

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 (refer to 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; refer to Appendix 1-III). This section provides an overview of consultation and engagement activities carried out during preparation of the amended 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 amended EA Report where relevant.

NextBridge submitted a draft EA Report in December 2016 and received approximately 1,000 comments on the draft EA Report. The final EA Report was submitted in July 2017. NextBridge received an additional approximately 510 comments on the draft EA Report after submission of the final EA Report. NextBridge received approximately 325 comments on the final EA Report. The comments and responses on the draft EA Report submitted in the final EA Report are provided in Appendix 1-III. Comments and response to comments on the draft EA Report received after submission of the final EA Report and on the final EA Report are provided in Appendix 1-IV.

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 holders¹, local government, government agencies and representatives, other stakeholders², 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 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 make sure 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.

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.

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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) until November 30, 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 January 2018 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 ownership³ 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 (refer to 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 meters [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 numbers⁴ 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

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 1990e), 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.

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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 right-of-way [ROW] boundary), and along new and existing access roads. NextBridge submitted a formal request to the MNRF under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Government of Ontario 1990a) to obtain outstanding contact information.

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 separate request was submitted to the MNDM to obtain outstanding interest holder contact information. A notice under the *Public Lands Act* (Government of Ontario 1990b) 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.

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 1990c). 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.

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Two unincorporated communities, Rosspoint 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 MNM. 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 that were identified and is not intended to be comprehensive:

- 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 and other infrastructure owners (i.e., pipeline, transmission, distribution and telecommunications);
- 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 (refer to 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. Seven notices were developed and circulated during development of the draft, final and amended EA Reports. 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 (refer to 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, 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 (refer to Appendices 2-V). Printed copies of the material were made available to attendees at the public Open Houses and posted on the Project website.

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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. 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 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, interest holders, including regulatory agencies and other infrastructure owners. Land agents began meeting with potentially affected property owners and interest holders during development of the ToR. Meetings continued throughout the EA process to coordinate ongoing field studies and surveys, land optioning and permitting, and facilitate the sharing of Project information and updates.

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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 and was also posted to the Project website. Copies of the Compensation Principles document are included in Appendices 2-V-A, 2-V-B, and 2-V-C.

2.1.2.6 Government Consultation

In person meetings were held with municipal elected representatives and staff in municipalities, townships, and towns along the preferred route. Initial contact and meetings were held during development of the ToR and continued throughout the EA process. 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 the EA process (refer to 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 and the general public (refer to 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.

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.

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2.1.3 Consultation Activities during the Environmental Assessment Process

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 Project newsletter and notice is provided in Appendices 2-VI and 2-VIII, respectively.

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 that were mailed and 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

Media	Running Dates	Language(s)
Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal	August 8, 2014 (print version)	English
Marathon Mercury	August 12, 2014 (print version)	English and French
Nipigon Red Rock Gazette	August 5, 2014 (print version)	English
Terrace Bay Schreiber News	August 5, 2014 (print version)	English and French
Algoma News	August 6, 2014 (print version)	English and French
Thunder Bay Source	August 7, 2014 (print version)	English
Ontario News North	August 8, 2014 (online ad)	English and French
Wawa-News.com	August 8, 2014 (online ad)	English

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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 interests⁵ 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.

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 that were mailed and published in the newspapers can be found in Appendix 2-VIII.

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

Media	Running Dates	Language(s)
Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal	March 29, 2016 (print version)	English
Marathon Mercury	March 29, 2016 (print version)	English and French
Nipigon Red Rock Gazette	March 29, 2016 (print version)	English
Terrace Bay Schreiber News	March 29, 2016 (print version)	English and French
Algoma News	March 30, 2016 (print version)	English and French
Thunder Bay Source	March 31, 2016 (print version)	English
Ontario News North	March 31, 2016 (online ad)	English and French
Wawa-News.com	March 31, 2016 (online ad)	English

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.

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2.1.3.1.3 Notice of Submission of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report

The *Environmental Assessment Act* (Government of Ontario 1990d) 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, in both English and French, 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. Copies of the notices that were mailed and published in newspapers are provided in Appendix 2-VIII.

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

Media	Running Dates	Language(s)
Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal	December 6, 2016 (print version)	English
Marathon Mercury	December 6, 2016 (print version)	English and French
Nipigon Red Rock Gazette	December 6, 2016 (print version)	English
Terrace Bay Schreiber News	December 6, 2016 (print version)	English and French
Algoma News	December 7, 2016 (print version)	English and French
Thunder Bay Source	December 8, 2016 (print version)	English
Ontario News North	December 8, 2016 (online ad)	English and French
Wawa-News.com	December 8, 2016 (online ad)	English

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 2-4. Copies of the notices that were mailed and published in the newspapers can be found in Appendix 2-VIII.

Table 2-4: Notice of Public Open Houses – Round Four – Publications and Dates

Media	Running Dates	Language(s)
Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal	January 17, 2017 (print version)	English
Marathon Mercury	January 17, 2017 (print version)	English and French
Nipigon Red Rock Gazette	January 17, 2017 (print version)	English
Terrace Bay Schreiber News	January 17, 2017 (print version)	English and French
Algoma News	January 18, 2017 (print version)	English and French
Thunder Bay Source	January 19, 2017 (print version)	English
Ontario News North	January 19, 2017 (online ad)	English and French
Wawa-News.com	January 19, 2017 (online ad)	English

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2.1.3.1.5 Notice of Submission of the Final Environmental Assessment Report

The Notice of Submission of the Final Environmental Assessment Report and an update letter was distributed in mid-July 2017 to inform stakeholders that the final EA Report was available for review and comment, in accordance with *Environmental Assessment Act* (Government of Ontario 1990d) and Section 5 of the MOECC's *Code of Practice: Consultation in Ontario's Environmental Assessment Process* (2014a).

The Notice of Submission of the final EA Report was mailed to the stakeholder contact list, posted on the Project website on July 18, 2017, and published in the local print and online newspapers presented in Table 2-5. A 30-second long radio advertisement was broadcast 30 different times during a.m. and p.m. drives from July 18 to 24, 2017 to Dorion, Nipigon, Marathon, Red Rock, Schreiber, Shuniah, Terrace Bay, Wawa, and White River. Copies of the notices that were mailed and published in the newspapers are provided in Appendix 2-VIII.

Table 2-5: Notice of Submission of the Final Environmental Assessment Report Publications and Dates

Media	Running Dates	Language(s)
Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal	July 18, 2017 (print version)	English
Marathon Mercury	July 18, 2017 (print version)	English and French
Nipigon Red Rock Gazette	July 18, 2017 (print version)	English
Terrace Bay Schreiber News	July 18, 2017 (print version)	English and French
Wawa Algoma News	July 19, 2017 (print version)	English and French
Thunder Bay Source	July 20, 2017 (print version)	English
Ontario News North	July 20, 2017 (online ad)	English and French
Wawa-News.com	July 20, 2017 (online ad)	English and French
CNFO-FM (Marathon)	July 18 to July 24, 2017 (30 spots)	English

2.1.3.1.6 Notice of Leave to Construct Application

NextBridge informed stakeholders in July 2017 that the Leave to Construct (LTC) was submitted to the OEB and the LTC was posted to the Project web site.

NextBridge was directed to provide a Notice of Application to stakeholders identified by the OEB. The Notice of Application was posted on the Project website on October 12, 2017. The notice was available in English, French, Cree and Ojibway, and copies are provided in Appendix 2-VIII.

2.1.3.1.7 Notice of Intent to Amend the Environmental Assessment Report

The Notice of Intent to Amend the EA Report was distributed to stakeholders by mail in mid-November 2017 to inform them that NextBridge has committed to amend the EA Report based on feedback received from the provincial government review team, Indigenous communities and stakeholders. Property owners and interest holders were notified via mail or by hand delivery. The amended EA Report is in accordance with Subsection 6.2(2) of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (Government of Ontario 1990d) and Section 6.2.1 of the *Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Environmental Assessments in Ontario* (2014). The notice also informed stakeholders that they would be provided with an opportunity to review and provide comments on the amended EA Report, and a Notice of Submission of the amended EA Report would be distributed to stakeholders and communities prior to the review period. The notice was produced in English and French and a copy is provided in Appendix 2-VIII. A Notice of Submission of the amended EA Report will be mailed to stakeholders in February 2018 to inform them that NextBridge has submitted the amended EA Report to the MOECC for review and approval and is available for public review.

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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 Wawa⁶. 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.

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.

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A total of 223 people attended round two of public Open Houses. The breakdown of this total is provided in Table 2-6.

Table 2-6: Round Two Public Open House Attendance by Location

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

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, draft 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

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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 2-7.

Table 2-7: Public Open House Round Three Attendance by Location

Date	Location	Number of Attendees
April 18, 2016	City of Thunder Bay (Current River Community Centre)	110
April 19, 2016	Township of Dorion (Dorion Community Centre)	44
April 20, 2016	Town of Marathon (Marathon Centre Mall)	30
April 20, 2016	Township of Nipigon (Royal Canadian Legion)	44
April 21, 2016	Township of White River (Royal Canadian Legion)	12
April 21, 2016	Municipality of Wawa (Royal Canadian Legion)	25
April 22, 2016	Township of Schreiber (Schreiber Recreation Centre)	16
April 22, 2016	Township of Terrace Bay (Terrace Bay Cultural Centre)	18

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.

