

# EAST-WEST TIE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

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## Record of Consultation for the Proposed Terms of Reference

*Prepared by*  
Dillon Consulting Limited



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CONSULTING

*For NextBridge Infrastructure*  
*February 2014*

*East-West Tie Transmission Project  
Record of Consultation  
for the  
Proposed Terms of Reference*

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AANDC	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
CEAA	Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
Dillon	Dillon Consulting Limited
EA	Environmental Assessment
EMF	Electric and Magnetic Fields
FIT	Feed-in-Tariff
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HONI	Hydro One Networks Inc.
Hz	Hertz
IESO	Independent Electricity System Operator
IPSP	Integrated Power System Plan
kV	Kilovolt
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
MOE	Ministry of the Environment
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MW	Megawatts-electric
NextBridge	NextBridge Infrastructure L.P.
OEB	Ontario Energy Board
OPA	Ontario Power Authority
RoW	Right-of-Way
Standard Land	Standard Land Company Inc.
ToR	Terms of Reference
TS	Transformer Station



# 1. INTRODUCTION

A Record of Consultation is an essential component of an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) Terms of Reference (ToR). This Record of Consultation describes the consultation and engagement activities that were conducted and the results of those activities, as required by Section 6(3) of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, during the preparation of the ToR for the new East-West Tie Transmission Project.

The Ministry of the Environment's (MOE) *Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario* (2009) states that the Record of Consultation will:

- Identify persons consulted during the ToR preparation and how they were identified;
- Describe the consultation activities which took place;
- Describe how interested Aboriginal communities were identified and how they were consulted;
- Clearly and accurately summarize the comments made by interested persons during the ToR;
- Describe the proponent's response and how concerns were considered in the development of the ToR;
- Describe outstanding concerns;
- Include minutes of meetings held with interested persons;
- Include copies of written comments received from interested persons.

NextBridge Infrastructure (NextBridge) conducted two separate consultation and engagement programs for the ToR; one for interested First Nations and Métis and another for agencies, municipalities and other interested persons/general public. First Nations and Métis were provided with the information prepared for the other program and were invited to, and did, participate in consultation activities under both programs. Details on the consultation programs proposed for the EA are documented in the ToR.

This section (Section 1) of the Record of Consultation provides an overview of the East-West Tie Project. Section 2 describes the consultation activities for agencies, municipalities and other interested persons. Section 3 describes the activities to engage First Nations and Métis. Section 4 provides a summary of the results of the consultation activities with agencies, municipalities and other interested persons. Section 5 presents a summary of discussions with First Nations and Métis.

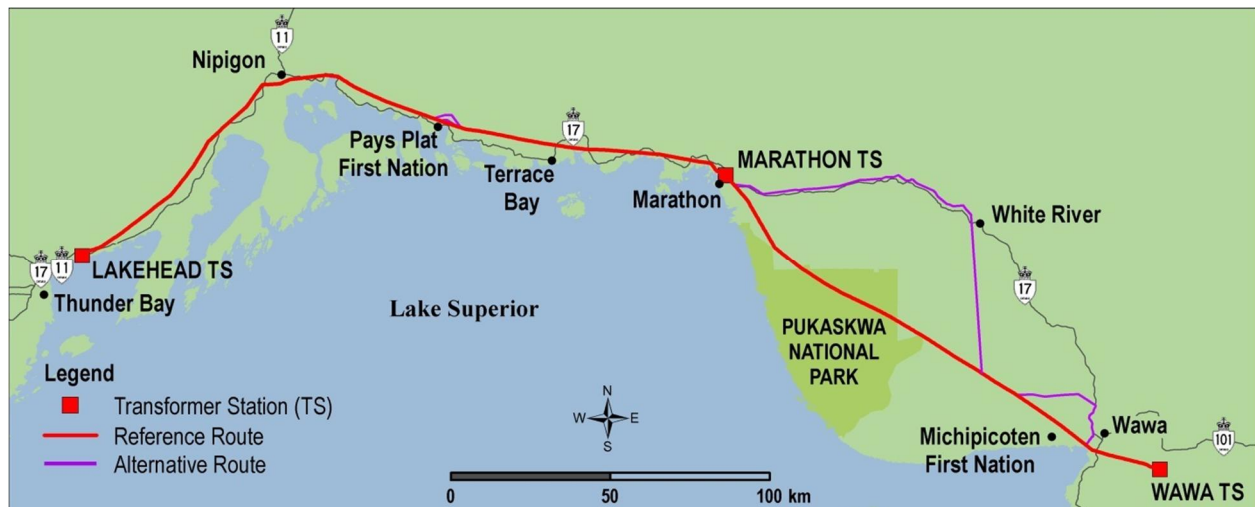
## 1.1. Overview of the Project

The Project is to consist of a new, approximately 400 kilometre (km) double-circuit 230 kV transmission line that is expected to generally parallel an existing double-circuit 230 kV transmission line corridor (existing East-West Tie) connecting the Wawa Transformer Station (TS) to the Lakehead TS near Thunder Bay (with a connection at the Marathon TS), which is referred to as the Reference Route. The Reference Route and Alternative Routes that are to be examined in the EA are presented in Figure 1-1.

Alternative Routes have been identified around federal lands, including two First Nation reserves and Pukaskwa National Park. The federal government (AANDC and Parks Canada) is currently being consulted to

determine if routing through federal lands will be permissible. NextBridge will be exploring the recent decision by Parks Canada to not allow the Project through Pukaskwa National Park. If the federal government does not permit these lands to be included and assessed as part of the EA, then the route through these federal lands will no longer be considered and the Alternative Routes around these federal lands will be assessed. Alternatively, if the federal government informs NextBridge that these lands may be assessed as part of the EA, then NextBridge will continue to consider these routes in the evaluation.

Figure 1-1:  
Reference Route and Alternative Routes





## 2. CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

This section of the Record of Consultation describes the consultation activities that have taken place during the development of the ToR with agencies, municipalities and other interested persons/general public. Results of these activities (comments and issues raised and responses provided) are summarized in the tables in Section 4. For a summary of First Nation and Métis activities, please refer to Section 3, and for a summary of discussions with First Nations and Métis, refer to Section 5.

Though not a requirement under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, NextBridge made the Draft ToR available for public, agency, First Nation and Métis review. Comments received during the Draft ToR review were documented in the Record of Consultation to be submitted along with the Proposed ToR. Comments received on the Draft ToR have been considered and incorporated into the Proposed ToR as appropriate. The Proposed ToR will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and a second opportunity for review will be provided that will be coordinated by the MOE.

### 2.1. Consultation during the Preparation of the Terms of Reference

This section presents a summary of the consultation activities that took place during the development of the ToR.

#### 2.1.1. Stakeholder Identification

NextBridge has identified a preliminary list of stakeholders who might be affected by, or interested in, the Project. The list of stakeholders includes landowners, representatives of municipalities, towns, townships, and government agencies, the general public, and other key stakeholders (such as, but not limited to, local Economic Development Corporations, Chambers of Commerce, hunters and trappers, interest groups, intervenors in the Ontario Energy Board transmitter selection process, and others who have expressed an interest in the Project). The list is expected to evolve during the EA stage. Stakeholders will remain on the stakeholder list unless they ask to be removed.

##### Landowners

Potentially affected landowners and tenants along the Reference Route (i.e. within 500 metres of the centerline of the existing East-West Tie) and along the proposed Reference Route Alternatives were identified. Assembly of landowner information was initiated in September and October 2013. A list of landowners was compiled utilizing Teranet (a company that provides online access to Ontario's Electronic Land Registration System) which included ownership, PIN numbers and address information where possible. Gaps in the Teranet database information were identified (e.g. incomplete mailing addresses) and NextBridge worked to obtain missing data through corporate searches, municipal roll map taxation data, and by attending Local Land Titles offices to review documentation. In addition to these efforts, land agents

assigned to the Project collected contact information in the field by visiting residences and properties and by follow-up phone calls. NextBridge made a bilingual Land Agent available for French speaking landowners or tenants.

NextBridge contacted the Ministry of Natural Resources to identify potentially affected Crown land leases and land use permit holders along the Reference Route (i.e. within 500 metres of the centerline of the existing East-West Tie) and along the proposed Alternative Routes.

Leaseholders, patent and non-patent claims have been identified utilizing the information available from the Ministry of Northern Mines and Development (MNDM) to identify potentially affected claim holders along the Reference Route (i.e. within 500 metres of the centerline of the existing East-West Tie) and along the proposed Alternative Routes. A notice under the *Public Lands Act* has been posted on MNDM's website removing the Surface Rights from claim of the Reference Route, Alternative Route and associated 500 m radius.

