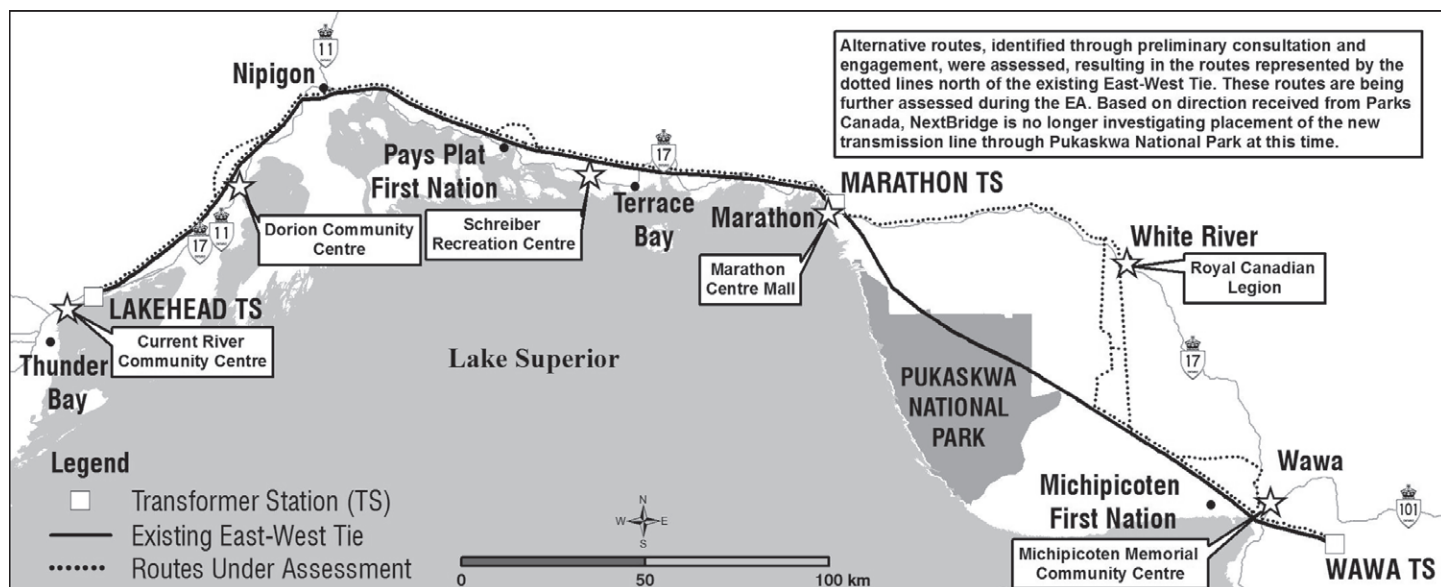


Notice of Commencement of Environmental Assessment and Open Houses – New East-West Tie Transmission Project

NextBridge Infrastructure

NextBridge Infrastructure (NextBridge) – a partnership between NextEra Energy Canada, Enbridge Inc., and Borealis Infrastructure – has initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the Environmental Assessment Act to construct a new, approximately 430 km double-circuit 230 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 generally parallels an existing double-circuit 230 kV transmission line corridor (the existing East-West Tie) but avoids sensitive features crossed by the existing line. Routes under assessment are depicted on the map below.



Alternative routes, identified through preliminary consultation and engagement, were assessed, resulting in the routes represented by the dotted lines north of the existing East-West Tie. These routes are being further assessed during the EA. Based on direction received from Parks Canada, NextBridge is no longer investigating placement of the new transmission line through Pukaskwa National Park at this time.

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA), the provincial agency responsible for long-term electricity planning, identified the expansion of the transmission system between Wawa and Thunder Bay in order to maintain a reliable, long-term supply of electricity to northwestern Ontario. Industrial activities in northwestern Ontario, particularly in the mining sector, are expected to drive electricity demand growth in the coming decade. Coupled with changes to the electricity supply in the area, the OPA has identified supply needs for the northwest, which 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. The East-West Tie was included as a priority project in the Government of Ontario's 2010 Long Term Energy Plan. The target in-service date is the first half of 2018.

The Proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) document was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change on February 28, 2014. The Proposed ToR document was amended in response to stakeholder feedback and resubmitted on May 22, 2014. Approval of the Proposed ToR by the Minister of the Environment is expected. In anticipation of ToR approval, NextBridge has initiated data collection 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*.

A draft of the EA will be made available for review and comment. The EA will then be updated as required and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for review, which will include an additional public review component. Notification will be given both for the Draft EA Review and the review associated with submission of the EA to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. Notice will be provided indicating when and where the draft and finalized EA can be reviewed.

In accordance with the Aboriginal Duty to Consult delegated to NextBridge by the Crown, First Nations and Métis communities will be consulted on the route and the EA.

Public Open Houses Round Two

Active participation in the EA process is encouraged by contacting project staff with questions, comments and by attending Open Houses for the Project. Engagement and discussion opportunities, such as Open Houses, will be held throughout the EA and will be advertised through mailings, newspaper notices, and through postings at www.nextbridge.ca.

The first round of Open Houses was held during the development of the ToR. Two more rounds of Open Houses are planned for the EA. The second round is scheduled for the week of August 18, 2014. This round will provide an opportunity to learn about the Project, the EA and Leave to Construct processes, results of background studies and studies to take place during the EA, routing considerations and decisions to date, land and property matters and next steps in the EA process.

The second round of Open Houses is scheduled as follows:

August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23
4 p.m. – 8 p.m.	4 p.m. – 8 p.m.	4 p.m. – 8 p.m.	4 p.m. – 8 p.m.	4 p.m. – 8 p.m.	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Wawa (lunch provided)
Thunder Bay	Dorion	Schreiber	Marathon Centre Mall	White River	Michipicoten Memorial
Current River	Dorion	Schreiber	(Scotia Bank Entrance)	Royal Canadian	Community Centre 3
Community Centre	Community Centre	Recreation Centre	2 Hemlo Dr.	Legion	Chris Simon Dr.
450 Dewe Ave.	175 Dorion Loop Rd.	100 Langworthy St.		108 Winnipeg St.	

Please note: Light refreshments will be available at all Open Houses. A light lunch will be provided at the Wawa Open House because it is on a Saturday.

Information presented at the Open Houses will be made available at www.nextbridge.ca for review and comment.

For further information on the proposed project, please contact:
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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.