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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 final 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 2-8).

Table 2-8: Public Open House Round Four Attendance by Location

Date	Location	Number of Attendees
February 6, 2017	City of Thunder Bay (Current River Community Centre)	76
February 6, 2017	Township of Nipigon (Royal Canadian Legion)	19
February 7, 2017	Township of Dorion (Dorion Community Centre)	17
February 7, 2017	Township of White River (Royal Canadian Legion)	15
February 8, 2017	Town of Marathon (Marathon Centre Mall)	17
February 8, 2017	Municipality of Wawa (Royal Canadian Legion)	11
February 9, 2017	Township of Schreiber (Schreiber Recreation Centre)	13
February 9, 2017	Township of Terrace Bay (Terrace Bay Cultural Centre)	18

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.

2.1.3.3 Project Newsletters

Issues 2 (July 2014) and 3 (April 2016) 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 (January 2017) 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.

2.1.3.4 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.

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- **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 the draft EA Review, a route refinement near Loon Lake, and new Project Director.
- **July 11, 2017** – Project update letter to inform stakeholders of submission of the final EA Report and the public review and comment period.
- **July 31, 2017** – Project update letter to inform stakeholders that NextBridge submitted the LTC application to the OEB.

The 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 the EA process. Land agents were also available at the Open Houses to discuss property owner-related issues with attendees. The land acquisition program, including optioning⁷ and consent or agreement acquisition, with affected property owners and interest holders, commenced in the spring of 2016 and is ongoing. 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 and interest holders to review the Project, and potential effects on their specific property or Crown interest;
- agreement presentation meetings⁸ 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 or interest holder.

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.

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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. NextBridge has also developed Crown land acquisition policies that are being used to acquire consent or reach agreement with impacted interest holders of Crown land required to construct the Project. NextBridge is applying these policies in a consistent and fair manner based on the type of interest impacted. The policies include: affected Mining Leasehold Compensation Policy; Affected Aggregate Site Compensation Policy; and Affected Unpatented Claim Compensation Policy (refer to Attachment MNRG-OG-13 of Appendix I-IV-A).

A table of interactions with property owners and interest holders between February 2014 and November 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.

2.1.3.6 Local Government Consultation

NextBridge has consulted with municipalities along the proposed transmission line route since 2013 regarding environmental and engineering study activities occurring within their respective jurisdictions, including executing forms of agreement to permit access to study potentially affected municipal lands. In February 2017, NextBridge held meetings with representatives of the municipalities of Shuniah and Wawa, and the Townships of Nipigon, Schrieber and Terrace Bay, and the Town of Marathon. The purpose of these meetings was to review the location of the proposed transmission line route and related facilities within municipal or township boundaries and to confirm applicable permitting and agreement requirements for the use of public roads and municipal lands.

In addition to the discussions summarized in Section 18 (socio-economics) of this amended EA Report, further discussions and meetings were held with local municipalities in Northwestern Ontario to address concerns and questions throughout the EA process. Detailed tables of interactions with municipalities are provided 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 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 the EA process.

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.

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2.1.3.7.3 Agency Consultation

Consultation activities with agencies included in-person meetings, conference calls and phone calls that continued throughout the EA process, to confirm applicable permitting and agreement requirements as it pertained to the use of agency lands. Consultation occurred with the following government agencies:

- The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO);
- Infrastructure Ontario (IO);
- MNDM;
- The Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure (MEDEI);
- Transport Canada (TC);
- MNRF; and,
- Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One).

This consultation included input on the criteria and indicators assessed in the EA, field work planning, timing of studies and comments on the draft EA Report and final EA Report. Copies of communications and notes from meetings are presented in Appendix 2-III-B. Comments from MNRF and MOECC on the draft EA Report and final EA Report are in Appendix 1-III and responses are summarized in Appendix 1-III-A.

2.1.3.8 General Public Consultation

Throughout the EA process, NextBridge has responded to inquiries from members of the general public. This communication took place via email, phone or in-person. 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, Nor'wester Voyageur Trail Club and North Shore Golf Club);
- naturalist clubs;
- trappers and outfitters;
- fishing guides;
- economic development corporations and chambers of commerce;
- mining industry representatives;
- forestry industry representatives;
- Dorion Concerned Citizens;
- Loon Lake community; and
- vendors seeking potential work during Project planning, construction, and operation.

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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, Damphino Fishing Club and Rendezvous Cross-Country Ski Club, to discuss particular concerns. Details on these interactions are provided 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.

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2.1.3.10 Consultation on the Draft and Final Environmental Assessment Report

The draft EA Report and final EA Report were made available for review and comment on NextBridge's website on December 19, 2016 and July 25, 2017, respectively, and at the following locations:

Municipal Offices

- Township of Dorion⁹; Township of Dorion¹⁰;
- 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; and
- Township of White River.

Public Libraries

- Brodie Resource Library (Thunder Bay);
- County Park Branch (Thunder Bay);
- Dorion Public Library;
- Nipigon Public Library;
- Red Rock Public Library;
- Schreiber Public Library;
- Terrace Bay Public Library;
- Marathon Public Library;
- Wawa Public Library; and
- White River Public Library.

MOECC Offices

- Environmental Approvals Access and Service Integration Branch; and
- Thunder Bay District Office.

Copies of the draft EA Report and final EA report were also available at NextBridge's Toronto office.

The draft EA Report was couriered to the locations previously listed. 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.

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. Comments received during the draft EA review were documented and summaries of comments and concerns provided by stakeholders are provided in Section 2.1.5. Summaries of government agency comments and NextBridge's responses are included in Appendix 1-III. The final EA Report was updated based on feedback received during the draft EA Report review and comment period, as necessary.

The final EA Report was submitted to the MOECC in July 2017, and stakeholders were encouraged to review the final EA Report and submit comments to NextBridge by September 12, 2017. The final EA Report was also couriered to the locations previously listed and a hard copy and digital copy of the individual final EA Report sections were made available for review. Comments received during the final EA Report review period were documented and summarized. Concerns provided by stakeholders are provided in Section 2.1.6. Summaries of government agency comments and NextBridge's responses are included in Appendix 1-IV.

⁹ The final EA Report was made available at the public library in Dorion and not at the Township of Dorion municipal office. The community agreed to this approach to reduce printing costs, because both locations shared the same address.

¹⁰ The final EA Report was made available at the public library in Dorion and not at the Township of Dorion municipal office. The community agreed to this approach to reduce printing costs, because both locations shared the same address.

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The amended EA Report was updated based on feedback received during the final EA Report review and comment period. The amended EA Report will be made available for public review at the locations previously listed in February 2018.

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

NextBridge received 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 (refer to Appendix 1-III-A).

2.1.4.1 *Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Comments*

The MNRF sent an initial list of draft EA Report comments to NextBridge on March 3, 2017, and a revised list was provided on March 8, 2017. Comments received from the MNRF 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*

NextBridge received comments on the draft EA Report from the MOECC on March 9, 2017, and are categorized as follows:

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

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

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2.1.4.3 Revisions Made to the Final Environmental Assessment Report as a Result of Agency Comments

The final EA Report was updated in response to a number of MNRF and MOECC comments on the draft EA Report. NextBridge also revised the Project footprint between submission of the draft EA Report and the final 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 final EA Report as a result of the comments received from the MNRF, the MOECC and Indigenous communities on the draft EA Report.

2.1.5 Summary of Government Agency Comments on the Final Environmental Assessment Report

NextBridge received comments on the final EA Report from regulatory agencies and has prepared written responses to the comments received. The comments were compiled and categorized by topic and agency and are presented in Appendix 1-IV-A.

2.1.5.1 Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Comments

The MNRF sent comments on the final EA Report to the MOECC on September 19, 2017, who subsequently sent them to NextBridge on September 26, 2017. An additional three comments were provided on November 28, 2017. Comments were received from the MNRF are categorized as follows:

- overarching and general;
- Aboriginal consultation and engagement;
- aggregates;
- aquatic resources and fisheries;
- conservation reserves;
- forestry;
- public lands;
- lands;
- natural heritage and wildlife;
- provincial parks;
- species at risk;
- cover letter; and
- draft amended EA Report comments.

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2.1.5.2 Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Comments

The MOECC sent an initial list of comments on the final EA Report to NextBridge on September 26, 2017, and additional comments were provided on October 3, 2017 and on November 24, 2017. Comments received from the MOECC are categorized as follows:

- Aboriginal consultation and engagement;
- air quality;
- hydrogeology;
- surface water;
- wastewater; and
- EA methodology and presentation.

2.1.5.3 Ministry of Northern Development and Mines Comments

The MNDM sent comments on the final EA Report to NextBridge on September 26, 2017. Comments received from the MNDM are categorized as follows:

- Aboriginal consultation and engagement;
- past and existing mining projects; and
- mining and aggregates regulatory context.

2.1.5.4 Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Comments

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) issued comments on the final EA Report to MOECC on September 21, 2017, who subsequently sent them to NextBridge on September 26, 2017. The comments were related to downstream effects to potential archaeological and cultural heritage resources due to Project disturbances.