#### Municipalities, Towns and Townships

The Reference and Alternative Routes cross seven incorporated communities. From west to east, these communities are:

- Municipality of Shuniah,
- Township of Dorion,
- Township of Nipigon,
- Township of Red Rock,
- Township of Terrace Bay,
- Town of Marathon,
- Municipality of Wawa.

The Project also comes close to the City of Thunder Bay, Township of Schreiber, and the Township of White River.

Elected officials and key staff related to each of these communities, including but not limited to Clerks, Chief Administrative Officers, and Economic Development Officers, were added to the stakeholder contact list. First responders such as Emergency Medical Service and Police with jurisdiction in potentially affected communities were also included on the contact list as recommended by the Ministry of the Environment's Government Review Team list.

Four communities are identified in the French Language Services Act: Municipality of Wawa; Township of White River; Township of Terrace Bay; and, the Town of Marathon. French language notifications were developed for distribution and publication in these areas and the Project hotline has French and English greetings for callers.

Two unincorporated communities, Rosspoint and Hurkett, are also present along the Reference Route and Alternative Routes. These communities do not have a formal government structure but are represented by Local Service Boards. Local Service Boards, in turn, are overseen by representatives of the Ministry of

Northern Development and Mines (MNDM). Contacts at these Local Service Boards were added to the stakeholder contact list.

#### Government Agencies

Relevant agencies were identified through the Government Review Team list provided by the Ministry of the Environment. Additional contacts were added to the list through attendance at agency meetings, requests to be added, and by attending and signing in to public Open House events. New government agency contacts will be added to the stakeholder contact list as the Project progresses through the EA process.

#### General Public

This group consists of people who may not be directly affected by the Project. Members of the general public may ask to be added to the Project contact list through the web site or hotline or by attending and signing in to public Open House events. New contacts will be added as the Project progresses through the EA process.

#### Other Key Stakeholders

Efforts have been made to identify a diversity of stakeholders through web searches, review of Ontario Energy Board and Ontario Power Authority documentation regarding the Project, and by asking local municipal staff about active groups and individuals that should be included on the contact list. Publication of notices in commonly read newspapers throughout the study area also allows stakeholders to self-identify.

Key stakeholders identified to date include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Economic Development Corporations;
- Local Chambers of Commerce;
- Provincial and non-government organizations representing a variety of interests such as nature appreciation/education, hunting, fishing, trail users, recreational users (i.e. snowmobile clubs, Gun clubs), camping and tourism organizations;
- MNR-managed contacts – includes rights, permits, and/or license holders for Crown land dispositions, trap lines, bait fish blocks, bear management areas, and mandatory contacts for Ontario Parks;
- Intervenors in the Ontario Energy Board transmitter designation process;
- Local emergency medical, fire and police services;
- Railways;
- Mining, and forestry companies and industry representatives;
- Vendors that may have services to offer during the EA and, if approved, construction and maintenance; and,
- Those who have expressed an interest in being kept informed about the Project.

The stakeholder contact list for municipalities, townships, towns, agencies, municipalities, and interest groups is provided in Appendix A. The stakeholder contact list will be updated as new stakeholders are identified or ask to be included on the list.

## 2.1.2. Notification

### Notice of Commencement and Open Houses

The Notice of Commencement of the ToR for the Project was combined with a Notice of Open House for the first round of public Open Houses. The purpose of this notice was to inform interested stakeholders that the ToR for the Project had begun and that public Open Houses had been scheduled to provide additional Project information and receive feedback. The notice was distributed to stakeholders as a package along with a cover letter and a copy of the first Project newsletter. A copy of the notice and cover letter is provided in Appendix B.

The notice was produced in English and French. Landowners were notified via mail and hand delivery. Mail notifications were sent to landowners and tenants for whom mailing address information was readily available. These were sent in three batches as contact information was confirmed. For those whose addresses could not be obtained, land agents delivered the Notice of Commencement and other materials by hand. Other stakeholders received the notice as an attachment to an email, mail and/or received a copy at meetings held prior to the Open Houses.

The Notice of Commencement and Open House was mailed and emailed with the first Project newsletter to the stakeholder list as follows:

- Landowners – Mailed on November 8, 14, and 19, 2013 as contact information was confirmed
- Municipal Contacts – Emailed on November 18 and 26, 2013; mailed on November 20, 2013
- Government Agency Contacts – Emailed on November 16, and 28, 2013; mailed on November 20 and 29, 2013
- Other Stakeholders – Emailed on November 19 and 26, 2013; mailed on November 20, 2013

Notices were also distributed upon request to new contacts that were identified after the initial distribution.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) administers the notification of other interests whose contact information cannot be shared such as rights, permit, and/or license holders for Crown land dispositions, trap lines, bait fish block, bear management areas, and mandatory contacts for Ontario Parks. Approximately 484 potential interests were identified by the MNR. Sufficient copies of the notification package were delivered to the MNR for their distribution to these interest holders on behalf of NextBridge. Distribution to this MNR-managed contact list was to be completed in four districts: Nipigon; Parks; Thunder Bay; and, Wawa. MNR sent the packages as follows:

December 4, 2013 – Ontario Parks mandatory contacts

December 5, 2013 – Wawa District

December 9, 2013 – Thunder Bay District

Due to a mailing error, the group to be notified by the MNR in the Nipigon District did not receive this initial mailing when it was sent to the other districts. A cover letter explaining the error was provided to the MNR to accompany the initial mailing package. This letter can be found in Appendix B. The package was

forwarded to the Nipigon District group (as part of the Draft ToR review package discussed below) on January 21, 2014.

The Notice of Commencement and Open Houses was posted on the Project web site and published in local print and online newspapers from Thunder Bay to Wawa. After the Notice was first published and distributed, two additional Open House dates were added. A new English and French notice was created highlighting the new dates. Publication of the Notices is summarized in Table 2-1. The language of the Notice and whether it included the additional dates is noted in parentheses.

Table 2-1: Notification Publication Dates

Media	Running Dates
Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal	November 15, 2013 (English)
	November 22, 2013 (English with added dates)
Marathon Mercury	November 19, 2013 (English and French)
	November 26, 2013 (English and French with added dates)
Nipigon Red Rock Gazette	November 19, 2013 (English)
	November 26, 2013 (English)
Terrace Bay Schreiber News	November 19, 2013 (English and French)
	November 26, 2013 (English and French)
	December 3, 2013 (English and French with added dates)
Algoma News	November 20, 2013 (English and French)
	November 27, 2013 (English and French with added dates)
	December 4, 2013 (English and French with added dates)
Thunder Bay Source	November 21, 2013 (English with added dates)
	November 28, 2013 (English with added dates)
Ontario News North	November 29, 2013 (online ad in English and French with added dates)

#### Notice of Draft Terms of Reference Review

Though it is not a requirement under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the Draft ToR was made available for agency and public review from January 10 to February 10, 2014.

An email was sent to Municipal contacts, government agencies and other stakeholders for whom an email address was available on January 10, 2014 notifying recipients of the availability of the Draft ToR on the Project web site and the review and comment period. Hard copy notices were mailed to the stakeholder contact list on January 10, 2014. The Ontario Prospectors' Association published the notice in the January 2014 issue of their newsletter, *The Explorationist*.

The MNR was provided with appropriate quantities of the notice for distribution to the MNR-managed contacts, which took place as follows:

- January 20, 2014 – Ontario Parks mandatory contacts
- January 21, 2014 – Nipigon District
- January 22, 2014 – Wawa District
- January 27, 2014 – Thunder Bay District

Hard copies of the ToR and Supporting Documentation were sent to the Ministry of the Environment and members of the Government Review Team who requested hard copies on January 13, 2014.

### 2.1.3. Newsletters

One newsletter was developed during the ToR stage and it was produced in French and English. It provided information on the need for the Project, Project details and schedule, the EA Process and other approvals, easements and access to land, consultation activities including the date and location of upcoming Open Houses, and information on how to provide input and get involved in the process. The newsletter was updated after additional Open House dates were added. A copy of the newsletter in both languages is included in Appendix C.

The newsletter was hand delivered, mailed and emailed to the stakeholder contact list as a package with the Notice of Commencement and Open Houses. Distribution is detailed in Section 2.1.2. The newsletter was also distributed at meetings with municipal elected officials and staff, Chambers of Commerce, at the Open Houses, and made available on the Project web site. Copies of the newsletter were also made available to municipalities that requested them for distribution from their municipal offices.

