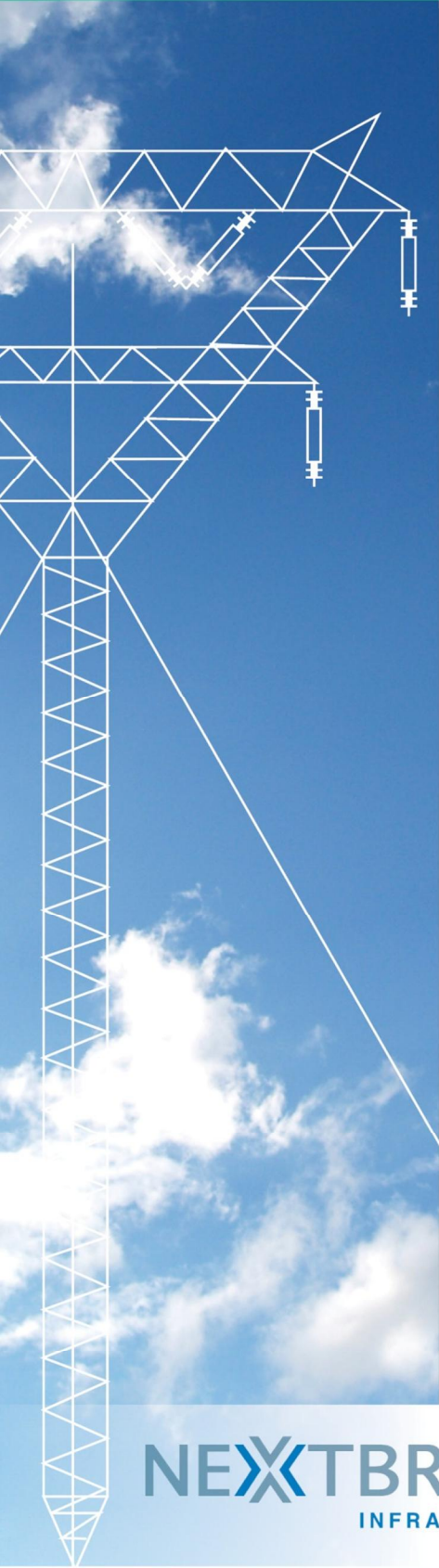


Frequently Asked Questions

EAST-WEST TIE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Connecting Ontario's Northwest



What's Inside? Answers to Frequently Asked Questions On:

- NextBridge Infrastructure and the East-West Tie Project
- Electricity in Northern Ontario
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NextBridge Infrastructure and the East-West Tie Project

Who is NextBridge Infrastructure?

NextBridge Infrastructure (NextBridge) brings together the extensive resources of its three corporate partners – NextEra Energy, Enbridge Inc. and Borealis Infrastructure – in our plan for development, financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of the project, together with a well - aligned interest in owning and operating the new East-West Tie over the course of its useful life.

NextBridge was chosen to develop this project through a competitive bid process. We are committed to increasing the competitiveness and cost effectiveness of providing transmission service to the ratepayers of Ontario.

NextBridge is committed to timely and meaningful dialogue with governments, First Nations and Métis, regulators, stakeholders, and landowners, and believe that this input will be critical to a successful project that seeks to address the needs of those involved.

What is being proposed?

The project will consist of a double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line generally paralleling the existing double-circuit 230 kV transmission corridor connecting the Wawa Transformer Station (TS) to the Lakehead TS near Thunder Bay. The length of the line is approximately 400 km. For some sections of the corridor, route alternatives are being considered. The final length of the line will depend on which route alternatives, if any, are selected. The targeted in-service date is the first half of 2018.

Electricity in Northern Ontario

Why do we need a new transmission line?

Industrial activities in northwestern Ontario, particularly in the mining sector, are expected to drive strong electricity demand growth in the coming decade. Coupled with changes in the region's supply situation, the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) forecasts a need for new supply to meet demand in northwestern Ontario.

Why this project?

