

Monday, May 13, 2019

TO: All Indigenous Communities
FROM: Herb Shields, Indigenous Lead
CC: Jennifer Tidmarsh, Project Director, NextBridge
Andy Flajole, Environment Lead, NextBridge
Brian Olson, Quanta Subsurface LLC

RE: Upcoming Geotechnical Work

I am writing to update you on our proposed geotech program for the approved East-West Tie Transmission Line Project. As you may recall, in June 2018 Quanta Subsurface LLC (QS) began limited site reconnaissance. The program was paused pending Ontario Energy Board Leave to Construct Hearings. With certainty regarding construction award and timelines, the Project would like to continue with the geotechnical investigations.

The updated geotech plan takes into consideration the most recent project access road and staking data. It presents a revised list of borings, with adjustments, additions, and deletions to provide representative data for the entire length of the Right of Way.

The purpose of the geotechnical investigation plan is to begin to obtain more detailed geotechnical data for the proposed structure locations so we can complete the detailed engineering design of the transmission tower foundations and guy anchors. The Project is anticipating to re-start the program in mid to late May 2019 until October 2019 (weather permitting).

QS is proposing approximately 68 bore hole locations. The bore hole locations have been selected based on the following criteria:

- 1) No clearing or grubbing is required to gain access
- 2) No new water crossings are required to gain access
- 3) Access is available thru existing roads and driving down available right of ways.
- 4) Drilling locations are in open areas and access/drilling operations will cause minimal impact to the environment, based on available high-resolution photograph review and the most recent Project access mapping.

These assumptions will be confirmed with site visits prior to equipment occupation, and in the case felled trees or other vegetation obstructions are present, the boring will not be accessed/drilled.

Environment and Crew:

We are planning to use Truck, ATV and track mounted drilling equipment for the program. For all locations that have good access we will use truck mounted equipment. For locations that require using unimproved roads or Hydro One Right of Way, we will use track or ATV mounted equipment. The drilling method will be solid or hollow stem rotary drilling. The bore hole diameter will be between 4 and 6 inches. Bore hole depth will be 15 meters or to top of rock, whichever comes first. Coring of the bedrock is expected to be limited to 1.5 to 3 meters for selected holes. Drilling equipment is self-contained and utilized tanks to contain all fluids. We anticipate having one or two crews working during the program. Each crew will include up to 4 workers.

Work Area:

The work area will be about 10 meters by 10 meters. There will be no tree clearing and limited impacts to soil and vegetation. If soft/wet conditions are encountered or obstructions are in place such as felled trees, boring sites will be abandoned or adjusted prior to occupation, in order to minimize disturbance.

All bore holes will be decommissioned in accordance with the Ontario Water Resources Act, R.R.O. 1990, Regulation 903. Any site rutting will be smoothed out with a skid steer or excavation as required and areas re-seeded with native vegetation to control erosion.

Any work near a watercourse will be conducted in accordance with the project Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plans. Minimal noise will be produced by the drilling activities, and will not exceed local limits. Hours of work will be from 7AM to 5PM daily, 5 to 6 days per week.

If there are Species at Risk that are encountered in the proposed boring locations, work will stop and crews will relocate to another area. QS will consult with the Project Environment team to determine if work can proceed with certain mitigation measures or if work at that location should be abandoned. If QS encounters any Archaeological or Cultural artifacts we will stop work and notify Valard immediately and await direction.

The Geotech Work Plan for the upcoming activity has been uploaded to NextBridge.ca under the title "Project Information" should you wish to review it further. Should you require a hard copy of the plan please let us know and we will work to get one to you – the file is too large to email hence it being loaded to the project website.

We are committed to continuing to engage and communicate with your community at regular intervals over the course of project development to receive your input, as well as engage with you in consultation activities tailored to your community and developed with your input.

If you require further information regarding this project, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Kind Regards,

Herb E. Shields

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