### 2.1.4. Fact Sheets

Fact Sheets were prepared on the following topics: The EA Process; Project Need (content provided by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA)); Transmission Line Safety; and, Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF). Fact sheets were available at the Open Houses and posted on the Project web site. Copies of the fact sheets are included in Appendix C.

### 2.1.5. Frequently Asked Questions

A list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) was compiled and responses prepared. Questions and responses were provided on the following topics:

- NextBridge Infrastructure and the East-West Tie Project;
- Electricity in northern Ontario;
- Land issues;
- Routing;
- Project approval process;
- Health and safety;
- Environment;
- Building and operating a transmission line; and,
- How you can have your say.



The FAQ is available in Appendix C. The FAQ was made available at the Open Houses and posted on the Project web site.

### 2.1.6. Project Web Site

A dedicated website, [www.nextbridge.ca](http://www.nextbridge.ca), was established for the Project providing information on the Project and NextBridge. The Notice of Commencement, newsletter, Fact Sheets, Open House displays, and Frequently Asked Questions were posted on the website to enhance access to Project information for interested parties. Project contacts are also provided on the website to facilitate exchange of information and questions with stakeholders and Project staff.

### 2.1.7. Project Hotline

A dedicated telephone number, 1-888-767-3006, was established for the Project. Messages left on the hotline are reviewed regularly and forwarded to relevant individuals for appropriate action. Project related comments and inquiries made through the hotline are documented. French language service is also available through the hotline.

### 2.1.8. Project Email

A dedicated email address, [info@nextbridge.ca](mailto:info@nextbridge.ca), has also been established for the Project. Messages and comments sent to the email address were reviewed regularly and forwarded to relevant individuals for appropriate action. French language service is also available via email. Project related comments and inquiries made through email are documented.

### 2.1.9. Land Agent Visits

To be as responsive as possible, a team of land agents provided a personal, one-window contact with potentially affected landowners and tenants. Land agents began meeting with potentially affected landowners and tenants the week of November 11, 2013. Potentially affected landowners were identified as those living and/or owning property within 500 m of the centre line of the Reference Route and Reference Route Alternatives. Notification packages containing a cover letter, Notice of Commencement and Open Houses, and a newsletter were provided to landowners by the agents in person or left in their mailboxes with the land agent's contact information when they were not home. A dedicated French language land agent is a member of the team and was available to provide information to French speaking landowners and tenants.

Land agents were also available at the Open Houses to discuss landowner-related issues with attendees.

The relationship between NextBridge and landowners will continue through the EA, Leave to Construct activities, construction, and operations.

Comments submitted by landowners and members of the public are provided in Table 4-1.

### 2.1.10. Agency and Municipal Consultation

Early contact was initiated with key provincial and federal agencies and with municipal elected representatives and staff in municipalities, townships and towns along or very near the Reference Route and Reference Route Alternatives.

#### Municipal Consultation

Calls were made to municipalities in October and November 2013 to express NextBridge's desire to meet with local elected officials and staff and to set up meeting dates in mid-November. Calls were followed up with an email providing a high-level overview of the Project and suggested meeting dates.

When initial contact was made with municipalities, the opportunity was taken to make early inquiries about other key stakeholders that should be added to the contact list and potential issues that may be raised in specific communities.

Meetings were held with municipal staff and elected officials the weeks of November 11 and 18, 2013 as follows:

- November 12, 2013 – Municipality of Shuniah Elected Representatives and Staff
- November 12, 2013 – City of Thunder Bay Elected Representatives and Staff
- November 13, 2013 – Township of Dorion Elected Representatives and Staff
- November 13, 2013 – Municipality of Nipigon Elected Representatives and Staff
- November 13, 2013 – Township of Red Rock Elected Representatives and Staff
- November 14, 2013 – Town of Marathon Elected Representatives and Staff
- November 14, 2013 – Municipality of Terrace Bay Elected Representatives and Staff
- November 18, 2013 – Town of Wawa Staff
- November 18, 2013 – Town of Wawa, Township of Hornepayne, and Township of Chapleau Elected Representatives (Regional Mayors Meeting)
- November 19, 2013 – Municipality of Schreiber Elected Representatives and Staff

Notes from these meetings are presented in Appendix D.

In addition to staff and elected officials, some members of interest groups attended these meetings. These instances are noted in Section 2.1.11 below.

Representatives from the Township of White River were anticipated to attend the November 18, 2013 Regional Mayors Meeting in Wawa but were unable to attend due to weather conditions. The Mayor of White River attended the Open House in White River on December 10, 2013 and was provided with additional information on the Project at that time.

Correspondence received from municipalities during the development of the ToR is summarized below:

Township of Dorion

January 24, 2014 – Email from the Township of Dorion

Municipality of Wawa

January 6, 2014 – Letter from the Municipality of Wawa

Notification packages, including the Notice of Commencement and Open Houses and the newsletter, were emailed and mailed to municipal contacts as indicated in Section 2.1.2. A copy of the cover letter is included in Appendix B.

Comments raised by municipalities and responses are provided in Table 4-2.

Agency Consultation

Several meetings, conference calls, and phone calls with identified agencies took place prior to receiving comments on the Draft ToR. A summary of these communications is as follows:

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)

November 6, 2013 – Meeting

November 7, 2013 – Email to AANDC

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

November 21, 2013 – Email from Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

November 28, 2013 – Email from Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

CN Rail

February 10, 2014 – Email from CN Rail

Environment Canada

December 5, 2013 – Email from Environment Canada

January 10, 2014 – Email from Environment Canada

Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area

December 6-9, 2013 – Email exchange

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA)

February 10, 2014 – Email from LRCA

Ministry of the Environment (MOE)

September 23, 2013 – Meeting

October 2, 2013 – Meeting

December 3, 2013 – Email from MOE

January 6 and 7, 2014 – Email exchange

January 21, 2014 – Email from MOE

Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)

October 2, 2013 – Meeting  
October 18-22, 2013 – Email exchange  
October 24, 2013 – Meeting  
October 29, 2013 – Email to MNR  
November 5, 2013 – Email from MNR  
November 7, 2013 – Email to MNR  
December 2, 2013 – Emails from MNR  
December 3, 2013 - Meeting  
January 7, 2014 – Email to MNR  
January 9, 2014 – Email exchange  
January 14, 2014 – Email exchange  
January 15, 2014 – Conference Call  
January 21-22, 2014 – Email exchange  
January 29, 2014 – Email exchange  
January 30, 2014 – Email exchange  
January 30, 2014 – Meeting  
January 31, 2014 – Email from MNR

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM)

October 2, 2013 – Meeting  
November 16, 2013 – Email to MNDM  
November 21, 2013 – Email from MNDM  
November 28, 2013 – Email from MNDM  
January 7, 2014 – Email from MNDM  
January 15, 2014 – Email to MNDM  
January 16, 2014 – Email from MNDM

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS)

October 24, 2013 – Meeting  
November 6, 2013 – Email exchange  
January 27, 2014 – Emails exchange

Ministry of Transportation (MTO)

October 24, 2013 – Meeting  
December 4, 2013 – Email from MTO

Ontario Parks

October 2, 2013 - Meeting  
October 23, 2013 – Email exchange  
October 24, 2013 – Meeting  
November 6 and 18, 2013 – Email exchange  
November 19, 2013 – Email exchange

Parks Canada

October 8-22, 2013 – Email exchange  
October 10, 2013 – Meeting  
October 21, 2013 – Email exchange  
October 23, 2013 – Meeting  
November 6, 2013 – Email to Parks Canada  
December 4, 2013 – Email exchange  
December 6, 2013 – Email to Parks Canada  
December 16, 2013 – Email from Parks Canada  
December 19, 2013 – Email to Parks Canada  
February 11, 2014 – Letter from Parks Canada

Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI)

November 28, 2013 – Meeting (conference call)

Copies of communications and notes from meetings are presented in Appendix D.

Agencies were provided with the notification package including the Notice of Commencement and Open Houses and the Project newsletter via email and mail as indicated in Section 2.1.2. Comments submitted and responses are provided in Table 4-3. Correspondence submitted is included in Appendix D.

### 2.1.11. Interest Group Consultation

Interest groups identified by NextBridge that potentially may be interested in the Project were provided with the Notice of Commencement and Open Houses and the first newsletter as indicated in Section 2.1.2. Meetings with key interest groups have taken place to present Project information and gather input into the process and Project. Meetings have taken place as follows:

November 12, 2013 – Common Voice Northwest Energy Task Force and the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (as part of the meeting with the City of Thunder Bay)  
November 18, 2013 – Wawa Economic Development Corporation  
November 19, 2013 – Aguasabon Chamber of Commerce (Terrace Bay)  
December 2, 2013 – Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce

Notes from these meetings are included in Appendix D.