The OPA, the agency responsible for long-term electricity planning in the province, has recommended the new East-West Tie to ensure the long-term reliability of the electricity supply in northwestern Ontario, and has specified the timing and scope of this project. Industrial activities in northwestern Ontario, particularly in the mining sector, are expected to drive strong electricity demand growth in the coming decade. Coupled with changes in the region's supply situation, the OPA forecasts a need for new supply to meet demand in northwestern Ontario. The identified supply needs can be met with additional transmission or generation. The OPA analyzed these alternatives and recommended expansion of the East-West Tie based on technical, economic, and other considerations.

What are the benefits to northern Ontario?

The key benefits include:

- Providing needed electricity to ensure that future economic development in northwest Ontario can proceed;
- Creating employment opportunities during construction; and
- Enhancing the power system in northwest Ontario by improving efficiency, flexibility and reliability.

Land Questions

How wide is the right-of-way?

The proposed right-of-way for the new line is approximately 52 to 56 m (approx. 170 to 184 ft.).

The 52 to 56 m may not include additional space required where there are corners in the line, general construction access and where the general landscape requires additional lands for access. In some areas temporary work space may also be required for activities such as materials staging. Temporary work space requirements are variable depending on need.

Will access to private lands be needed?

Access to private lands will be required for environmental studies, surveying, geotechnical work, clearing, road work, construction, inspection, and maintenance. NextBridge will discuss access to private lands with directly affected landowners and tenants.

Will land rights be required? How will I be compensated?

NextBridge will seek land rights for the footprint of the project including right of way, temporary workspace, stockpiles, additional lands for laydown areas and access requirements, on both Crown and private land. Compensation will vary depending on the use of the land.

How do you assess the value of land?

A Benchmark Market Valuation will be completed to determine the fair market value on a per hectare basis. Upon completion of this valuation NextBridge will present an offer of compensation that includes compensation for the easement interest and consideration for injurious affection where applicable. Loss of timber will be assessed and appropriate compensation will be determined on a per hectare basis.

What if my land is damaged?

During all project phases, best management practices will be used at all times to minimize potential damage to affected and adjacent lands. Once construction is complete, the right of way will be cleaned up and lands no longer needed (e.g. temporary work areas) will be restored. Mitigation and resolution of damages will be negotiated directly with affected parties.

Routing

What is meant by “Reference Route” and “Reference Route Alternatives”?

The Reference Route generally parallels an existing Hydro One transmission line corridor. The Reference Route Alternatives include a number of possible route alternatives that may avoid potentially sensitive features along the Reference Route. Paralleling an existing right of way generally results in fewer impacts and allows for efficiencies such as the use of existing access roads and bridges for construction and maintenance.

How were the Reference Route and Alternative Routes selected?

The Reference Route generally parallels the existing Hydro One corridor. Possible Alternative Routes to avoid potentially sensitive features have also been identified.

Alternatives to the Reference Route have been identified to avoid crossing two First Nations, (Michipicoten First Nation and Pays Plat First Nation), Pukaskwa National Park and other sensitive features. These alternatives will be confirmed and assessed during the Environmental Assessment. Additional modifications to the Reference Route may be considered in consultation with landowners and stakeholders.

NextBridge will endeavour to select the route that will result in the least overall impacts. To identify the final route, we will be considering the valuable feedback from those potentially affected along proposed routes. During the route evaluation process, we will consider factors such as hunting, tourism, recreational uses such as trails, agricultural operations, environmental features, and impacts to residents and businesses. It is important to note that all routes are considered viable alternatives at this time; however, only one transmission line will be built.

Are you going through Pukaskwa National Park?

The Reference Route parallels the existing transmission line, which runs through Pukaskwa National Park and near the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area. Alternative Routes which avoid Pukaskwa and other sensitive features are also being considered. We have initiated discussions with Parks Canada and other stakeholders. These discussions will continue during the Terms of Reference and the Environmental Assessment and will assist us in the determination of a preferred route for the new transmission line.

Are you going through provincial parks?

The Reference Route does pass through provincial parks. We have initiated discussions with Ontario Parks (Ministry of Natural Resources) and other stakeholders related to these lands. These discussions will continue during the Terms of Reference and the Environmental Assessment and will assist us in the determination of a preferred route for the new transmission line. Additional mitigation measures such as notice of construction signs and public consultations will be undertaken to ensure if there is conflict between the construction of the transmission line and recreational activities, it is well managed and minimized.