2.1.5.5 Fisheries and Oceans Canada Comments

Fisheries and Ocean Canada (DFO) issued comments on the final EA Report to MOECC on September 13, 2017, which were sent to NextBridge on September 26, 2017. Comments received from DFO are categorized as follows:

- engagement with DFO;
- EA information adequacy;
- baseline field surveys; and
- crossing sites with proposed work below the high water mark.

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2.1.5.6 Revisions Made to the Amended Environmental Assessment Report as a Result of Agency Comments

The amended EA Report was updated in response to a number of regulator comments on the final EA Report. Responses to regulator comments, changes made and the location of these changes are provided in Appendix 1-IV-A to the amended EA Report.

In general, regulators were concerned with limited site-specific details in the final EA Report, potential effects to MNR-mandated interests, the assessment methodology used in the final EA Report and lack of field surveys in greenfield areas of the footprint. Changes were made to the amended EA Report to address the general concerns expressed by multiple regulators, and are summarized in Section 1.7.2.1 and provided in detail in Appendix 1-IV-A.

2.1.6 Summary of Comments and Concerns during Preparation of the Draft and Final 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 or concern 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 during the EA process until the end of June 2017.

2.1.6.1 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 make sure 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 ROW with property owner(s) and interest holder(s) to determine if their property or interest will be affected by the Project;
- adjusting temporary access road easement to avoid encroachment upon the property owner's or interest holder's residence, out-building, 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 or interest holder;
- relocating proposed route based on concerns raised by the property owner or interest holder (i.e. route refinements at Mackenzie River), and also at Crossing of Barrick/Hemlo mine, Hydro One crossing locations.
- relocating a proposed laydown yard and identifying suitable alternate location on subject's property;

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- revising the Project footprint to the opposite edge of road boundary to avoid clearing a shelter belt; and,
- reviewing the general placement of tower structure locations with the concerned property owner or interest holder 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 footprint. NextBridge provided each SFL a timber valuation of merchantable timber 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 have been initiated by the General Contractor to further discussions and 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 whose trapping assets are directly affected by Project construction may be eligible for compensation, including damage to trapper assets, general disturbance, and effects to trapping operations. Guided outfitters and trapline areas, and bear management area and baitfish harvest area license holders will be engaged with, and where required, mutually beneficial agreements will be developed with the affected tenure holders through the MNRF. 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.

Notification to crown interests such as trappers, bait harvesters, bear outfitters has been completed. NextBridge continues to work with MNRF to confirm all Crown interests impacted by the Project, to make sure that 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.

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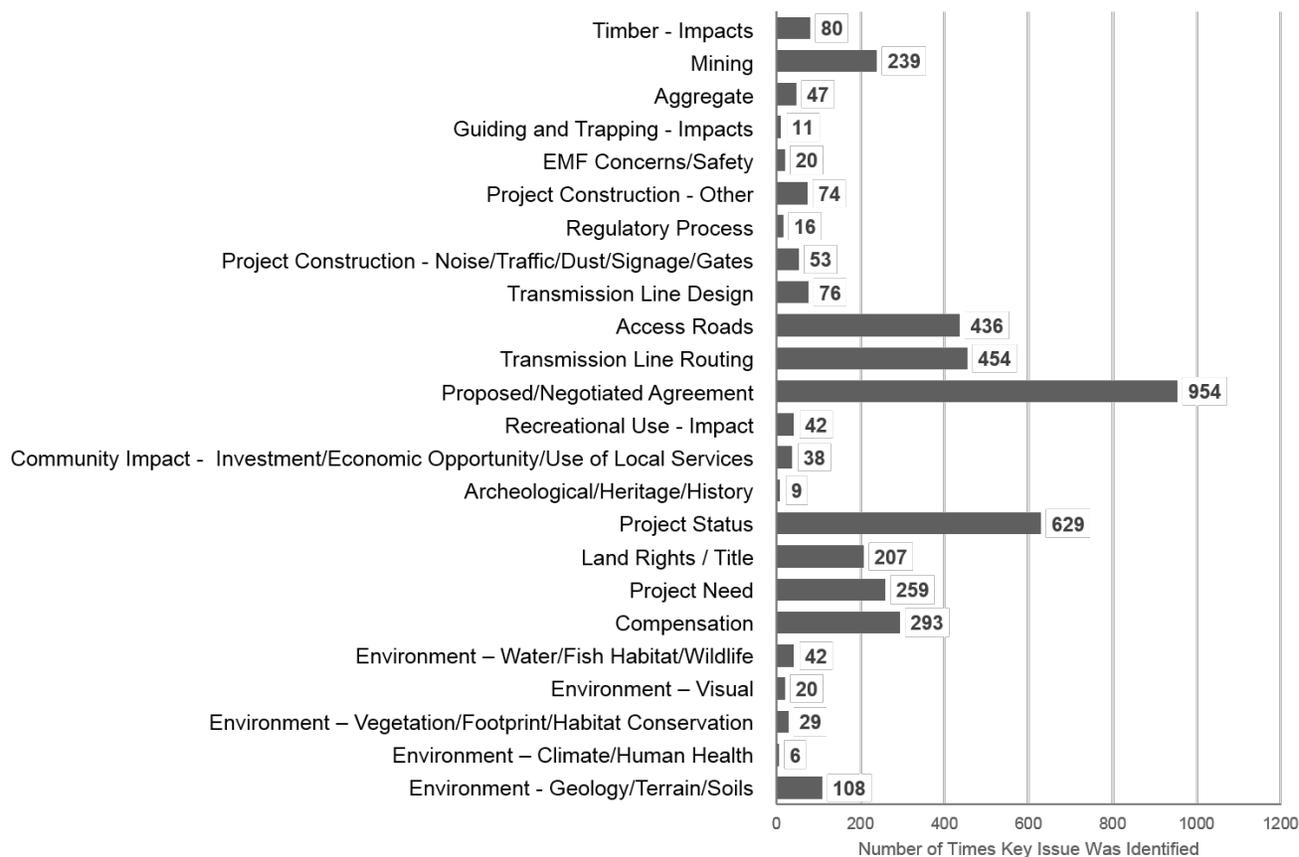


Figure 2-1: Interactions by Issue with Property Owners and Interest Holders

2.1.6.2 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 LTC 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 body 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.

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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 amended EA Report in Sections 18 and 19.

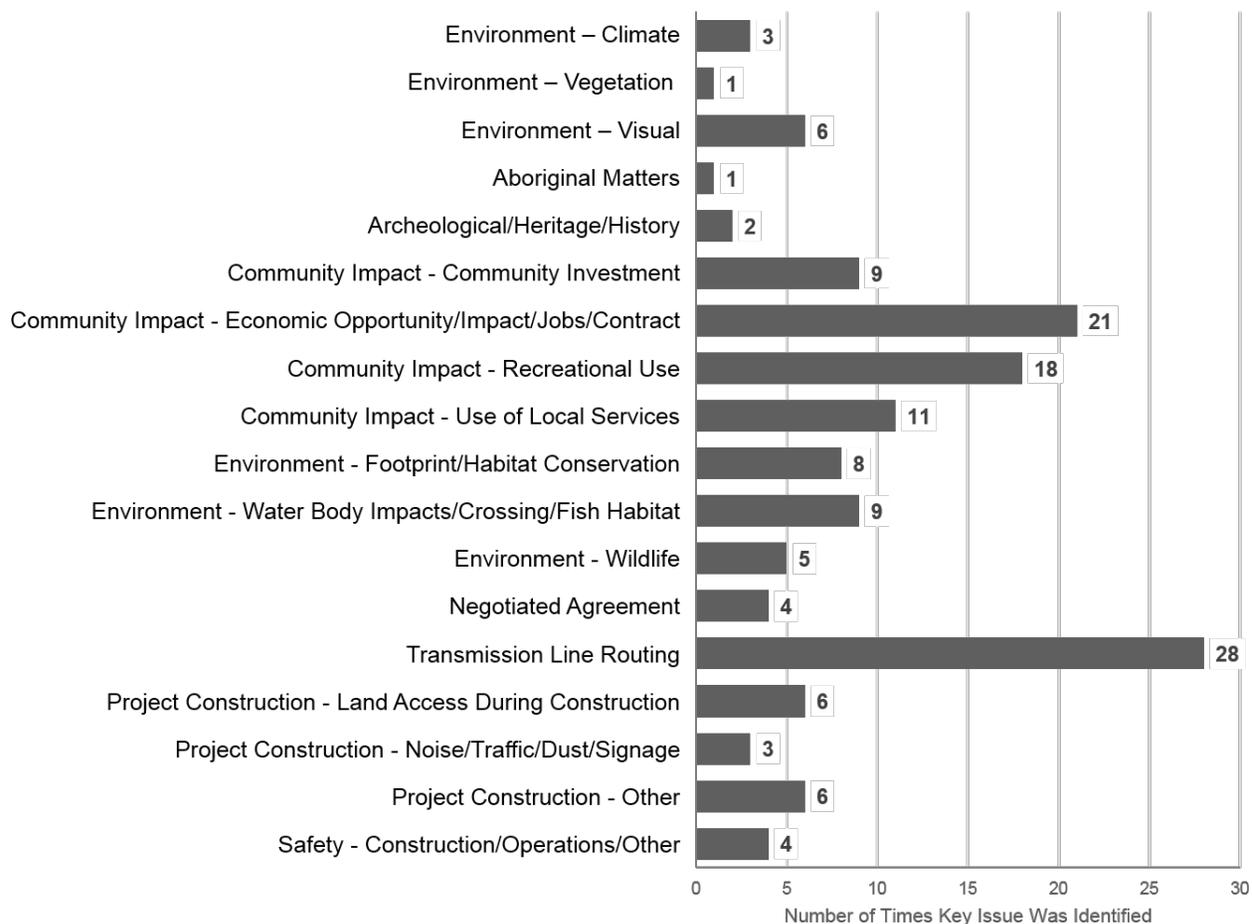


Figure 2-2: Interactions by Issue with Local Government

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2.1.6.3 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 and final EA Report are summarized in Appendix 1-III-A and Appendix 1-IV-A, respectively.

