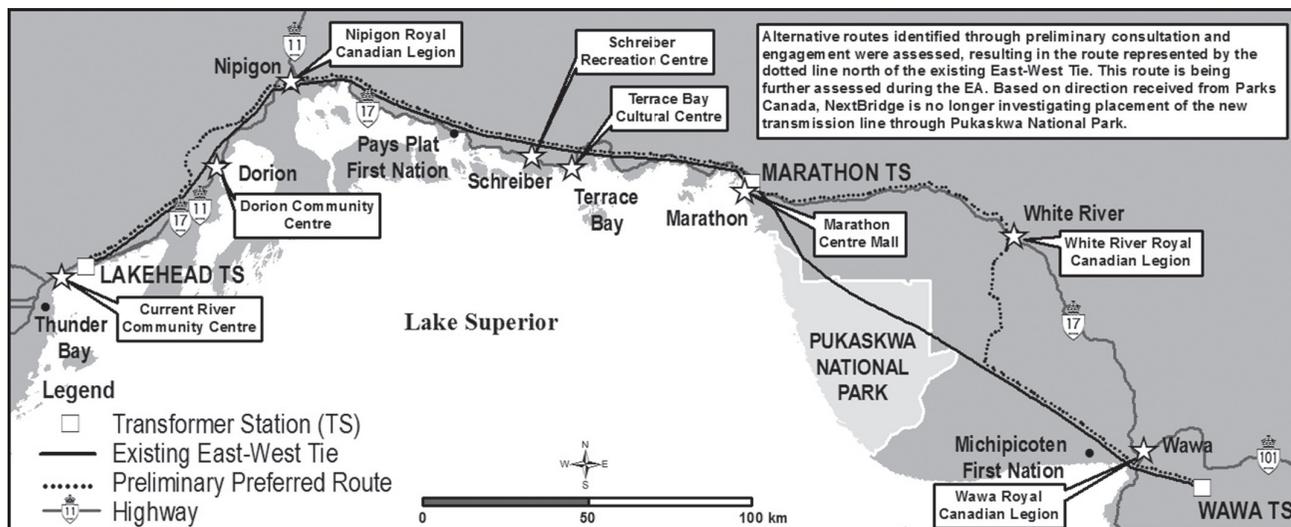


# Notice of Open Houses

## NextBridge Infrastructure - New East-West Tie Transmission Project

NextBridge Infrastructure (NextBridge) – a partnership between NextEra Energy Canada, Enbridge Inc., and Borealis Infrastructure – is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the Environmental Assessment Act to construct a new, approximately 447-kilometre (km) double-circuit 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line connecting the Wawa Transformer Station (TS) to the Lakehead TS in the Municipality of Shuniah near Thunder Bay, with a connection at the Marathon TS. The new East-West Tie Project (the Project) generally parallels an existing double-circuit 230-kV transmission line corridor (the existing East-West Tie) but avoids some sensitive features crossed by the existing line, including Pukaskwa National Park. A preliminary preferred route is now available for review and is depicted on the map below.



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

On August 7, 2013, NextBridge was designated by the Ontario Energy Board (the OEB) to develop the Project and to file a Leave to Construct (LTC) application. NextBridge, the proponent for the Project, is committed to consulting with all interested community members, elected officials and municipal staff, agencies, landowners, other stakeholders, and First Nations and Métis communities in a clear and mutually respectful manner throughout the life of the Project.

In accordance with the Aboriginal Duty to Consult delegated to NextBridge by the Crown, First Nations and Métis communities are being consulted on the route and the EA. Separate and specific meetings will be held for these communities; however, we encourage everyone to attend the public Open Houses.

The initial target in-service date for the Project was the first half of 2018. On September 30, 2014, the IESO sent a letter to the OEB. In that letter, the IESO proposed the development schedule for the Project be extended. The new target in-service date for the Project is 2020.

The Proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) document was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (the MOECC) on February 28, 2014. The Proposed ToR document was later amended in response to stakeholder and Aboriginal feedback and resubmitted on May 22, 2014. The Minister of the Environment and Climate Change approved the ToR on August 28, 2014. NextBridge commenced the EA in August 2014, has been collecting data for the EA and will be holding Open Houses in support of the EA as indicated in this Notice. The EA will be carried out according to the approved ToR and the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The Draft EA report will be submitted to the MOECC and made available for review and comment. NextBridge will provide public notification for the Draft EA review and comment period upon submission of the Draft EA to the MOECC, and will post the Draft EA on the Project website. NextBridge will then update the EA based on feedback received during the Draft EA review and comment period, as necessary, and then submit the final EA to the MOECC for review and approval. NextBridge will provide public notification upon submission of the final EA to the MOECC, including locations where the final EA can be reviewed.

### Public Open Houses

Active participation in the EA process is encouraged by contacting Project staff with questions and comments, and by attending public Open Houses for the Project. Engagement and discussion opportunities, such as public Open Houses, will be held throughout the EA and will be advertised through mailings, newspaper notices, and through postings at [www.nextbridge.ca](http://www.nextbridge.ca). These public Open Houses will provide an opportunity to learn more about the Project. Information on the following items will be available during the public Open Houses: the EA and LTC 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.

Information presented at the public Open Houses will also be made available at [www.nextbridge.ca](http://www.nextbridge.ca) for review and comment.

For further information on the proposed project, please contact:

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 Fax: 416-364-2533



All personal information in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s.37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)*. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's Freedom of information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

### OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

<b>April 18, 2016</b> 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. <b>Thunder Bay</b> Current River Community Centre 450 Dewe Ave.	<b>April 19, 2016</b> 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. <b>Dorion</b> Dorion Community Centre 175 Dorion Loop Rd.
<b>April 20, 2016</b> 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. <b>Marathon</b> Marathon Centre Mall (Scotiabank Entrance) 2 Hemlo Dr.	<b>April 20, 2016</b> 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. <b>Nipigon</b> Royal Canadian Legion Branch #32 102 Fifth St.
<b>April 21, 2016</b> 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. <b>White River</b> Royal Canadian Legion Branch #169 108 Winnipeg St.	<b>April 21, 2016</b> 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. <b>Wawa</b> Royal Canadian Legion Branch #429 51 Broadway Ave.
<b>April 22, 2016</b> 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. <b>Schreiber</b> Schreiber Recreation Centre 100 Langworthy St.	<b>April 22, 2016</b> 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. <b>Terrace Bay</b> Terrace Bay Cultural Centre 13 Selkirk Ave.