Are any potential routes within close proximity to a school or a daycare centre?

Routing of the transmission line will be sensitive to school locations, parks and playgrounds.

Project Approval Process

What approval process will be followed?

This project is subject to the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* and an Individual Environmental Assessment will be completed. The Environmental Assessment process is a long established process that considers the needs of the people, businesses and the natural environment in the decision making process. There are two key parts to an Individual Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference which outlines the scope of work to be undertaken and the preparation of the Environmental Assessment.

What is an Environmental Assessment?

An Environmental Assessment is a process to identify, assess and address through impact management measures, potential effects of a project on the natural (plants and animals), social (people and places) and economic (business and the economy) environments. An Environmental Assessment is required for the East-west Tie project under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. The new East-west Tie project is being conducted as an Individual Environmental Assessment. The project is not a designated project pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* regulations, and therefore does not require the completion of a federal environmental assessment. Certain federal agencies may be required to assess the environmental effects of the project in relation to specific federal lands.

As part of the Environmental Assessment, NextBridge will conduct studies and meet with stakeholders to determine the existing conditions in the study area and obtain feedback on the proposed project. This information will be used as input to the determination of a preferred route for the new line as well as the identification of potential positive and negative effects of the project on the environment (the social, economic and natural environment) and measures that can be put in place to minimize potential negative impacts. Members of the community, public, landowners, stakeholder groups, First Nations and Métis, government agencies, and other interested persons are encouraged to participate in the planning process.

What is a Terms of Reference?

A Terms of Reference guides how an Individual Environmental Assessment will be conducted. Every project that is going through an Individual Environmental Assessment must first develop a Terms of Reference with the input and review of the public and other stakeholders. Once the Terms of Reference for the new East-West Tie is approved by the Minister of the Environment, NextBridge will be required to follow the terms when completing the Environmental Assessment. Because it sets the framework for the Environmental Assessment, it is important that communities provide input on the Terms of Reference and we strongly encourage you to participate in the process.

What is a Leave to Construct Application?

In order to build the new East-West Tie, NextBridge must file a "Leave to Construct" application with the Ontario Energy Board. When the Ontario Energy Board receives a Leave to Construct application, it reviews the material, makes the information public and provides an opportunity for interested parties, including First Nations and Métis, to provide input. The Ontario Energy Board will grant a Leave to Construct if it believes the project is in the public interest.

What studies will be conducted as part of the Environmental Assessment?

Biological background work will consist of a background review and field work. The field work program will be confirmed with the Ministry of Natural Resources and may consist of:

- Aquatic habitat characterization
- Incidental wildlife sightings
- Forest Ecosystem Classification
- Botanical Assessment
- Breeding Bird Surveys
- Species at Risk Studies

Socio-economic, archaeological and cultural studies will also be conducted.

Will you consult with the community?

Consultation is an important part of the environmental assessment process. We have started distributing project information, meeting with municipalities, Aboriginal groups, agencies, landowners and tenants in November. Also, a round of Open Houses in six communities along the Reference and Alternative Routes is being held in December to obtain input for the development of the Terms of Reference.

Consultation with the public, municipalities, First Nations and Métis, interested individuals and groups and government agencies will continue through the Environmental Assessment. The proposed consultation plan for the Environmental Assessment is one of the elements we will be seeking input on during the Terms of Reference consultation.

How will NextBridge work with First Nations and Métis peoples?

First Nations and Métis participation is an essential component of successful transmission projects in Northern Ontario. We are committed to working with First Nations and Métis in Ontario to provide sustainable benefits to those communities.

When can I have my say?

Your input is important to us. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you require further information please send an email or call the hot line any time.

Email: info@nextbridge.ca

Project Hotline: 1-888-767-3006

You can also reach us via mail at:

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For more information, visit www.nextbridge.ca.

What is the schedule for the Project process?