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.

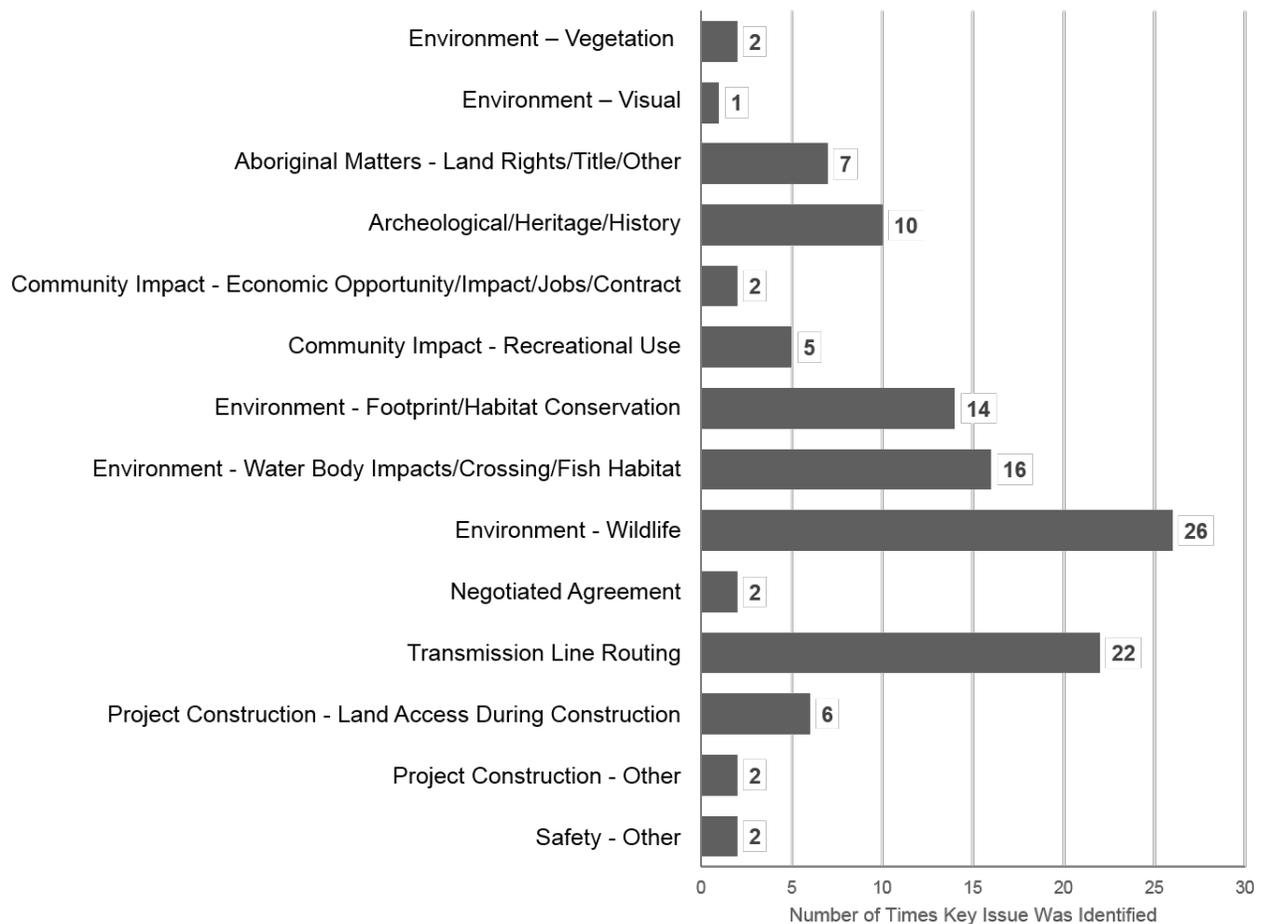


Figure 2-3: Interactions by Issue with Government Agencies

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2.1.6.4 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 Construction Environmental Protection Plan (CEPP; refer to 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).

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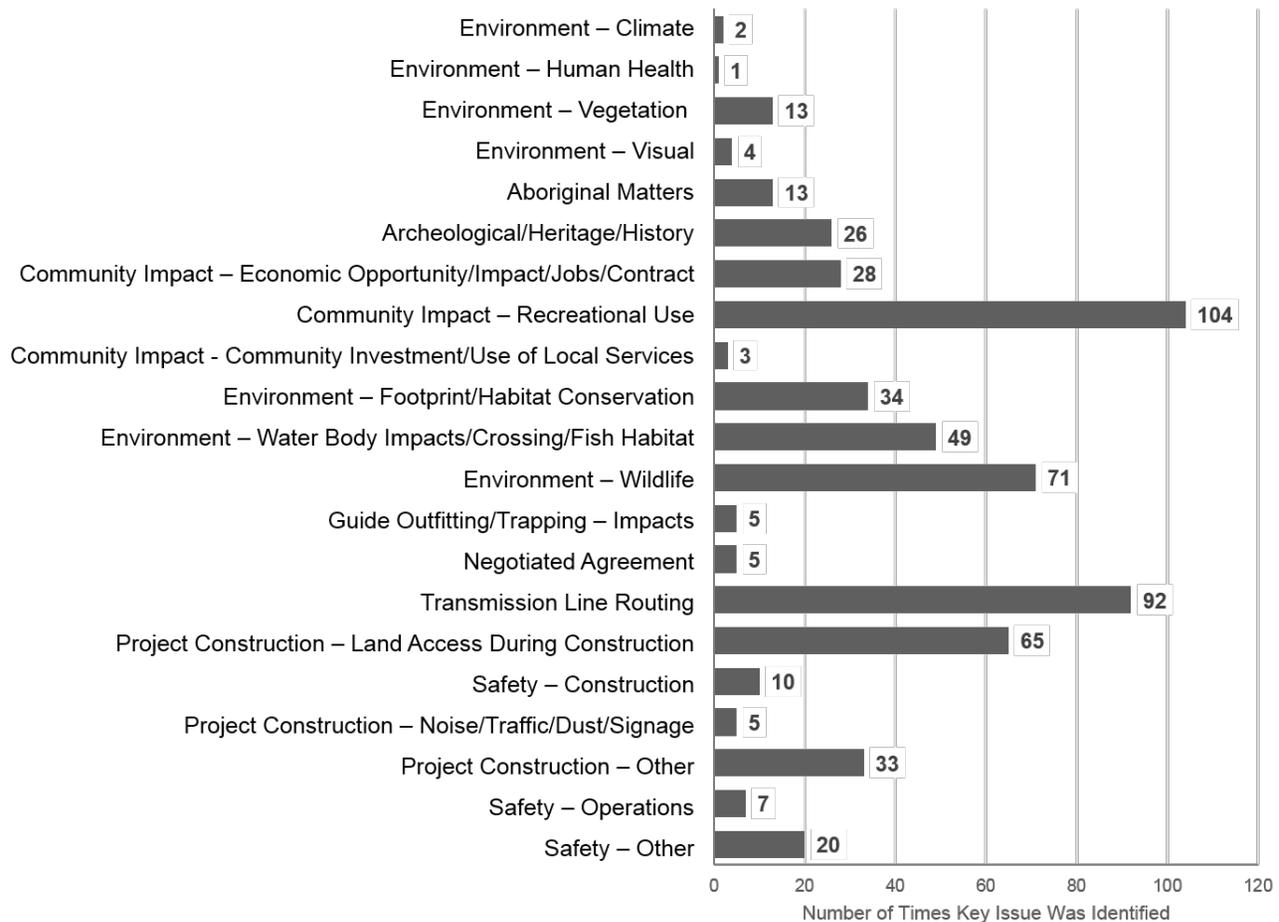


Figure 2-4: Interactions by Issue with the General Public

2.1.6.5 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 amended 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

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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 the Rendezvous Cross Country Ski Club (the 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 final EA Report to make sure that all interactions with the Ski Club were documented in the final EA Report, 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 CR and structure placement. NextBridge has committed to ongoing consultation with the Ski Club throughout Project development.

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, Table 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 amended 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 amended EA Report.