Members of several interest groups attended the Open Houses and spoke with Project staff, including the following:

- Campers' Association;
- Snow mobile clubs;
- Naturalist clubs;

- Trappers;
- Fishing guides;
- Economic Development Corporation and Chambers of Commerce;
- Mining industry representatives and claim owners; and,
- Vendors seeking potential work during Project planning, construction, and operation.

The Thunder Bay Field Naturalists attended the Thunder Bay Open House on December 2, 2013 and submitted a letter providing additional information on December 15, 2013.

Comments submitted and responses are provided in Table 4-4. Correspondence submitted is included in Appendix D.

### 2.1.12. Open Houses

Open Houses offer an opportunity for interested individuals and parties, particularly the public and landowners, to meet Project staff, hear first-hand how the Project may affect them, both positively and negatively, and ask questions and provide local knowledge about the issues and features that should be considered in Project planning. Staff from the OPA were also in attendance to answer questions related to Project need and rationale.

One round of Open Houses was held during the ToR phase in early December 2013. Initially, four locations, Shuniah/Thunder Bay, Nipigon, Marathon, and Wawa, were identified for the first round of open houses. These locations were chosen to ensure that all properties along the route would be within at least approximately 100 km of an Open House location. During a municipal meeting in Terrace Bay, it was suggested that people residing in Terrace Bay and surrounding area would be unwilling to drive to either Marathon or Nipigon, particularly in winter, for an event. Based on this feedback, two additional locations, Terrace Bay and White River, were added to the first round. As a result, the first round of Open Houses was held in the following communities:

December 2, 2013 – Thunder Bay (Current River Community Centre)

December 3, 2013 – Nipigon (Nipigon Legion)

December 4, 2013 – Marathon (Marathon High School)

December 5, 2013 – Wawa (Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre)

December 10, 2013 – White River (Royal Canadian Legion)

December 11, 2013 – Terrace Bay (Cultural Centre)

Notification about the Open Houses was published and distributed as described in the Section 2.1.2.

Open Houses were scheduled from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm<sup>1</sup>. The Open Houses were organized as drop-in style events allowing attendees to arrive at any time to receive information from Project staff. Attendees were

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<sup>1</sup> The White River event started late due to a weather-related road closure south of White River. Staff were on site shortly after 4:00 pm but information panels and some handouts were not available for the initial stages of the Open House.



greeted at the door, asked to sign-in, provided handouts and comment forms and given an overview of the event. Panels placed around the room provided information on the proposed new transmission line, rationale for the Project, the proponent (NextBridge), the approvals process, and how to participate and provide feedback on the Project. The panels are included in Appendix E.

Large format aerial maps were displayed on tables in the middle of the room showing the Reference Route, Reference Route Alternatives, and local route refinements under consideration at the time of the Open House.

A “Frequently Asked Questions” handout, four Fact Sheets, and a copy of the information panels were available at the Open Houses for attendees to take home with them, as were additional copies of the first Project newsletter.

Comment forms were also made available for attendees to fill out at the event or take home and provide comment after. Tables and chairs were set up with pens and comment forms to facilitate completion at the event. Those who chose to comment after were encouraged to do so before December 20, 2013 to allow sufficient time for comments to be considered for the ToR. The comment form is included in Appendix E.

Staff at the Open Houses were equipped with notepads to document discussions they had with attendees. These notes and the comment forms submitted have been entered into the Project database for responses and appropriate action as required.

In total, 187 people attended the first round of Open Houses. Table 2-2 shows the breakdown of this total.

Table 2-2: Open House Attendance

Location	Number of Attendees
Thunder Bay	86
Nipigon	35
Terrace Bay	16
Marathon	19
White River	5
Wawa	26

Seven comment forms were submitted at the events and after.

Several potentially affected landowners attended the events, as did a number of representatives and interested individuals from agencies, municipalities, and interest groups to gather information and provide feedback on the Project and the process. Several vendors attended to learn more about the Project and to offer their services for studies, construction and other Project activities. Members of local media attended the events to speak with Project spokespeople and publish articles.

## 2.2. Consultation on the Draft Terms of Reference

Though it is not a requirement under the Environmental Assessment Act, the Draft ToR was made available for agency and public review from January 10 to February 10, 2014.

The Draft ToR and Supporting Documentation were posted on the Project web site on January 10, 2014. Comments received during the review period were considered and, where appropriate, the ToR was revised for submission to the MOE.

Comments were received from the public, landowners, agencies, municipalities, and other interested stakeholders, as follows:

- January 22, 2014 – Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment
- January 28, 2014 – Ontario Parks
- January 28, 2014 – Transport Canada
- February 1, 5 and 6, 2014 – Township of Dorion
- February 7, 2014 – Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport
- February 10, 2014 – Environment Canada
- February 10, 2014 – Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport
- February 10, 2014 – Ministry of the Environment (consolidated comments)
- February 10, 2014 – Ministry of Northern Development and Mines
- February 11, 2014 – Ministry of Energy
- February 11, 2014 – Ontario Parks
- February 12, 2014 – Ministry of Natural Resources

Members of the public and landowners also submitted comments. Specific correspondence from these individuals, however, is not listed above to protect privacy but the comments and concerns have been documented and considered. Comments, responses and actions taken, if necessary, are documented in Table 4-5. Copies of correspondence are provided in Appendix D.

## 3. FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

### 3.1. Consultation Activities

#### 3.1.1. Identification of Communities

In a May 31, 2011 letter to the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), the Ontario Ministry of Energy identified 18 Aboriginal communities to be consulted by the OPA as the OPA was establishing the rationale, scope and timing of the East-West Tie Project and prior to the identification of NextBridge as the designated transmitter. These same communities have been identified in the November 2013 consultation Memorandum of Understanding between NextBridge and the Crown. The 18 communities identified are listed in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: First Nation and Métis Communities Identified by the Ministry of Energy

First Nation/Métis	Name	Treaty Area
First Nation	Michipicoten First Nation	Robinson Superior Treaty
First Nation	Pic Mobert First Nation	Robinson Superior Treaty
First Nation	Ojibways of Pic River (Heron Bay First Nation)	Robinson Superior Treaty
First Nation	Pays Plat First Nation	Robinson Superior Treaty
First Nation	Red Rock Indian Band	Robinson Superior Treaty
First Nation	Fort William First Nation	Robinson Superior Treaty
First Nation	Ojibways of Garden River	Robinson Huron Treaty
First Nation	Ojibways of Batchewana	Robinson Huron Treaty
First Nation	Missanabie Cree First Nation	Treaty 9
First Nation	Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation (Lake Nipigon Ojibway)	Robinson Superior Treaty
First Nation	Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation (Rocky Bay)	Robinson Superior Treaty
First Nation	Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation)	Robinson Superior Treaty
First Nation	Ginoogaming First Nation	Treaty 9
First Nation	Long Lake No. 58 First Nation	Treaty 9
Métis	Red Sky Independent Métis Nation	
Métis	Superior North Shore Métis Council	
Métis	Greenstone Métis Council	
Métis	Thunder Bay Métis Council	

### 3.1.2. Staff and Community Meetings

An initial series of meetings were held with the identified Aboriginal communities to introduce NextBridge and the Project, to discuss the issues of concern, and to begin the discussion and understanding of whether, and if so, to what extent, the East-West Tie Project may potentially cause impacts to rights and interests, including traditional land uses, harvesting patterns, customs, practices and traditions (e.g., food harvesting, trapping, medicinal plant gathering, cultural activities) of the community members. See Section 5, Table 5-1 for details of these meetings.

### 3.1.3. First Nations and Métis Project Announcements and Notifications

Specific information materials and communication processes and activities have been designed to reach out to Aboriginal communities over and above the East-West Tie Project announcements and notifications to other interested parties.

A first post-designation letter of introduction (dated August 28, 2013) was sent to the 18 Aboriginal communities identified by the Ontario Ministry of Energy as potentially impacted by the East-West Tie Project. A second letter to the same 18 Aboriginal communities was sent on October 4, 2013, focusing on NextBridge's desire to recognize and respect heritage and historical information held by each of these communities and to take such information into account in its Project development work. A third letter was sent on November 11, 2013 providing further information related to the East-West Tie Project and introducing the open house schedule and initial public consultation activity. These communications are included in Appendix F.

