 | The potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat are discussed in Section 14 of the EA report. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including birds (Section 14.6):
- Bird flight diverters and perch discouragers will be installed on the transmission line in areas of concern (e.g., near water bodies known to represent staging areas).
- Avoid construction within required setbacks during a wildlife RAP, migratory bird nesting period, or fish and fish habitat restricted activity timing window. If constructing during an RAP, restricted activity timing window or within a setback cannot be avoided, notify the Owner as soon as possible. A resource specialist may need to survey the area for sensitive wildlife and if sensitive features are identified, additional mitigation may be developed by the Owner. Work may not be conducted during the RAP, restricted activity timing window, or within a setback unless approval is obtained from the appropriate regulatory agencies, where required. If vegetation removal cannot be avoided during the nesting period then implement the procedures in the Nest Sweep Protocol (Appendix 4-8).
- Similar measures to the procedures in the Nest Sweep Protocol (Appendix 4-8) will be taken for vegetation removal during routine preferred route ROW maintenance during the operation phase of the Project.
- Industry standards to avoid electrocutions have been incorporated in tower design.
- Implementation of the air quality and dust control mitigation measures presented in Section 9.6.
- Vehicles will not exceed speed limits established by the Owner and will lower speeds in specific conditions such as areas of high erosion hazard. Clearly mark speed limits along the access roads and travel lane as required. |
| Potential for injury from tripping on guy wires | January 30, 2017 | Guy wires will be marked or covered with high visibility material from ground level to above the seasonal high snow embankment. |
| Concerns about Project workers fishing in water bodies during off hours. | January 30, 2017 | Hunting and fishing on the Project Site by Project personnel is prohibited |
Table 2-27: Red Sky Métis Independent Nation Key Issues or Concerns

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| Potential for dust from the Project | February 6, 2017 | The potential for the Project to result in dust is addressed in Section 9 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects resulting from dust:  
- Where reasonable and practicable, vehicles and equipment will be turned off when not in use, unless weather and/or safety conditions dictate the need for them to remain turned on and in a safe operating condition.  
- The Contractor will keep equipment well-maintained.  
- Burning of slash will be subject to agreements with landowners, and to permits and approvals by appropriate regulatory agency (Table 1-1).  
- Dust control practices (e.g., wetting with water) may be implemented on access roads near residential areas or other areas as advised by the Environmental Inspector(s), where required.  
- Minimize dust-generating activities, as practicable and where required, during periods of high wind to limit dust emissions and spread.  
- Use multi-passenger vehicles to transport workers to site when possible. |
| Potential effects on vegetation | February 6, 2017 | The potential for the Project to result in changes to vegetation is addressed in Section 12 of the EA Report. Net effects on upland ecosystems, riparian ecosystems and wetland ecosystems are predicted to be not significant.  
NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on the vegetation and wetlands from the Project during construction and operations:  
- Selective clearing and retention of shrub vegetation, trees, wildlife trees, and coarse woody debris in environmentally sensitive areas as much as practicable.  
- Existing roads and trails will be used when feasible.  
- Clearly mark known site-specific features (e.g., rare vegetation community, wetland, water body, significant wildlife habitat) and associated setbacks as indicated on the Environmental Alignment Sheets and Access and Construction Environmental Maps.  
- Reclaim temporary access roads, the travel lane, water crossings, laydown yards, staging areas, and construction camps, or in accordance with the line list, following mitigation measures for reclamation in Appendix 4-11, Section 5.8.  
- On provincial Crow land, allow for natural regeneration or use certified native seed in consultation with appropriate Land Administrator. Natural recovery is the preferred method of reclamation on level terrain where erosion is not expected.  
- The Contractor will develop a Weed Management Plan for review and approval by the Owner that describes the appropriate management of construction materials and equipment to prevent the infiltration and spread of weeds. |
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| Burning of wood fibre on site and potential increase in greenhose gas emissions  | February 22, 2017  | The potential for the Project to result in greenhouse gas emissions is discussed in Section 10 of the EA Report. NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures related to the burning of wood fibre:  
  - Burning of slash will be subject to agreements with landowners, and to permits and approvals by appropriate regulatory agency (Table 1-1). |
| Potential for operating hours to extend beyond 7 am to 7 pm  | February 22, 2017  |  
  - Construction activities will typically occur during one 10-hour shift per day, with normal working hours of 07:00 to 19:00. Regularly scheduled night-time work may be required to make up for schedule delays caused by weather or other unexpected conditions.  
  - NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse effects due to noise:  
    - Ensure that noise abatement equipment on machinery is properly maintained and in good working order.  
    - Notify communities along the route of the planned construction schedule before the start of construction.  
    - Notify Indigenous communities of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction.  
    - Where reasonable and practicable, vehicles and equipment will be turned off when not in use, unless weather and/or safety conditions dictate the need for them to remain turned on and in a safe operating condition.  
    - Address noise concerns as they arise through a noise complaint process. |
| Potential for visual impacts to Ouimet Canyon, which is of high importance to the community. Red Sky Métis Independent Nation recommended moving laydown areas away from the Canyon. | February 22, 2017  |  
  - The potential for changes in the visual environment at Viewpoint 1 (Ouimet Canyon) is discussed in Section 20 of the EA Report.  
  - At Viewpoint 1, the view is towards the south from a public viewing platform at the top of Ouimet Canyon. None of the transmission route is predicted to be visible from this location as it is screened by landforms and/or vegetation. An approximate 9 ha temporary laydown yard is predicted to be visible along with approximately 0.4 km of existing access road.  
  - At Viewpoint 1, the clearing for a temporary laydown yard will appear relatively small in scale, but the position in the viewing context will make it a focal feature for viewers and result in a moderate degree of contrast with the existing landscape. Revegetation occurring from reclamation of the disturbed laydown yard would re-establish the natural forested appearance over time. Consistently a conservative prediction of the effectiveness of revegetation, the degree of contrast with the existing landscape would be low for the majority of the operation phase. |