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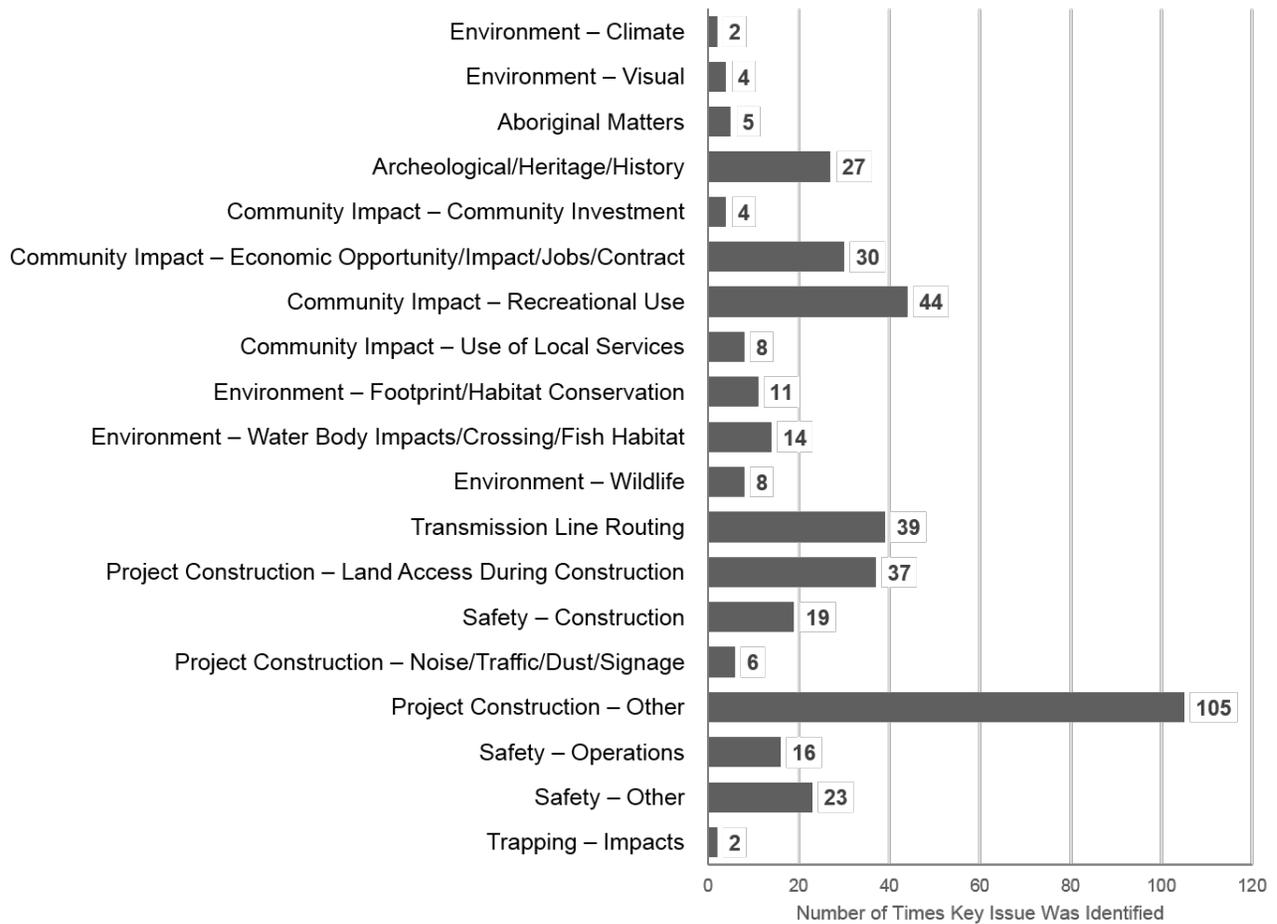


Figure 2-5: Interactions by Issue with Other Stakeholders

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2.1.6.6 Most Commonly Identified Issues

Stakeholder interactions (e.g., phone call, e-mail correspondence, in-person meeting) are summarized by key issues or concerns raised in Table 2-9. An interaction could relate to multiple issues. The most commonly identified issue or concern was related to the proposed and negotiated agreement with property owners and interest holders. Other common issues or concerns 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 2-9: Key Issues or Concerns

Concern/Issue Expressed	Where/How Addressed
Proposed/negotiated agreement	NextBridge's ongoing land acquisition program and Crown land acquisition policies (Attachment MNRG-OG-13 of Appendix I-IV-A)
Transmission line routing	Section 3 and Appendix 3-I of the amended EA Report
Project status	NextBridge's ongoing consultation and engagement program
Access roads	Section 4 of the amended EA Report
Compensation	NextBridge's compensation principles (Appendix 2-V-A, 2-V-B and 2-V-C) and Crown land acquisition policies (Attachment MNRG-OG-13 of Appendix I-IV-A)
Project need	Section 1 of the amended EA Report
Land rights/title	NextBridge's ongoing land acquisition program and Crown land acquisition policies (Attachment MNRG-OG-13 of Appendix I-IV-A)
Environment – geology/terrain/soils	Section 6 of the amended EA Report
Project construction – other	Section 4 of the amended EA Report
Community impact – economic opportunity/impact/jobs/contract	Section 18 of the amended EA Report
Environment – footprint/habitat conservation	Sections 12, 13 and 14 of the amended EA Report
Community impact – recreational use	Sections 17 and 19 of the amended EA Report
Environment – water body impacts/crossing/fish habitat	Sections 7 and 13 of the amended EA Report
Environment – wildlife	Section 14 of the amended EA Report
Project construction – land access during construction	Sections 4 and 19 of the amended EA Report
Archaeological/heritage/history	Sections 15 and 16 of the amended EA Report
Community impact – community investment	NextBridge's ongoing consultation and engagement program and Section 18 of the amended EA Report
Community impact – use of local services	Section 18 of the amended EA Report
Environment – vegetation	Section 12 of the amended EA Report
Project construction – safety	Section 4 and 18 of the amended EA Report
Project construction on noise/traffic/dust/signage	Sections 9, 11 and 18 of the amended EA Report
Environment – visual	Section 20 of the amended EA Report
Environment – climate	Sections 4 and 10 of the amended EA Report
Operation – safety	Sections 4 and 18 of the amended EA Report
Safety – other	Section 4 and 18 of the amended EA Report
Environment – human health	Section 21 of the amended EA Report
Guide Outfitting – impact	Section 19 of the amended EA Report

EA = Environmental Assessment.

2.1.7 Summary of Comments and Concerns During Preparation of the Amended Environmental Assessment Report

NextBridge has continued to engage with stakeholders and other interested parties through regular and open communication since submission of the final EA Report in July 2017. Comments received and concerns raised during the final EA Report review period until November 30 2017, have been recorded and are summarized below according to each stakeholder category group, including property owners/interest holders, local government, regulatory agencies and representatives, general public, and other stakeholders and interest groups. The summaries below are focused on the key issues and concerns raised during stakeholder consultation since July 1, 2017 until November 30, 2017

2.1.7.1 Summary of Property Owners and Interest Holders Comments and Concerns

Consultation with directly affected property owners and interest holders to address their concerns is ongoing. Concerns are addressed on a case by case basis to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects of the Project. Since submission of the final EA Report, consultation with property owners and interest holders has focused on the outstanding concerns and issues that are outlined in Table 2-7, particularly the issue of proposed and negotiated agreements for use of lands. 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. As of November 2017, NextBridge has signed agreements with 74% of the private property owners and is continuing to undertake Crown acquisition and permit acquisition in 2018.

NextBridge has established a compensation policy applicable to property owners which includes applicable crown interests. NextBridge has developed compensation principles that are being used to guide the acquisition of lands rights NextBridge requires to construct the Project. NextBridge has developed Crown land acquisition policies that are being used to acquire consent or agreement from impacted Crown land interest holders (Attachment MNRG-OG-13 of Appendix I-IV-A).

NextBridge has provided a map package to mining leaseholds, aggregate permittees and crown interest holders, that includes a property sketch showing the boundaries of their interest and the location of the proposed infrastructure (transmission line, road, laydown yard, worker camp), with and without imagery.

To address concerns raised by these stakeholders, NextBridge has undertaken the following review process:

- 1) Determine if infrastructure is necessary. The proposed access and construction plan has been refined as part of the amended EA Report, resulting in a reduced number of impacted Crown interests. This included removing certain planned temporary infrastructure or reducing the footprint to areas already reserved from the impacted interest (remain within existing road). The preferred route has been reviewed with impacted crown interests and where feasible, refinements made as part of the draft EA Report.
- 2) Develop compensation policies for acquisition with affected aggregate site holders (permittees and licences), affected mining leaseholds and affected unpatented claim holders. NextBridge is applying these policies in an equitable and transparent manner to ensure Crown interest holders are treated in a consistent and fair manner based on the type of interest impacted. NextBridge continues engagement with affected Crown interest and acquisition of consent or agreement is ongoing.
- 3) Continue to communicate with the relevant ministries regarding the status of acquisition to ensure the process being followed is acceptable.

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NextBridge has reviewed the unpatented claims impacted to determine if the area is required, or if it falls within areas already reserved from the claim. The updated access and construction footprint has resulted in a reduction in the total number of claims impacted from 183 to 160. Claims data are pulled on a monthly basis to confirm new or expired claims, and a review of the reservations is completed. Contact has been made with all unpatented claim holders identified to date and compensation information provided.