The Draft ToR and Supporting Documentation were made available for review as outlined in Section 2.1.2. Notice of Draft ToR Review and copies of the Draft ToR and Supporting Documentation were mailed to the 18 First Nations and Métis communities on January 13, 2014. The notice indicated that the review period would be from January 10 to February 10, 2014.

This was the first of two opportunities to comment on the ToR. Comments received during the Draft ToR review have been documented in the Record of Consultation to be submitted with the Proposed ToR. Comments received on the Draft ToR have been considered and incorporated into the Proposed ToR as appropriate. The Proposed ToR will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and a second opportunity for review will be provided that will be coordinated by the MOE.

### 3.1.4. First Nations and Métis Participation in Public Open Houses

The initial Open Houses were held as described in Section 2.1.12. First Nation and Métis community members and leadership were invited to attend the public Open Houses as NextBridge works with these communities to develop individual engagement plans. Some members and representatives of First Nation and Métis communities did attend the first round of Open Houses.

## 4. RESULTS OF CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

### 4.1. Landowner, Public, Municipal, Agency, and Interest Group Comments during Preparation of the Draft Terms of Reference

#### 4.1.1. Landowner and Public Comment during the Preparation of the Draft Terms of Reference

Table 4-1 summarizes the questions and comments provided to NextBridge up to the release of the Draft ToR for review. Responses to questions related to need and rationale for the Project are provided by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA).

Table 4-1: Landowner and Public Comments and Responses during Draft Terms of Reference Preparation

Comment	Response
<b>Project Need and Rationale</b>	
What is the primary purpose of the Project?	The purpose of the project is to maintain a reliable, long-term supply of electricity to the Northwest. Industrial activities in the Northwest, particularly in the mining sector, are expected to drive strong electricity demand growth in the coming decade. Coupled with changes in the region's supply situation, the OPA forecasts a need for new supply in the Northwest. The identified supply need 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.
Will we experience fewer blackouts?  We were not affected by past large blackouts. Could we be affected by similar events in the future because of this Project?	Comment noted. These questions will be investigated during the EA.
Wouldn't it be easier and less expensive to connect with Manitoba?	Ontario is currently electrically connected with Manitoba. In order to meet the Northwest's resource needs with supply from Manitoba, it would be necessary to sign a power purchase agreement. The cost of imported energy and/or capacity under such an agreement would be based on terms negotiated with Manitoba. In addition, the amount of capacity required to meet the reliability need of the Northwest exceeds the current capability of the existing interconnection, and significant new

Comment	Response
	transmission facilities would be required.
If the line is for mining, why isn't it being built from Nipigon to the northwest?	The line connects power from southern Ontario with the Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) near Thunder Bay. From the TS, transmission lines are already in place to link to the northwest.
How much power can the new line accommodate?	The new line, together with the existing East-West tie line, increases the interface transfer capability from 350 MW (175 MW in bad weather) to 650 MW.
If the new line/tower is damaged by weather, is there a way to re-route power?	There is an existing 230 kV transmission line in place that can provide power but power cannot be re-routed except at Transformer Stations.
If the new line parallels the existing line, what would be the distance between the tower lines?	The distance would be approximately 50 m.
<b>Land</b>	
How would my land be affected if it was crossed by the right-of-way?	<p>NextBridge will seek an easement interest for the footprint of the project including right of way, temporary workspace, stockpiles, additional lands for laydown areas and access requirements, on both Crown and private land. The right of way will be approximately 52 to 56 m wide (170 to 184 ft.).</p> <p>Access to private lands is expected to be required for environmental studies, surveying, geotechnical work, clearing, road work, construction, inspection, and maintenance. NextBridge has the ability to Survey under the Surveys Act by licensed Surveyors (boundary survey only). All other surveys require Consent. NextBridge will discuss access to private lands with directly affected landowners and tenants.</p> <p>During the construction phase, NextBridge will mitigate construction impacts wherever practicable. This will include various measures to minimize the impacts of noise and traffic disruptions as appropriate and practicable. NextBridge will endeavor to communicate hours of work, traffic impacts, and road detours to stakeholders and affected people in the area in advance of the work being conducted.</p>
Will my property value be affected?	<p>NextBridge does not anticipate that property values will be affected in the long-term. However, NextBridge may compensate for injurious affection.</p> <p>"Injurious affection" (injury to land) occurs when it is determined that the market value of a property is reduced because of NextBridge's use of the portion of the land for the Project. The amount of any compensation will be determined as part of an independent appraisal process.</p>
What is the relationship between Standard Land Company and NextBridge?	Standard Land Company has been engaged by NextBridge to handle a portion of the land agent activity for the development of the Terms of Reference phase of the Project.
How will the value of my property be assessed?	For each directly affected parcel of private property, a Benchmark Market Valuation will be completed to determine the fair market value on a per hectare basis. Upon completion of this valuation NextBridge



Comment	Response
	will present an offer of compensation that includes compensation for the easement interest and consideration for injurious affection where applicable. Loss of timber will be assessed and appropriate compensation will be determined on a per hectare basis.
I would like fair market value if my land is directly affected.	Compensation will vary depending on several considerations including, for example, the use and location of the land parcel. A Benchmark Market Valuation will be completed to determine the fair market value on a per hectare basis. The valuation will take into consideration the highest and best use of the land, soil quality, location and comparable sales data to determine appropriate compensation along the proposed route. For easement interests in Ontario, 75% of fair market value is paid.
If my property value goes down, will my property taxes be reduced?	Property tax questions should be addressed to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).
Are you seeking a route that avoids residences?	NextBridge will endeavour to select the route that will result in the least overall impacts. To identify the final route, NextBridge will be considering the valuable feedback from those potentially affected along proposed routes. During the route evaluation process, NextBridge will consider factors such as hunting, tourism, recreational uses such as trails, agricultural operations, environmental features, and impacts to residents and businesses. It is important to note that all routes are considered viable alternatives at this time; however, only one transmission line will be built.
We have been affected by the highway widening. The transmission line will add to the issues we are already facing.	Thank you for raising this issue. It will be considered as NextBridge proceeds with the project.
What are the set-backs from homes?	NextBridge will use the boundary of the right-of-way to establish minimum setback distances. Structures will not be allowed in the right-of-way.
I would like to be contacted before anybody accesses my property.	Reasonable attempts will be made to provide notice. NextBridge will discuss access to private lands with directly affected landowners and tenants.
What types of agreements with landowners are you seeking?	NextBridge will be seeking an Option for easement agreement. In the event a fee simple interest is required, NextBridge will look to purchase the property.
Will I still be able to use the land in the right of way?	Yes, so long as it doesn't interfere from an operational or safety perspective with the line.
If I refuse to sign an easement agreement will you expropriate my land?	Leave to Construct approval allows NextBridge to expropriate land rights but NextBridge prefers to negotiate and reach a deal with landowners where possible.
If a building/structure (other than main residence) has to be removed for the right-of-way, will NextBridge replace or rebuilt it to my specifications?	The value of the building will be assessed and fair market value for the building as it stands at the time.

Comment	Response
Will I still be able to hunt on my property? Will the project affect game movement?	Yes, you will still own the land while transferring some of the rights to it to NextBridge via the easement process. While most activities are generally still permissible on the property, caution must be exercised around the transmission line and towers in order that NextBridge's equipment is not damaged. As part of the EA process, the potential for impact on wildlife will be examined.
I want access to my property during hunting season and do not want construction to take place at that time. Is this possible?	Should your property be crossed by the proposed transmission line there are a number of considerations related to access during construction which NextBridge can't address at this time. These include the timing of construction on your property (it might not be during construction) and whether or not construction will take place during the hunting season. Many northern Ontario construction projects place a temporary hold on hunting during construction for safety considerations. This will be determined at a later date.
I would like to see efforts made to reduce the footprint of the Project.	NextBridge supports the reduction of the footprint of the project and is exploring, among other things, the opportunity to overlap cleared areas of the existing Hydro One transmission line, as well as use of the existing roads associated with the existing 230 kV transmission line.
What will happen to the wood that is cut on my property?	The use of salvageable timber from the RoW will be discussed with the landowner.
I do not want wood chipped on my property.	NextBridge will discuss what the landowner wants done with the trees and vegetation prior to clearing.
I want to be compensated for marketable wood that is removed for the right-of-way on my property. How much of a tree stumpage fee will be paid?	Compensation for timber will be provided based on ownership and type of wood. An assessment will be made to determine the appropriate compensation rates.
There are trails on my property. How will they be affected?	NextBridge will make every effort to avoid the trails. Trails that fall in the RoW may still be able to be maintained.
If groups are charged a fee to use the right of way on my property as a trail, will I get some of the money?	Access along the RoW would not be permitted without the consent of the landowner. If permission is given, NextBridge will not charge a fee to use the right of way on your land as this is your private land. Elsewhere on Crown lands NextBridge also has only easement rights and thus will not be the land owner.
I'm concerned that the right-of-way will provide unwanted access to my property.	Your property is private land and can be posted no trespassing and gated if required. A gate locking protocol will be determined where access is required by you and construction crews.
I have a managed forest on my land.	If the area to be cleared for the new right-of-way is part of the managed forest, NextBridge will meet with you to discuss the implications and provide resources for you to have your plan amended.
I was planning to develop/build/improve a property along one of the proposed routes. What should I do now?	While the route has not yet been finalized or approved, you should speak with the NextBridge team and their Land Agents to discuss your proposal.
<b>Right-of-Way, Routing and Towers</b>	
Which side of the reference route is preferred?	A preferred side of the existing transmission facility RoW has not yet been identified. Once the preferred side is chosen, there is the opportunity for minor route realignments during the EA process to