EA = Environmental Assessment; ROW = right-of-way; RSMIN = Red Sky Métis Independent Nation; LRCA = Lakehead Region Conservation Authority; DFO = Fisheries and Oceans Canada; MNRF = Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; RAP = Restricted Activity Period
NextBridge has extended an ongoing invitation to organize a community meeting, or other appropriate engagement activities, to provide information about the EA Report and the Project, answer questions and hear feedback and other relevant information the community may wish to share. NextBridge will continue to make all reasonable efforts to consult with the RSMIN and will continue to respond to any new community issues and concerns as they are raised.

2.2.6 Ongoing Engagement Commitment

NextBridge has attempted to address those issues and concerns expressed by Indigenous communities in the EA Report, where appropriate. Additional concerns and Project information requests were responded to immediately when expressed (e.g., during meetings or phone calls), where possible.

NextBridge will continue to communicate and follow up with Indigenous communities to receive their feedback on the Project and the EA Report. NextBridge will respond to all written comments received from the Indigenous communities. For written comments received outside the MOECC EA Report review periods, NextBridge will respond to the Indigenous community comments directly to the Indigenous community and the response will be provided to MOECC in a monthly Indigenous consultation log update. For written comments received during the final EA Report comment review period, NextBridge will respond and submit the responses to MOECC along with comments received from other reviewers.

Similar to the approach taken during the review of the draft EA Report, for any new comments received after the final EA Report is submitted, NextBridge will discuss and resolve issues with Indigenous communities through meetings and teleconferences as required. NextBridge is committed to working with Indigenous communities to facilitate their review of the EA Report and incorporate feedback into the Project design and planning, as appropriate.

The continued engagement and consultation with potentially affected Indigenous communities through the life of the Project will provide an opportunity for communities to identify additional land and resource use sites that have the potential to be affected by the Project. NextBridge will review and consider additional data or information submitted by Indigenous communities during Project planning and will discuss appropriate mitigation measures for newly identified land or resource use sites with the identifying Indigenous community. The location of the land and resource use site and associated mitigation will be added to the Project environmental dataset and will be included on updates to the Environmental Protection Plan, Environmental Alignment Sheets, and Access and Construction Environmental Maps with site-specific or non-standard mitigation measures, as required. Ongoing engagement will also provide opportunities for communities to discuss the effectiveness of mitigation as observed while they undertake land and resource use activities in proximity to the Project. NextBridge will continue to engage with Indigenous communities to confirm that Project mitigation and monitoring measures, as described in the EA Report, have addressed the environmental and socio-economic concerns described in Section 2.2.5.

In addition to requesting feedback on the Project and the EA Report, NextBridge will also continue engagement and consultation through the development and construction of the Project with affected Indigenous communities to provide updates on Project design, construction planning, and schedule.

A transmission line is a long-term asset that can continue to operate upwards of 50 years. NextBridge is approaching engagement on the same long-term basis, and wants to build long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with potentially affected Indigenous communities based on trust and respect. NextBridge recognizes that trust takes time to build, and that consultation and continuing dialogue with the communities will be ongoing for the life of the Project.