NextBridge is addressing concerns regarding the proposed temporary and permanent access traversing through existing operations (mining, aggregate and forestry), by providing crown interest holders with a map package that includes a property sketch showing the boundaries of their interests and the location of the proposed road infrastructure (permanent or temporary). NextBridge is working with impacted interest holders to address their concerns regarding the proposed temporary and permanent access roads and to reach a mutually acceptable agreement including terms regarding joint use of the road. NextBridge will provide advance notice of the proposed schedule of activities, and coordinate schedules with crown interest holders to minimize potential disturbance to their operations.

NextBridge has initiated its Crossing program and will be seeking consent from impacted non-freehold dispositions as part of the process. Concerns have been raised by existing Land Use Permit (LUP) holders regarding the linear use of the existing transmission corridor for access. To address these concerns, the proposed access and construction plan has been updated as part of the amended EA Report, including refining the use of the existing corridor for access. NextBridge will continue to work with LUP holder and the MNRF for use of existing roads within LUP.

Consultation with SFLs along the Project route has been ongoing. The proposed access and construction plan has been updated in the amended EA Report to address concerns raised by SFLs regarding the location of Project infrastructure within the Forest Management Plans (FMP). Changes made to the Access and Construction Plan include reducing the amount of temporary infrastructure proposed within the FMPs. NextBridge will continue to engage with SFL holders to review planned harvest allocations from approved FMPs as they relate to Project construction activities, and coordinate harvesting where possible in areas where there is overlap between the Project and planned harvest allocations, including the negotiation of Forest Resource Licenses (FRL) with the SFL holders and their overlapping licensees in circumstances where NextBridge and its contractors are carrying out clearing activities. NextBridge and its contractor will also discuss Project access with SFL holders and negotiate Road Use Agreements (refer to Section 19.7.14.1.2).

Potential effects on SFLs are assessed in Commercial Forestry Land and Resource Use and Access (refer to Section 19.7.14) of the amended EA Report. A summary of the key issues and concerns of MNRF-managed stakeholders and how they have been addressed through mitigation measures outlined in the amended EA or actions taken by NextBridge is provided in Table 2-10.

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Table 2-10: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry-managed Stakeholders Key Issues and Concerns

Stakeholder Type	Concern/Issue Expressed	Where/How Addressed
Unpatented Claim Holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Potential impact to claim resulting from new land disturbance because of the Project (transmission line, worker camp, access road, laydown) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Land disturbance will fragment their claims and reduce the potential to option or sell their claims to a prospective buyer. ■ Particularly, affected claim(s) are part of a contiguous land holding or larger, strategic mining package. Consenting to the disposition of surface rights for the project could reduce the potential future value of the claim or income for the claimholder ■ Compensation 	<p>NextBridge will continue to engage with and use best practices to minimize effects to nearby potential claim holders, licence holders and other tenure holders to the extent practical. These measures will include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Notify Crown interest holders (e.g. mining lease holders, unpatented claim holders, aggregate permit holders, non-freehold disposition holders, Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) holders, and other interest holders) of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction. ■ Prior to construction of each segment, the Owner will provide the Contractor with a Construction Line List that describes special requirements requested by landowners and Crown interest holders (e.g., timber salvage, restoration measures, fencing requirements). ■ Use existing roads and trails as identified on the Access and Construction Environmental Maps and comply with conditions outlined in road use agreements. ■ Construct upgraded existing and new access roads in consultation with landowners, industrial land users (e.g., forestry, mining and agricultural users/operators) and in compliance with applicable legislation, regulations and requirements identified in permits and authorizations. ■ Obtain third party agreements with landowners and other affected parties prior to construction of each segment. The Owner, its authorized representatives, contractor(s), and subcontractors, will comply with the conditions outlined in the third party agreements (e.g., crossing agreements, road use agreements, and landowner agreements). ■ NextBridge has a compensation policy that includes compensation to directly affected mining, aggregate, and unpatented claims. Therefore, directly affected commercial industrial operators who lose access to their businesses (mining claims or aggregate pits) because it falls within the Project footprint will be compensated for lost revenue due to the Project.
Aggregate Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Potential impact to aggregate permit resulting from new land disturbance because of the Project (transmission line, worker camp, access road, laydown). ■ Potential for disruption to aggregate operation during construction ■ Compensation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Particularly related to the Access and Construction Plan, the joint-use of roads during construction and ensuring safe access to permit holder's facilities is maintained. ■ Whether MNRF will consent to proposed access road within their operations 	<p>NextBridge will continue to engage with and use best practices to minimize effects to nearby potential claim holders, licence holders and other tenure holders to the extent practical. These measures will include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Notify Crown interest holders (e.g. mining lease holders, unpatented claim holders, aggregate permit holders, non-freehold disposition holders, SFL holders, and other interest holders) of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction. ■ Prior to construction of each segment, the Owner will provide the Contractor with a Construction Line List that describes special requirements requested by landowners and Crown interest holders (e.g., timber salvage, restoration measures, fencing requirements). ■ Obtain third party agreements with landowners and other affected parties prior to construction of each segment. The Owner, its authorized representatives, contractor(s), and subcontractors, will comply with the conditions outlined in the third party agreements (e.g., crossing agreements, road use agreements, and landowner agreements). ■ NextBridge has a compensation policy that includes compensation to directly affected mining, aggregate, and unpatented claims. Therefore, directly affected commercial industrial operators who lose access to their businesses (mining claims or aggregate pits) because it falls within the Project footprint will be compensated for lost revenue due to the Project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NextBridge will implement the Traffic Management Plan (refer to Appendix 4-II, Section 8.5), This Traffic Management Plan describes procedures and protocols for traffic routing and management during construction of the Project. The objectives of this plan are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide mitigation measures required to reduce effects of Project traffic and pressure on transportation infrastructures; ■ Ensure safety of Project personnel and the public by management of traffic hazards related to the Project construction; and ■ Ensure that impacts to the environment by Project vehicles and equipment are minimized. ■ Use existing roads and trails as identified on the Access and Construction Environmental Maps and comply with conditions outlined in road use agreements. ■ Construct upgraded existing and new access roads in consultation with landowners, industrial land users (e.g., forestry and mining users/operators) and in compliance with applicable legislation, regulations and requirements identified in permits and authorizations. ■ Notify road authorities (e.g., local roads boards, municipalities, Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, the Crown land managers, landowners and other authorities) of the planned construction schedule and planned access restrictions and detours before to start of construction to prevent or reduce impacts to their operations or activities. ■ Reclaim temporary access roads and temporary workspaces after decommissioning by implementing clean-up and reclamation measures in Section 6.9 (refer to Appendix 4-II).

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Table 2-10: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry-managed Stakeholders Key Issues and Concerns

Stakeholder Type	Concern/Issue Expressed	Where/How Addressed
Mining Leasehold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Potential impact to mining leasehold resulting from new land disturbance because of the Project (t-line, worker camp, access road, laydown) ■ Potential for disruption to mining operation during construction ■ Compensation 	<p>NextBridge will continue to engage with and use best practices to minimize effects to nearby potential claim holders, licence holders and other tenure holders to the extent practical. These measures will include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Notify Crown interest holders (e.g. mining lease holders, unpatented claim holders, aggregate permit holders, non-freehold disposition holders, SFL holders, and other interest holders) of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction. ■ Prior to construction of each segment, the Owner will provide the Contractor with a Construction Line List that describes special requirements requested by landowners and Crown interest holders (e.g., timber salvage, restoration measures, fencing requirements). ■ Use existing roads and trails as identified on the Access and Construction Environmental Maps and comply with conditions outlined in road use agreements. ■ Construct upgraded existing and new access roads in consultation with landowners, industrial land users (e.g., forestry and mining users/operators) and in compliance with applicable legislation, regulations and requirements identified in permits and authorizations. ■ Obtain third party agreements with landowners and other affected parties prior to construction of each segment. The Owner, its authorized representatives, contractor(s), and subcontractors, will comply with the conditions outlined in the third party agreements (e.g., crossing agreements, road use agreements, and landowner agreements). ■ NextBridge has a compensation policy that includes compensation to directly affected mining, aggregate, and unpatented claims. Therefore, directly affected commercial industrial operators who lose access to their businesses (mining claims or aggregate pits) because it falls within the Project footprint will be compensated for lost revenue due to the Project.
MTO Aggregate Sites	<p>Coldwell #7 (MTO AP 500 062) – The proposed Project corridor is north of the existing Hydro One corridor where Coldwell #7 have an active quarry in this permit. Coldwell #7 have suggested that the Project route is relocated to the south side of the Hydro-One corridor to prevent any fly-rock from the quarry from damaging the Project.</p> <p>Rosspport # 38 (MTO AP 500 349) –There is a proposed laydown yard for the East-West Tie within this permit. MTO is concerned about conflicting construction schedules. This permit is planned to be listed on the Aggregate Source List for GWP 6279-13-00 (Gravel River to Cavers including a west bound truck climbing lane) and the current project schedule is 2018 & 2019 which overlaps with the Project schedule for EWT.</p>	<p>NextBridge will continue to engage with and use best practices to minimize effects to nearby potential claim holders, licence holders and other tenure holders to the extent practical. These measures will include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Notify Crown interest holders (e.g. mining lease holders, unpatented claim holders, aggregate permit holders, non-freehold disposition holders, SFL holders, and other interest holders) of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction. <p>NextBridge will continue to engage with and use best practices to minimize effects to nearby potential claim holders, licence holders and other tenure holders to the extent practical. These measures will include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Notify Crown interest holders (e.g. mining lease holders, unpatented claim holders, aggregate permit holders, non-freehold disposition holders, SFL holders, and other interest holders) of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction. ■ Prior to construction of each segment, the Owner will provide the Contractor with a Construction Line List that describes special requirements requested by landowners and Crown interest holders (e.g., timber salvage, restoration measures, fencing requirements). ■ Obtain third party agreements with landowners and other affected parties prior to construction of each segment. The Owner, its authorized representatives, contractor(s), and subcontractors, will comply with the conditions outlined in the third-party agreements (e.g., crossing agreements, road use agreements, and landowner agreements). ■ NextBridge has a compensation policy that includes compensation to directly affected mining, aggregate, and unpatented claims. Therefore, directly affected commercial industrial operators who lose access to their businesses (mining claims or aggregate pits) because it falls within the Project footprint will be compensated for lost revenue due to the Project.
Leasehold	The joint-use of roads during construction and ensuring that safe access to the leaseholder's facilities is maintained.	<p>NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to minimize the potential Project effects of joint use of roads and access to leasehold operations/facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Notify Crown interest holders (e.g. mining lease holders, unpatented claim holders, aggregate permit holders, non-freehold disposition holders, SFL holders, and other interest holders) of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction. ■ Use existing roads and trails as identified on the Access and Construction Environmental Maps and comply with conditions outlined in road use agreements. ■ NextBridge will implement the Traffic Management Plan (refer to Appendix 4-II, Section 8.5), This Traffic Management Plan describes procedures and protocols for traffic routing and management during construction of the Project. The objectives of this plan are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide mitigation measures required to reduce effects of Project traffic and pressure on transportation infrastructures; ■ Ensure safety of Project personnel and the public by management of traffic hazards related to the Project construction; and ■ Ensure that impacts to the environment by Project vehicles and equipment are minimized. ■ Construct upgraded existing and new access roads in consultation with landowners, industrial land users (e.g., forestry and mining users/operators) and in compliance with applicable legislation, regulations and requirements identified in permits and authorizations. ■ Notify road authorities (e.g., local roads boards, municipalities, Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, Crown land managers, landowners and other authorities) of the planned construction schedule and planned access restrictions and detours before start of construction to prevent or reduce impacts to their operations or activities. ■ Reclaim temporary access roads and temporary workspaces after decommissioning by implementing clean-up and reclamation measures in Section 6.9 (refer to Appendix 4-II).

