

Notice of Submission of the Draft Environmental Assessment NextBridge Infrastructure - East-West Tie Transmission Project

NextBridge Infrastructure LP (NextBridge) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment Report (EA Report) to construct a new, approximately 446-kilometre double circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line connecting the Wawa Transformer Station (TS) to the Lakehead TS in the Municipality of Shuniah near Thunder Bay, with a connection at the Marathon TS. In accordance with the Terms of Reference (ToR) approved by the Minister of Environment on August 28, 2014, NextBridge has submitted the Draft EA Report to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). As part of the submission process, interested community members, elected officials and municipal staff, agencies, property owners, interest holders, other stakeholders, and First Nations and Métis communities are encouraged to review the Draft EA Report and submit their comments to NextBridge by February 28, 2017.

The proposed new East-West Tie Transmission 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. The preferred route is depicted on the map below.

Project Rationale and Target In-Service Date

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

By Order in Council, the Province of Ontario declared the construction of the East-West Tie is needed as a priority project on March 2, 2016 (O.C. 326/2016).

The target in-service date for the Project is 2020.

Draft EA Report Review

NextBridge commenced the EA in 2014, and it is being carried out according to the approved ToR and the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

NextBridge is committed to consulting with all interested stakeholders and 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 in relation to the Project.

The Draft EA Report has been submitted to the MOECC and will be available for review and comment on the Project website and at the locations below beginning December 19, 2016:

Municipal Offices

- Township of Dorion – 170 Dorion Loop Rd., Dorion
- Township of Nipigon – 52 Front St., Nipigon
- Town of Marathon – 4 Hemlo Dr., Marathon
- Township of Red Rock – 42 Salls St., Red Rock
- Township of Schreiber – 204 Alberta St., Schreiber
- Municipality of Shuniah – 420 Leslie Ave., Thunder Bay
- Township of Terrace Bay – 1 Selkirk Ave., Terrace Bay
- City of Thunder Bay – 500 Donald St. E., Thunder Bay
- Municipality of Wawa – 40 Broadway Ave., Wawa
- Township of White River – 102 Durham St., White River

MOECC Offices

- **Address Update** - Environmental Approvals Access and Service Integration Branch – 135 St. Clair Ave. W., 1st Floor, Toronto
- Thunder Bay District Office – 435 James St. S., Suite 331, Thunder Bay

Public Libraries

- Brodie Resource Library (TBPL), 216 Brodie St. S., Thunder Bay
- County Park Branch (TBPL), 1020 Dawson Rd., Thunder Bay
- Dorion Public Library, 170 Dorion Loop Rd., Dorion
- Nipigon Public Library, 52 Front St., Nipigon
- Red Rock Public Library, 42 Salls St., Red Rock
- Schreiber Public Library, 314 Scotia St., Schreiber
- Terrace Bay Public Library, 13 Selkirk Ave., Terrace Bay
- Marathon Public Library, 22 Peninsula Rd., Marathon
- Wawa Public Library, 40 Broadway Ave., Wawa
- White River Public Library, 123 Superior St., White River

Proponent's Office

- NextBridge Infrastructure, 390 Bay Street, Suite 1720, Toronto

Submitting Your Comments

Comments about the Draft EA must be submitted by February 28, 2017, to NextBridge:

NextBridge Infrastructure
390 Bay Street, Suite 1720, Toronto, ON, M5H 2Y2
Phone: 1-888-767-3006
E-mail: info@nextbridge.ca
Fax: 416-364-2533

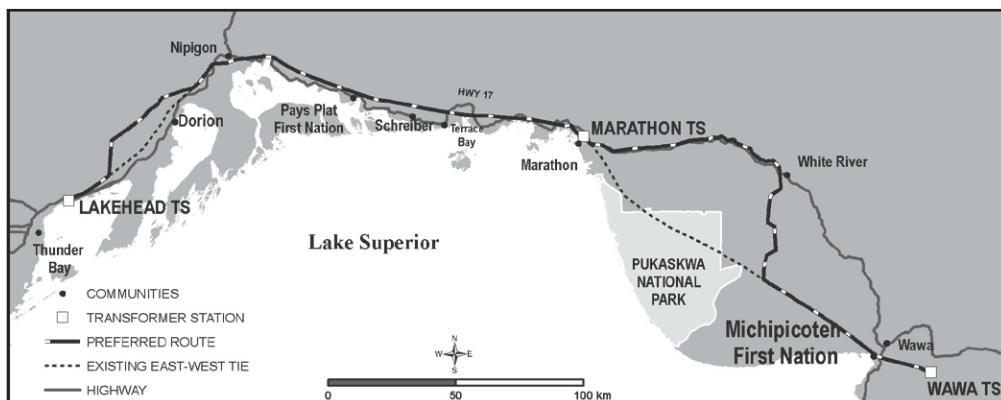
NextBridge will update the EA Report based on feedback received during the Draft EA review and comment period, as necessary, and submit the EA to the MOECC for review and approval. NextBridge will provide public notification upon submission of the final EA to the MOECC, including locations where the EA can be reviewed.

Public Open Houses

Public Open Houses are expected to be held during the Draft EA Report review period and will be advertised through mailings, newspaper notices, and through postings at www.NextBridge.ca once dates and venues have been selected.

For further information on the proposed Project, please visit www.NextBridge.ca or call toll-free 1-888-767-3006.

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



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