

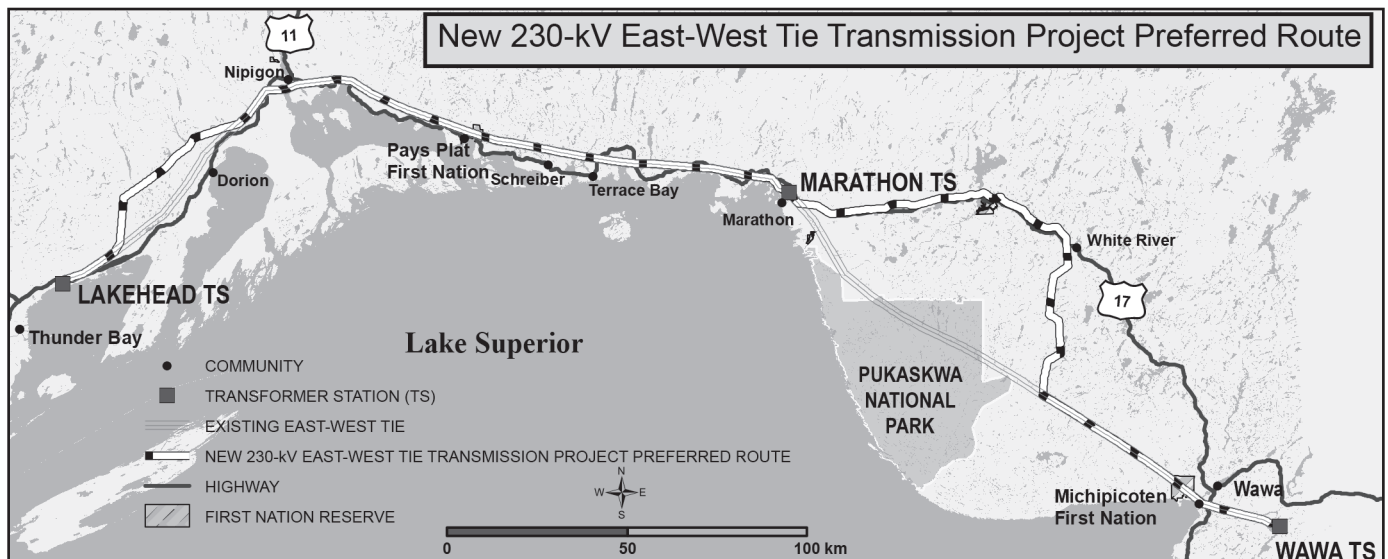
Notice of Intent to Amend the Environmental Assessment Report NextBridge Infrastructure – East-West Tie Transmission Project

NextBridge Infrastructure LP (NextBridge) is intending to amend the Environmental Assessment Report (EA Report) for the East-West Tie Transmission Project that was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) in July 2017. The EA Report was submitted to the MOECC for their review as required under section 6.2 (1) of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and according to the Terms of Reference approved by the Minister of Environment on August 28, 2014. The amended EA Report will be based on feedback received during the review period.

The Project

The proposed East-West Tie Line Transmission Project (the Project) is an approximately 450-kilometre double-circuit 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line connecting the Wawa Transformer Station (TS) to the Lakehead TS in the Municipality of Shuniah near Thunder Bay, with a connection at the Marathon TS. The Project generally parallels an existing double-circuit 230-kV transmission line corridor (the existing East-West Tie) but avoids some sensitive features crossed by the existing line, including Pukaskwa National Park. The preferred route is depicted on the map below.

The Project is required to ensure the long-term reliability of the electricity supply in northwestern Ontario (the Northwest). Industrial activities in the Northwest, particularly in the mining sector, are expected to drive electricity demand growth in the coming decades. Based on this growth, coupled with changes to the electricity supply in the area, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has identified a need for new electricity supply to the Northwest. The IESO analyzed alternatives and recommended expansion of the existing East-West Tie based on technical, economic and other considerations.



Environmental Assessment Report Review Process

NextBridge is committed to consulting with interested stakeholders, members of the public and Indigenous communities to receive feedback on the proposed Project during the entire EA process. A Terms of Reference for the EA was submitted to the MOECC in February 2014 and approved in August 2014. A draft EA Report was submitted to the MOECC and made available for public review and comment from December 2016 to March 2017. NextBridge updated the EA Report based on feedback received during the draft EA review and comment period. A final EA Report was submitted to the MOECC in July 2017, and made available for public review and comment from July 2017 to September 2017, as required under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. NextBridge is currently reviewing the comments received on the final EA Report.

NextBridge has committed to amend the EA Report to address the feedback received from the provincial government review team as well as Indigenous communities and interested persons. NextBridge will also continue with ongoing consultation through the remaining review process. Timelines for the submission of the amended EA Report are currently being discussed with the MOECC.

The EA Report amendment is in accordance with Subsection 6.2(2) of the *Environmental Assessment Act* which states that a proponent can amend or withdraw its EA at any time prior to the deadline for completion of the ministry review. The purpose of an amendment is “to address issues that may have arisen with the EA during the first inspection period and which are too numerous or complex to resolve within the regulated timelines,” as per Section 6.2.1 of the *Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Environmental Assessments in Ontario* (2014).

Interested stakeholders and Indigenous communities will be provided an opportunity to review and provide comments on the amended EA Report. Prior to the review period, a notice of submission of the amended EA Report will be distributed to stakeholders and communities through mailings, newspaper notices and through postings at www.nextbridge.ca.

For further information on the proposed Project or the EA process, please contact:

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All personal information in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the MOECC for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s.37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA). Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the MOECC’s Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-314-4075.