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Table 2-10: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry-managed Stakeholders Key Issues and Concerns

Stakeholder Type	Concern/Issue Expressed	Where/How Addressed
Sustainable Forest Licence Holders (SFL)	Potential impact to Forest Management Plan resulting from new land disturbance because of the Project (transmission line, worker camp, access road, laydown).	<p>NextBridge will continue to engage with, and use best practices to minimize effects to SFL holders and other tenure holders to the extent practical. These measures will include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Owner will consult with Crown interested holders (e.g. mining lease holders, unpatented claim holders, aggregate permit holders, non-freehold disposition holders, SFL holders and other interest holders), where appropriate, to develop mutually beneficial agreements with the affected tenure holders. ■ Notify Crown interest holders (e.g. mining lease holders, unpatented claim holders, aggregate permit holders, non-freehold disposition holders, SFL holders and other interest holders) of the overall construction schedule before the start of construction. ■ Prior to construction of each segment, the Owner will provide the Contractor with a Construction Line List that describes special requirements requested by landowners and Crown interest holders (e.g., timber salvage, restoration measures, fencing requirements). ■ On provincial Crown land, approval will be obtained from MNR prior to clearing of each segment, as appropriate (e.g., Work Permit, Land Use Permit, and supporting consents from impacted Crown interest holders). ■ NextBridge and the construction contractor will continue engagement with SFL holders to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ review planned harvest allocations from approved FMPs as they relate to Project construction activities including clearing of the ROW and use of land for temporary Project components such as construction camps and laydown yards; ▪ coordinate harvesting where possible in areas where there is overlap between the Project and planned harvest allocations, including the negotiation of Forest Resource Licenses with the SFL holders and their overlapping licensees in circumstances where NextBridge and its contractors are carrying out clearing activities; ▪ discuss Project access as it relates to planned access road construction and access management strategies (including decommissioning) in approved FMPs to reduce effects to SFL holders and eliminate the need for amendments to forest management plans where possible; ▪ negotiate Road Use Agreements to clarify access road use and management strategies including upgrading, use, maintenance, monitoring, decommissioning and ownership of roads and water crossings; and ▪ identify silviculturally treated areas and negotiate compensation for investments (to Forest Renewal Trust [FRT] or Forestry Futures Trust [FFT]) where required.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The joint use of roads during construction and ensuring that safe access to the SFLs' operation/facilities is maintained ■ Whether SFL can identify roads they wish to remain permanent although identified as temporary by the proponent 	<p>NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to minimize the potential Project effects of joint use of roads and access to SFL's operations/facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NextBridge and the construction contractor will continue engagement with SFL holders to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ discuss Project access as it relates to planned access road construction and access management strategies (including decommissioning) in approved FMPs to reduce effects to SFL holders and eliminate the need for amendments to forest management plans where possible; and ▪ negotiate Road Use Agreements to clarify access road use and management strategies including upgrading, use, maintenance, monitoring, decommissioning and ownership of roads and water crossings. ■ Temporary access roads will follow applicable measures from MNR's Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings (refer to Appendix 4-II, Appendix H2; MNR 1990), Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales (refer to Appendix 4-II, Appendix H3; MNR 2010a) and its associated Background Rationale document (MNR 2010b), Ontario's Provincial Standards for Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control Measures (refer to Appendix 4-II, Appendix H4; Government of Ontario 2015a), General Specifications for Environmental Protection for Construction in Waterbodies and on Waterbody Banks (refer to Appendix 4-II, Appendix H5; Government of Ontario 2015b), and Construction Specifications for Control of Water from Dewatering Operations (refer to Appendix 4-II, Appendix H6; Government of Ontario 2006a). ■ Reclaim temporary access roads and temporary workspaces after decommissioning by implementing clean-up and reclamation measures in Section 6.9 (refer to Appendix 4-II). ■ When undesired public access is a possibility, consider placing woody debris, planting conifers or other vegetation to limit public access. ■ Implement the traffic measures outlined in the Traffic Management Plan (refer to Appendix 4-II, Section 8.5). This Traffic Management Plan describes procedures and protocols for traffic routing and management during construction of the Project. The objectives of this plan are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide mitigation measures required to reduce effects of Project traffic and pressure on transportation infrastructures; ▪ Ensure safety of Project personnel and the public by management of traffic hazards related to the Project construction; and ▪ Ensure that impacts to the environment by Project vehicles and equipment are minimized.
	Removal and disposal of merchantable timber	<p>NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to minimize the potential Project effects of removal and disposal of merchantable timber:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ On provincial Crown land, approval will be obtained from MNR prior to clearing of each segment, as appropriate (e.g., Work Permit, Land Use Permit, and supporting consents from impacted Crown interest holders). ■ Overlapping licence agreements will be negotiated with SFL holders and FRL obtained as appropriate. ■ NextBridge and the construction contractor will continue engagement with SFL holders to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ coordinate harvesting where possible in areas where there is overlap between the Project and planned harvest allocations, including the negotiation of FRL with the SFL holders and their overlapping licensees in circumstances where NextBridge and its contractors are carrying out clearing activities; ▪ stockpile merchantable timber at landings near the edge of the boundaries in a manner that is accessible to hauling trucks. Timber is not to be piled within the 30-m water body buffer or other overhead or underground utility or crossing unless specified by SFL holder. ■ Merchantable timber will be cleared in accordance with the FRL, overlapping agreements, or in accordance with landowner agreements. ■ Timber and brush disposal options are subject to agreements with landowners, SFL holders and the appropriate regulatory agency.

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Table 2-10: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry-managed Stakeholders Key Issues and Concerns

Stakeholder Type	Concern/Issue Expressed	Where/How Addressed
	Potential impact to planned or existing renewal plots	<p>NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to minimize the potential Project effects to planned or existing renewal plots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NextBridge and the construction contractor will continue engagement with SFL holders to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ review planned harvest allocations from approved FMPs as they relate to Project construction activities including clearing of the ROW and use of land for temporary Project components such as construction camps and laydown yards; and ▪ identify silviculturally treated areas and negotiate compensation for investments (to Forest Renewal Trust [FRT] or Forestry Futures Trust [FFT]) where required.
Land Use Permit Holder (Hydro One)	Linear use of existing access within the transmission line corridor	NextBridge has initiated its Crossing program and will be seeking consent from impacted non-freehold dispositions as part of this process. The proposed Access and Construction Plan has been refined as part of the EA Amendment and has refined the use of the existing corridor for access. NextBridge will continue to work with LUP holder and the Ministry for use of existing roads within LUP.
Trappers, Bear outfitters, Bait Harvesters (NextBridge has only been contacted by trappers and 1 bear outfitter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Potential impact to existing trapping assets ■ Potential impact to bear tourism operation 	<p>NextBridge will implement the following mitigation measures to minimize the potential Project effects to existing trapping assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Notify affected parties of the planned construction schedule before the start of construction (e.g., registered trapline holders, and registered BMA and Bait Harvest Area (BHA) clubs along the route). ■ Negotiate with affected BMA licence holders and/or the MNRF to develop a mutually agreeable solution to offset any identified access or harvest effects on tenured BMAs (e.g., compensation or relocation of BMAs for affected outfitters and operators). ■ Negotiate with affected baitfish harvesters, to develop a mutually agreeable solution with tenure holders to offset any identified access or harvest effect (e.g., compensation or relocation). ■ Negotiate with affected registered trapline holders who would no longer are able to trap within the Project Site, 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 local trapping groups and associations.