The following key steps are anticipated:

- November 2013 - Notice of commencement of Terms of Reference
- December 2013 – Open Houses Round One
- February 2014 – Submission of Terms of Reference to the Minister of the Environment
- July 2014 – Anticipated Terms of Reference Approval and Environmental Assessment Commencement
- July 2014 – Open Houses Round Two
- October 2014 – Open Houses Round Three
- January 2015 – Environmental Assessment Submission to the Ministry of the Environment
- December 2015 – Decision on the Environmental Assessment

Health and Safety

What are Electric and Magnetic/ Electromagnetic Fields? Are they harmful?

Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs; also called electric and magnetic fields), are invisible forces that surround electrical equipment, power cords, and power lines. You cannot see or feel EMFs. Every time you use electricity and electrical appliances, you are exposed to EMFs at extremely low frequencies (ELF). EMFs produced by both power lines and use of electrical appliances belong to this category. EMFs are strongest when close to the source. As you move away from the source, the strength of the fields fades rapidly.

There is no compelling scientific evidence that EMFs in living and school environments, regardless of distance from transmission lines, cause ill health.

Health Canada (2012) states:

“When you are inside your home, the magnetic fields from high voltage power lines and transformer boxes are often weaker than those from household electrical appliances”.

Based on the available weight of evidence, Health Canada *“does not consider that any precautionary measures are needed regarding daily exposures to EMFs at ELFs. There is no conclusive evidence of any harm caused by exposures at levels found in Canadian homes and schools, including those located just outside the boundaries of power line corridors”.*

Will the structures be able to handle the weather and ice of northwestern Ontario? What is the emergency response plan in case an extreme weather event, an ice storm, for example, brings down the lines?

The safety of communities and others near the line is a top priority for NextBridge. The EWT project will be designed and constructed to meet all regulations, standards, and codes, which have been developed with a view to ensuring public safety. In recognition of the project location, NextBridge will commission an independent ice study.

As part of the development of the East-West Tie project, NextBridge will develop Emergency Response Plans to respond to events such as extreme weather situations and other emergency scenarios. These plans will be coordinated with local municipal authorities including fire and police departments.

Environment

What kind of environmental impacts might be associated with this project, and how will they be addressed?

Before the East-West Tie Project can be constructed, the proposal will undergo a rigorous environmental assessment process. The process will require NextBridge to include, among other things, proposed measures to appropriately mitigate the potential impacts on the environment while constructing, operating and maintaining the transmission line. These mitigation measures will incorporate input from consultation with affected community members, First Nations and Métis, landowners, tenants, and stakeholders along proposed routes.

NextBridge will endeavour to select the route with the least overall potential impacts. We will consider factors such as hunting, trap lines, gathering activities, bird nesting sites, waterways, tourism, agricultural operations, environmental features, recreational uses, and impacts to residents and businesses.

Building and Operating a Transmission Line

How many jobs will be created locally?

The number of jobs can't be estimated until we confirm the route and hire a construction contractor. NextBridge is committed to engaging qualified local individuals and contractors.

What do the towers look like?

Towers are anticipated to be guyed "Y" lattice structures and non-guyed lattice towers. These types of structures are preferred based on foundation size, minimal surface disturbance and cost. Guy wires will be large in diameter, and will be marked with high visibility plastic markers near the ground. Towers are planned to be typically 43 m (approx. 140 ft.) tall.

Will other uses such as trails be permitted in the new transmission corridor?

Compatible uses may be permitted within the transmission corridor right of way on public lands. Specific permitted uses will be identified and documented during the Environmental Assessment.

Why can't they just build the transmission line underground?

Underground cabling for this length and voltage of a transmission line would be cost prohibitive and nearly impossible to engineer in some locations. Generally speaking, transmission lines such as these are rarely ever placed underground due to their complexity and considerably higher cost, as well as security and reliability considerations. Costs are usually 10 times greater than building an overhead line but would likely be more for this project given the topography and substrate (ground) the line crosses.

What can we expect during construction?

Safety is our number one priority. During the construction phase, we will mitigate construction impacts wherever practicable. This will include various measures to minimize the impacts of noise and traffic disruptions as appropriate and practicable. We will endeavor to communicate hours of work, traffic impacts, and road detours to stakeholders and affected people in the area in advance of the work being conducted.