Comment	Response
	<p>accommodate identified environmental and socio-economic features and other issues.</p> <p>NextBridge will endeavour to select the route that will result in the least overall impacts. To identify the final route, NextBridge will be considering the valuable feedback from those potentially affected along the proposed routes. During the route evaluation process, NextBridge will consider factors such as hunting, tourism, recreational uses such as trails, agricultural operations, environmental features, and potential impacts to residents and businesses.</p>
Has the proposed extension of the Michipicoten First Nation land been taken into consideration in the routing alternatives?	During the preparation of the draft Terms of Reference, it was brought to the attention of NextBridge that the boundaries of the reserve lands are in the process of being changed. The proposed Terms of Reference that will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment at the end of February, 2014 will reflect a new alternative around the First Nation that avoids crossing their lands.
I am concerned that individual landowners have less of a chance of influencing the final route compared to larger interest groups and First Nations communities.	NextBridge considers public input that is received and tries as best as reasonable to accommodate input, however, in some cases interests must be balanced to reflect the greater public interest.
When will the route be finalized?	The exact centerline of the route will be finalized through the EA process.
How wide is the proposed right-of-way?	<p>The proposed right-of-way for the new line is approximately 52 to 56 m (approx. 170 to 184 ft.).</p> <p>The 52 to 56 m may not include additional space required where there are corners in the line, general construction access and where additional lands for access might be required subject to topography and other land features. In some areas temporary work space may also be required for activities such as materials staging. Temporary work space requirements are variable depending on need.</p>
What type of tower will be constructed?	Most towers are anticipated to be guyed "Y" lattice structures.
Where will the tower be located on my property?	Final route and location of towers have not yet been determined.
How tall are the proposed towers?	Towers are planned to be typically 43 m (approx. 140 ft.) tall. Depending on the terrain, tower heights will vary.
Will the new line connect with the existing transmission line?	The new East-West Tie will generally parallel the existing East-West Tie RoW with connections at the Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) in Shuniah (east of Thunder Bay), Marathon TS, and Wawa TS.
Did you consider an alternative route along the pipeline corridor to the north of Dorion?	Pipelines are typically not paralleled because this has been shown to cause an increase in pipeline corrosion and therefore, a large amount of cathodic protection may be required. The paralleling of the existing 230 kV line offers a number of benefits including use of existing access, corridor sharing and similar land use.
Did you consider an alternative route along the CN railway	Railway lines are typically not paralleled because long parallels have been found to interfere with their switching and communications, and

Comment	Response
right-of-way near Bass Lake?	the rails need grounding and cathodic protection from the induced voltage from the power lines. The parallel of the existing 230 kV line offers a number of benefits including use of existing access, corridor sharing and similar land use.
There are many residences in the Loon Lake area south of the existing line. We recommend a route to the north of the existing line in this area.	Thank you for your feedback.
Why don't you parallel the highway?	<p>NextBridge has been informed by the Ministry of Transportation that a permit is required to place a transmission line within 400 m of any limit of a controlled access highway.</p> <p>Placing the transmission line within the right-of-way is prohibited on Class I and II highways. The required setback for electric power transmission lines is 14 m from Class I and II highways and 0.3 m from other class highways.</p>
Will parks and other protected areas be considered?	Parks and other protected areas will be considered when selecting the preferred route.
We have features on and around our land that you should know about (cemeteries, pastures, farms, septic beds, camps, public and private trails, cliffs/mountains, cottages, lakes, watercourse, etc.)?	This information will be considered in facility routing and impact assessment work.
<b>Health and Safety</b>	
I'm concerned about increases in Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) from the new line and in combination with the existing line.	<p>Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs; also called electric and magnetic fields), are invisible forces that surround electrical equipment, power cords, and power lines. You cannot see or feel EMFs. Every time you use electricity and electrical appliances, you are exposed to EMFs at extremely low frequencies (ELF). EMFs produced by both power lines and use of electrical appliances belong to this category. EMFs are strongest when close to the source. As you move away from the source, the strength of the fields fades rapidly.</p> <p>There is no compelling scientific evidence that EMFs in living and school environments, regardless of distance from transmission lines, cause ill health.</p> <p>Health Canada (2012) states:  <i>"When you are inside your home, the magnetic fields from high voltage power lines and transformer boxes are often weaker than those from household electrical appliances".</i></p> <p>Based on the available weight of evidence, Health Canada <i>"does not</i></p>

Comment	Response
	<i>consider that any precautionary measures are needed regarding daily exposures to EMFs at ELF's. There is no conclusive evidence of any harm caused by exposures at levels found in Canadian homes and schools, including those located just outside the boundaries of power line corridors".</i>
I'm concerned about spraying of the right-of-way with herbicides and the effect it may have on blueberry picking and game (hunting).	Initial clearing of the right-of-way will be completed through mechanical means. Once cleared, vegetation in the right-of-way may be maintained through treatment with herbicides and trimming. Herbicides will only be used where permitted according to applicable guidelines, regulations and/or legislation, and will be applied in accordance with their labels using qualified contractors.  The EA will confirm the operational parameters and measures to minimize effects.
<b>Internet and Communications</b>	
Will the line affect cell tower signals and internet?	There are no anticipated effects to cell towers.
Suggest you add Tbaytel to your contact list.	Tbaytel has been added to the contact list.
Why do we need this line?	Industrial activities in northwestern Ontario, particularly in the mining sector, are expected to drive strong electricity demand growth in the coming decade. Coupled with changes in the region's supply situation, the Ontario Power Authority forecasts a need for new supply to meet demand in northwestern Ontario.
<b>Approval Process</b>	
How was the process developed?	This Project is subject to the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> and an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) will be completed. The EA process is a long established process that considers the needs of the people, businesses and the natural environment in the decision making process. There are two key parts to an Individual EA: the EA ToR which outlines the scope of work to be undertaken; and the preparation of the EA.
Who is responsible for Approval?	The two main approvals required are from the Minister of the Environment for the EA and from the Ontario Energy Board through their Leave to Construct process. Other Project permits could be required depending on the facility location and design.
We request that an Open House be added in Terrace Bay so that we don't have to drive to Marathon.	Two additional Open House locations were added as a result of this comment from the public and other stakeholders. Additional Open Houses were scheduled in White River (December 10, 2013) and Terrace Bay (December 11, 2013).
I received the Notice of Open Houses after the events took place.	NextBridge regrets any delays in delivery of the Notification. As the mailing list is refined, NextBridge expects more timely delivery of project communication materials. Two more rounds of Open Houses are planned for 2014.
Will you consider having an Open House in Dorion during the next round of Open Houses?	This will be considered.
Could NextBridge show up on my property one day and start	No, before construction can begin, Environmental Assessment, Leave to Construct, and other approvals are required. There are several