EA = environmental assessment; BHA = Bait Harvest Area; BMA = Bear Management Area; LUP = land use permit; MNRF = Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; MTO = Ministry of Transportation; SFL = Sustainable Forest Licence; FFT = Forestry Futures Trust.; FMP = forestry management plan; FRL = forest resource licence; FRT Forest Renewal Trust.

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NextBridge also received comments on the final EA Report from one landowner related to the following:

- The EA does not adequately address the injury risks involved with the use of Guy-wires on lattice tower structures.
- The EA does not adequately address the potential negative effects of Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMF) exposure on human health and on the natural environment, including the effects of EMF exposure on families and communities that may result from a combination of EMF emanating from the Project and from other transmission lines, as well as household, industrial, and other exposures.
- Inadequate compensation, and lack of consideration for the reduction in value of properties because of the Project and the personal and business losses because of the Project.
- Inadequate communication and lack of transparency.

NextBridge has committed to high visibility sleeves on the Guyed-Y-anchors to minimize the human health risk. Potential emissions, discharges and wastes are discussed in Section 4.3.1.15 of the amended EA Report. NextBridge has developed a Compensation Principles document which has been consistently applied during negotiations outside of the EA process, and will undertake an appraisal of the property, as committed to in the Compensation Principles document (Appendices 2-V-A, 2-V-B, and 2-V-C). NextBridge is committed to engaging with property owners in an open and respectful manner, with a commitment to timely, meaningful and transparent dialogue as it relates to property owner compensation and land rights. For a more detailed response to these comments, refer to Appendix 1-IV-C.

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.

2.1.7.2 Summary of Local Government Comments and Concerns

Consultation has been ongoing between NextBridge and local governments to address issues related to Project routing and potential effects on land owners and communities, including associated effects on recreational use and the visual environment. Additional comments or concerns raised by local governments since submission of the final EA Report in July 2017 include an inquiry to the Ontario Energy Board about payments to the Township of Dorion for right-of-way land and a letter from the Municipality of Wawa reiterating their belief that the project does not support the guiding principles in the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario.

Whitesand Lake Local Roads Board inquired whether roads under their jurisdiction would be required for Project construction. NextBridge requested a road map any relevant imagery to determine the Local Roads Board's area of jurisdiction. Consultation with the Whitesand Lake Local Roads Board has been ongoing.

A summary of interactions between NextBridge and local governments is provided in Appendix 2-III, Section 2.0.

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2.1.7.3 Summary of Government Agencies and Representatives Comments and Concerns

NextBridge has continued to have discussions with government agencies and representatives since the final EA Report was submitted in July 2017, primarily related to EA methods and consultation. Government agencies and representatives also provided feedback on the final EA Report. Comments were received on the final EA Report, which are summarized in Section 2.1.5 and provided in more detail in Appendix 1-IV-A in addition to NextBridge's responses. A record of communications with government agencies and representatives is provided in Section 3.0 of Appendix 2-III, meeting minutes are provided in Appendix 2-III-B and correspondence are provided in Appendix 2-III-C.

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) and representatives from the Township of Dorion and Municipality of Shuniah sent a letter to NextBridge with comments on the final EA Report (refer to Appendix 2-III-C Correspondence). The comments were related to temporary and permanent water body crossings potentially requiring permits under the Authority's Regulations.

2.1.7.4 Summary of General Public Comments and Concerns

Individual members of the general public and contractors have continued to express interest in economic opportunities associated with the Project since the final EA Report was submitted in July 2017. A member of the public also inquired about engagement with Parks Canada and the impact of routing the line around Pukaskwa National Park. A summary of interactions between NextBridge and the general public is provided in Appendix 2-III, Section 4.0.

2.1.7.5 Summary of Other Stakeholders and Interest Groups Comments and Concerns

NextBridge has continued to receive interest from other stakeholders and interest groups, including industry groups, in contracting opportunities associated with the Project since submission of the final EA Report.

The Common Voice Northwest Energy Task Force submitted a letter to the Independent Electricity System Operator on September 19, 2017 expressing their opinion that the Project is essential for the future of Northwestern Ontario.

NextBridge has continued to have discussions with representatives from various snowmobile groups about the Project, including providing up-to-date mapping information to solicit feedback on the proposed route and the Project in general. Snowmobile groups are supportive of the Project and view the cleared ROW and improved access roads as a benefit to their members. They requested electronic files of maps and to be given advanced notice of construction activities and potential trail closures, including impacts during construction. Trail users have expressed that Project activities may be beneficial in assisting them to complete a loop from Wawa to Marathon. The provincial ATV federation has requested that NextBridge keep them informed of Project work.

There have been no additional comments or concerns raised from other stakeholders and interest groups during the final EA Report review period. A summary of interactions between NextBridge and other stakeholders and interest groups is provided in Appendix 2-III, Section 5.0.

2.1.8 Outstanding Concerns from Stakeholders

NextBridge continues to work with stakeholders to resolve the following outstanding concerns and issues since submission of the final EA Report (refer to Table 2-11).

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Table 2-11: Outstanding Concerns and Issues

Stakeholder	Concern/Issue	Status of Consultation/Issue Resolution
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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-III A, 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 provided a response memo on the EA method, as the amended EA Report was developed. NextBridge will continue to work with all three parties to address concerns on the EA method. ■ The EA method has been revised and sample sections of the final EA Report were provided to MOECC and MNRF. MOECC and MNRF provided comments on the revised reports and the amended EA Report has been rearranged to complete a full effects assessment on each potential impact identified for the project. ■ The amended EA Report was re-organized by criteria and indicators in accordance with MOECC feedback.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 3-1). The record of consultation with the Township of Dorion is in Table 2-III-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 PP 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. ■ MNRF had subsequent comments on this route including feedback on the route passing close to the bat hibernaculum in Cavern Lake Provincial Park received during a phone meeting on October 23, 2017. A follow up meeting including a discussion of this route was being held December 14, 2017 and further direction/comment may be received.

EAST-WEST TIE TRANSMISSION PROJECT AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2-11: Outstanding Concerns and Issues

Stakeholder	Concern/Issue	Status of Consultation/Issue Resolution
MNRF	The draft EA did not consider local scale effects and there is insufficient information in the draft EA to review site specific effects.	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.
MNRF	Project planning is preliminary and there are Project components (access roads) that are not feasible to construct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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). ■ The footprint was revised and minimized between final and amended EA Report. Access roads and water body crossings identified as problematic by MNRF and MOECC (e.g., the 200 m clear-span bridge proposed as an alternate crossing across Hays Lake in Appendix 13-II in the draft and final EA Reports) were removed from the footprint and disturbance in sensitive areas was minimized.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 (Ouimet Canyon Provincial Park, Black Sturgeon Provincial Park, Kama Cliffs Conservation Reserve, Gravel River Provincial Park, Gravel River Conservation Reserve, Kwinkwaga Ground Moraine Uplands Conservation Reserve and Forest Reserve, Pukaskwa Provincial Park and Nimoosh 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. ■ NextBridge met with MNRF and MOECC on December 14, 2017 to discuss the approach to addressing impacts in these parks and protected areas in the amended EA Report.
MNRF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 3-II and Appendix 19-IV.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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. ■ Additional vegetation and aquatic surveys were conducted along the preferred route ROW including the Loon Lake reroute in August and September 2017 and the data were considered in the amended EA Report.

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Table 2-11: Outstanding Concerns and Issues

Stakeholder	Concern/Issue	Status of Consultation/Issue Resolution
Property Owners/ Interest Holders	<p>Property Owners and Interest Holders have several outstanding concerns. The list of concerns is not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ placement and location of temporary infrastructure on property; ■ timing of construction; ■ impacts to trapping and bear outfitters; ■ impacts to SFLs and identification of areas of concern within respective FMU, and coordination of construction within the same; ■ use of longitudinal access along the Hydro One ROW; ■ final structure placement; ■ final clearing requirements; ■ compensation; ■ forms of agreement; ■ title issues; ■ placement of permanent infrastructure overlapping existing aggregate permit sites; and ■ impact to mining claims. 	<p>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. As of November 2017, NextBridge has signed agreements with 74% of the private property owners and is undertaking Crown acquisition and permit acquisition during 2017 and 2018.</p>

EA = environmental assessment; FMU = forestry management unit; MOECC = Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change; MNO = MNRF = Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; % = percent; ROW = right-of-way; SFL = sustainable forest licence.

2.1.9 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.