

November 6, 2014

RE: Proposed NextBridge Infrastructure New East-West Tie Transmission Project – Terms of Reference Approval and Other Project Updates

As you may be aware, NextBridge Infrastructure (NextBridge) is proposing to construct a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) electric power transmission line from Wawa to the Thunder Bay area. The new East-West Tie is anticipated to generally parallel the existing double-circuit 230 kV line corridor but avoids certain sensitive features crossed by the existing line. The proposed 430 kilometre line is needed to maintain a reliable, long-term supply of electricity in northwestern Ontario (the Northwest). The target in-service date is currently the first half of 2018, although this date is the subject of additional assessment as further discussed below.

There have been some important developments we would like to share with you.

Terms of Reference Approval

The Project reached a major milestone in late August. NextBridge is pleased to announce that the Terms of Reference for the new East-West Tie Transmission Project (the Project) was approved by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change on August 28, 2014.

NextBridge submitted the Proposed Terms of Reference to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change for approval on February 28, 2014. The Proposed Terms of Reference was subsequently revised in response to stakeholder comments and re-submitted on May 22, 2014. The Minister's Notice of Approval is posted on the Ministry's web site at www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/east-west-tie-project. The approved Terms of Reference is available for download from the Project web site at www.nextbridge.ca. NextBridge has commenced and is continuing with the Environmental Assessment for the Project in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference.

Ontario Power Authority and Ontario Energy Board Correspondence Regarding Project Schedule

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA), the provincial agency responsible for long-term electricity planning in Ontario, has been monitoring the factors supporting the need for the new East-West Tie Project. On September 30, 2014, NextBridge received a copy of a letter sent from the OPA to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). In that letter, the OPA proposed that the development schedule for the Project be extended to work toward a 2020 in-service date. On October 29, 2014, the OEB recommended that NextBridge and the OPA work together to produce a revised development schedule for the Project. The revised schedule may include flexibility to allow the Project to come into service quickly should the pace of demand growth change and require an in-service date prior to 2020. NextBridge is currently working with the OPA to develop a revised development schedule. Links to the September 30, 2014 OPA letter to the OEB, and the October 29, 2014 OEB letter to NextBridge can be accessed by visiting the Project web site at www.nextbridge.ca.

Pukaskwa National Park

To date, NextBridge has not studied a route through Pukaskwa National Park based on direction from Parks Canada in February 2014. On July 9, 2014 the Ontario Minister of Energy wrote to the Federal Minister of the Environment requesting that the federal government reconsider its position and allow NextBridge to assess routing options in the Park.

NextBridge recognizes that there may be additional features to consider in assessing a potential route through Pukaskwa National Park. If authorization is given to study a route through the Park, NextBridge will consider enhancing the current consultation and engagement program with Park-specific engagement initiatives. In any event, NextBridge will continue with our commitment to timely and meaningful dialogue with the Provincial and Federal governments, First Nations and Métis groups and interested stakeholders to develop a robust Project.

Rescheduling of the Third Round of Open Houses

The third round of Project Open Houses, originally scheduled to begin in late September 2014, will be held at a later date. NextBridge appreciates the time you have taken to participate in our past Open Houses and want to ensure that timely and relevant information is available when you attend these events. We will notify you when new Open House dates have been established.

NextBridge appreciates your input as we continue to work on this Project and we will keep you up to date as development continues. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you require further information regarding this Project, please call our toll-free phone line at 1-888-767-3006 or email info@nextbridge.ca and leave your contact information or visit our project web site at www.nextbridge.ca.

Sincerely,

[Original Signed]

Michael Power, P.Eng.
Project Director – East-West Tie Transmission Project
NextBridge Infrastructure

Si vous désirez ces informations en français, s'il vous plaît contactez NextBridge au 1-888-767-3006 ou info@nextbridge.ca.