Comment	Response
construction without notice?	<p>opportunities for public input during these approval processes. Further, NextBridge requires an easement before it can begin construction activities on private property.</p> <p>If applicable approvals are obtained, construction is anticipated to begin in 2016. There will be public notices regarding construction initiation.</p>
<b>Construction</b>	
When will construction start and how long will it take?	Construction is anticipated to take place from 2016 to 2018.
Will construction start at one end and move in one direction or will it begin at more than one location?	The specific construction approach and timing is not known at this time. It will be determined as part of the detailed design phase of the Project.
When will construction take place in my area?	The specific construction approach and timing is not known at this time.
Will local labour be used for project construction and maintenance?	NextBridge intends to hire local firms where possible and has done so already. NextBridge often finds that local firms are cost competitive in that they don't have to mobilize machinery or work camps and know the area well.
What short-term construction effects and long-term effects can be expected for landowners?	<p>Safety is the number one priority for NextBridge. During the construction phase, NextBridge will mitigate construction impacts wherever practicable. This will include various measures to minimize the impacts of noise and traffic disruptions as appropriate and practicable. NextBridge will endeavor to communicate hours of work, traffic impacts, and road detours to stakeholders and affected people in the area in advance of the work being conducted.</p> <p>The long term effects from the proposed new facilities will be similar to those experienced from the existing 230 kV transmission line. These primarily include visibility of the towers and conductors, a wider cleared right-of-way and a limitation of activities that can be carried out at the tower bases and in the area of the supporting guy wires.</p>
<b>Access Roads</b>	
Will new access roads be needed or will existing Hydro One access roads be used and improved?	NextBridge will maximize the use of existing right-of-way access roads and roads leading to the existing 230 kV right-of-way where possible. In certain instances, new access roads will need to be constructed. Any new access roads would be erected or constructed to code and be in standard with good construction and design practices. These will be planned to minimize potential environmental impacts.
If an access road is needed on my property, where will it be constructed, what will it look like and how will it be maintained?	These are questions that can't be answered at this time. Once the EA has been completed and an access plan has been developed then NextBridge would be in a position to answer these questions.
<b>Natural Environment</b>	
We have information on the plants and animals in the area and in nearby lakes and watercourses.	Information provided to the Project team will be considered during the EA process.



Comment	Response
Could local watercourses and groundwater be affected by the Project?	Towers will be set back from watercourses and tower foundations and guy wires will primarily be affixed to the rock surface. Erosion and sediment control measures will be employed to prevent surface water runoff. If bridges must be constructed over watercourses, NextBridge will follow applicable guidelines used by the MNR for water crossings associated with forest access roads.
Is erosion an issue?	Areas of potential erosion are located primarily at the tower bases during preparation of foundations. Appropriate mitigation measures will be employed to ensure that wind and or water erosion does not occur.
How will you address birds that nest/perch on towers?	This is a situation found on the existing 230 kV transmission line and will be treated in the same fashion. Should nests present an issue with the operation of the line, they will be removed after the young are out of the nest.
<b>Socio-Economic, Cultural Environment</b>	
I have a business that may be affected by the Project.	Information provided to the Project team will be considered during the EA process.
I'm concerned about the visual impacts of the Project.	The project will generally be located next to an existing transmission line. As such, a wider right-of-way may be more visible but the height of the new facility will not be appreciatively different. In areas of concentrations of permanent and seasonal residents, a viewshed analysis may be undertaken.

#### 4.1.2. Municipal Comments during Preparation of the Draft Terms of Reference

When municipalities were first contacted in October 2013, they were asked to provide their initial thoughts on potential issues in their communities. Potential issues identified included:

- Concerns about landowners with properties affected by the widening of the highway that may also be affected by the new East-West Tie right-of-way;
- Several communities were interested in hosting a staging area or field office during construction;
- Interest in local benefits of the transmission line (local jobs, ability to connect future industry/mining and connections from local generation including renewables; and
- Possible confusion about the East-West Tie Transmission Project and the Energy East pipeline project.

Comments received from municipalities, towns and townships during the development of the ToR are summarized in Table 4-2. Issues common to many communities are presented first followed by community-specific issues. Responses to questions related to need and rationale for the Project are provided by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA).

Table 4-2: Municipal Comments and Responses during Draft Terms of Reference Preparation

Comment	Response
<b>Municipal Consultation – General Comments</b>	
<b>Project Need and Rationale (Responses provided by the Ontario Power Authority)</b>	
How did you assess the need for the Project?	The OPA states that industrial activities in northwestern Ontario, particularly in the mining sector, are expected to drive strong electricity

Comment	Response
	demand growth in the coming decade. Coupled with changes in the region's supply situation, the OPA forecasts a need for new supply to meet demand in northwestern Ontario. The assessment of rationale for the Project was supported by consultations with many parties (Common Voice Northwest, mining, other industries).
Does this Project preclude local generation?	The OPA notes that the East-West Tie project provides a long-term foundation for supplying northwestern Ontario. In addition to increasing electricity supply, the project also improves the flexibility of the system so that as additional supply is needed, local generation could be better integrated. In the long term, the supply plan for the northwest includes both generation and transmission options.
There is a desire to develop hydro-electric power in the northwest. The Project would be much more popular in the area if it could be presented in this manner.	The OPA notes that the supply mix is a government policy decision.
How does this system allow municipalities to create their own renewable energy?	This line will help to provide additional transmission capacity to facilitate local renewable generation.
Will this Project bring power from southern Ontario to the north?	The OPA notes that the new transmission line will allow electricity to flow either way depending on generation and need at any given time.
Why is the Thunder Bay generating station being phased out?	The OPA states that the provincial government's policy is to get off reliance on coal and the government has decided to convert the Thunder Bay generating station to advanced biomass.
Do we not have enough hydro up here?	The OPA notes that production at hydroelectric stations doesn't always correspond with when energy is needed. There is not enough hydro-power supply based on forecast demand.
What is the capacity of the existing East-West Tie?	The current line is typically operated to 350 MW, although the Independent Electricity System Operator reduces it to a lower value (e.g., 175 MW) to respect the potential for a double-circuit outage when storms are in the area.
What will be the capacity of the new and existing lines?	The new East-West Tie brings the combined capacity of the existing and new tie lines up to 650 MW.
How will the northwest benefit from the Project?	Key benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing needed electricity to ensure that future economic development in northwest Ontario can proceed;</li> <li>• Creating employment opportunities during construction; and</li> <li>• Enhancing the power system in northwest Ontario by improving efficiency, flexibility and reliability.</li> </ul>
Is this the only project needed to open up more opportunities for development in the northwest?	The OPA notes that there are many factors to consider and that these factors change so it is difficult to say how much capacity will be available when the line becomes operational. The Project will remove the existing constraint between Wawa Transformer Station (TS) and Lakehead TS but there are additional constraints between Wawa and Toronto. The next constraint is from Sault Ste. Marie to Sudbury and then to the south.

Comment	Response
	The amount of capacity available once the Project is complete also depends on how many generators there are and where they are located, and on the amount of load and where it's located.
Will the OPA update the need in the future?	The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) requires that project need be reviewed and updated. The next update is scheduled for May 2014 and will be assessed again in January 2015. Each update will include a review of load growth and project development plans for the area.
Local groups advocating for local power generation appear to disagree with the OPA numbers. What is the disagreement?	The OPA is aware that some interested parties have the opinion that the load demand forecast should be higher. This doesn't change the need for new supply in the northwest. If load demand is higher, the need for and benefit of the East-West Tie increases.
Would this Project be expanded if the demand was higher?	The OPA notes that the proposal is for a 230 kV line. In future, the capacity of the East-West Tie could be expanded with additional voltage control equipment if the need was determined.
Was the double-circuit 230 kV line the only option considered?	NextBridge considered a high-voltage direct current (HVDC), 500 kV, and 345 kV (not common in Canada) lines. It was concluded that a double-circuit 230 kV line would best meet the needs that are being addressed by the East-West Tie. A new 230 kV line would be similar to what is there now, which provides benefits from a technical and economic perspective.
If Ring of Fire does not develop, would you still build this line?	The Ring of Fire is one of many factors in determining the rationale for this Project. Based on the OPA's assessments, the East-West Tie Project would be needed even if the Ring of Fire was not developed.
Did you work with the Common Voice Northwest (CVNW) Energy Task Force when considering mining scenarios for the assessment of need?	The OPA confirmed that they have spoken with the CVNW Energy Task Force and other mining companies in their assessment of future load demand.
Wouldn't it be cheaper to buy electricity from Manitoba?	The OPA notes that while it is a government policy to be energy self-sufficient in the long-term, a link to Manitoba was considered. There would be a cost to purchase power from Manitoba and the cost to construct a line from Manitoba (1000 km with a higher required voltage) would be high. In balancing the factors, the preferred way to increase electricity capacity in the Region is to construct the new East-West Tie. The new East-West Tie also provides more flexibility and provides a core for electricity infrastructure in the Region.
What is the demand for power in Manitoba and the United States? Will we still be purchasing power from them with the new line?	The OPA notes that demand for power is hard to predict. Power flows in real time. If a need exists that can best be met by importing from other jurisdictions, the system will do so. In forecasting future need, the OPA assumes that it will be met through Ontario generation sources rather than importation. Interconnections can be utilized when the electricity grid needs to be balanced but provincial system planning is based on self-sufficiency.
Why are our rates high when	Electricity rates in Ontario are pooled on a provincial basis. Rates are

Comment	Response
it's cheap to produce hydro in Northern Ontario?	determined by the Ontario Energy Board whose mandate includes protecting the interest of electricity consumers in the province.
Will new projects, such as a mine or electricity generation project be able tie into the new line or would additional infrastructure been needed?	<p>The OPA notes that new generation projects could connect via the existing Lakehead, Marathon or Wawa Transformer Stations. The requirement for more infrastructure depends on the load and nature of the connection. There may or may not be enough capacity on the new line to connect. The East-West Tie is part of a larger system and there are several areas that need attention. Anyone wanting to connect to the line would need to work with IESO and/or HONI regarding connection opportunities.</p> <p>NextBridge notes that another option may be for proponents to construct their own transformer/sub-stations to connect to the line if it is not feasible to do so at the existing transformer stations. As an example, the Greenwich Wind Farm applied for and received approval to build a sub-station to connect to the existing East-West Tie.</p>
If there isn't any capacity on the new line the question will be asked, why let the line go through if we can't get a benefit?	The OPA notes that the line will benefit all of northwest Ontario. It's needed to remove the current electricity bottleneck between Thunder Bay and Wawa.
Toronto has brown outs. Why would they send power up here?	If the north is in need of power, the OPA states that there is sufficient supply in southern Ontario. Recent blackouts are local issues not related to provincial supply adequacy.
Will Feed-In Tariff (FIT) and MicroFIT projects be allowed to go forward after the line is built?	MicroFIT projects connect to the existing distribution system and thus this Project would not directly influence them. This line could increase the opportunity for larger FIT projects to develop in the Region as these projects could require connection to the high-voltage transmission system.
We were of the understanding that several lines were going to get upgraded. Is this still the case?	The OPA noted that at one time the Minister outlined 20 priority projects across the province for Hydro One but recent policy decisions have reduced the number of priority transmission projects. The East-West Tie is still one of the priorities.
What happens to the generation if you don't have any place to put the electricity?	The OPA notes that electricity has to be used the moment it is produced. The IESO controls the system to make sure supply is provided when needed. When there is too much generation online (e.g. wind energy as a result of strong winds), the Province either needs to request the generator to shut down or the power needs to be shipped/sold to other jurisdictions.
Why are you paying people to take electricity? Shouldn't prices fall when we sell power to others?	The overall availability of electricity at any given time affects the price. Real time changes in price can be viewed on-line.
What happens if there is too much electricity in the system?	The OPA states that equipment could be damaged.
Is the Remote Communities plan part of the North of Dryden Plan?	The OPA states that the Remote Communities plan is separate from the North of Dryden plan but they are related. The Dryden plan is needed to connect the remote communities.

Comment	Response
Regarding the remote communities plan, why won't four of the communities get power?	The OPA informed that the four communities are so remote it wouldn't be cost effective.
Is it possible to put the existing and new circuits on one tower?	The OPA states that it could be done but in that case if you lose one tower you lose all four circuits. Redundancy is necessary for reliability.
If it will cost an estimated \$600M for this 400 km line, then a 500 km line to the Ring of Fire would cost another \$700M to construct. Is this correct?	The OPA notes that the cost of a line to the Ring of Fire is not known with certainty. It is expected that costs for a new transmission line to the Ring of Fire would be shared with mining companies. Discussions about funding would also be held with the federal government as they currently help pay for diesel in remote communities. Some monies would likely come from provincial ratepayers and customers.
Will the federal government help pay for connection to remote communities?	The OPA recognizes the need for cost sharing discussions with federal government. The federal government currently shares the cost of diesel in these areas, so there may be opportunity for the sharing of remote community connection costs in the future.
Does the power come from Ontario Power Generation?	The power flowing through the line can come from anywhere across the system.
Does the ratepayer get a choice of where they get their energy?	It's up to the IESO to determine where the power comes from and where it flows in the Province.
Will the new line connect with Great Lakes Power in Wawa?	Yes, there is an existing connection in Wawa to Great Lakes Power and the new East-West Tie will add another connection.
<b>Ownership and Costs</b>	
How much will the Project cost?	The OPA's planning cost estimate is \$500 million for the transmission line and \$100 million for upgrades to the Transformer Stations. NextBridge is responsible for developing the transmission line.  These estimates will be refined through development of the project.
Will you own the line and the electricity flowing through it?	NextBridge will own the new transmission line, not the electricity flowing through it. The line will be connected to the electricity grid at both ends and NextBridge will ensure it is properly maintained and safe. The IESO determines the flow of electricity within the line.
Is the cost of this Project included in the delivery fee on our bills?	Delivery fee is based on local distribution. There is also a transmission fee on your bill that would be affected by this Project.
Will costs go up locally or across the province?	The OPA notes that costs are expected to be shared by all ratepayers in the province.
How will your costs be recovered?	The Ontario Energy Board has allowed NextBridge to recover approximately \$22M for Project development including engineering and planning costs. This value excludes other costs that may be incurred and may be determined to be recoverable.
Is there a chance we'll see a debt recovery charge on electricity bills because of this Project?	No Special debt recovery charge will be added because of this project. If the project is approved by the OEB, the costs are expected to be added to the Ontario Transmission Rate Pool.
What is the difference in cost between the guyed "Y" towers and standard lattice structures?	The preliminary capital cost estimate for the transmission line along the reference route if using a guyed "Y" tower is approximately \$397 million; if using lattice tower, the cost estimate is \$430 million. These estimates

Comment	Response
	will be refined during the development process.
Why do we need more than one company running transmission lines?	There are several companies that own and operate transmission projects in Ontario now. Government policy is to introduce competition in provincial transmission.
<b>Construction, Operation and Maintenance</b>	
How many jobs will be created due to this Project?	It's difficult to determine the number of new jobs to be generated until the facility design/construction method is confirmed. Further information on number of jobs is anticipated later in 2014. During operations, a small NextBridge crew will be present. It is anticipated that some aspects of operations and maintenance will be contracted out to local contractors.
Will you be hiring locally?	NextBridge intends to hire local firms where possible and has done so already. Local firms are often cost competitive in that they don't have to mobilize machinery or work camps and know the area well.
What skills are you looking for?	Several skills will be needed including construction, catering and helicopter services. Further information will be available later in the process on the timing for construction and the need for local contractors.
How long will construction take?	Approximately two years plus some additional time for pre-construction preparation.
How long do you expect construction to last in a given community?	Work will be completed in phases. The specific time in each community will be determined as NextBridge moves through the EA and design process.
How many winters have been set aside for construction? Based on our experience, you can only get in on the 15th of January and have to be off by end of March as the machinery cannot operate on thawed swamp and muck.	Two winters have been set aside. NextBridge recognizes that much of the work will have to be done in winter given the conditions (large amount of wet areas).
What features will you be looking for in the staging areas?	NextBridge will look at different points along the line. Features that will be looked for include flat areas for stockyards.
Can we send you information on local contractors?	Lists of contractors will be accepted and contractors are encouraged to get in touch with NextBridge to identify the services they can offer and to visit the Project web site for information about the Project.
Who will be responsible for maintenance and repairs to the line?	NextBridge will have a small operations team but line work and maintenance are anticipated to be contracted out.
<b>Right-of-Way, Routing and Towers</b>	
What corridor will the new line follow?	The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) directed the use of the existing East-West Tie as a reference route. Alternative routes and local route refinements will be considered to avoid sensitive features. NextBridge is seeking input from stakeholders on the route.
How wide will the new corridor be?	The new corridor will be approximately 52 to 56 m wide. There may be some areas where it will need to be wider due to terrain.  Discussions are underway to identify any opportunities to overlap with the existing Hydro One right of way while respecting safety and technical



Comment	Response
	requirements.
Will the new line go on the north or south side of the existing East-West Tie?	NextBridge will make a decision on which side to parallel as part of the ToR. NextBridge considered options within 500 m of either side of the existing line (1 km wide area centred on the existing line). The line has been flown with Lidar to look at topography and feedback from the stakeholders, First Nations and Métis, will be considered to determine the best route. The final route may cross over the existing line several times.
Will you cross the existing line?	NextBridge may need to cross the existing line because of environmental, land or technical constraints.
Why don't you construct the new line underground?	Underground construction is significantly more expensive. The conductors would have to be separated and blasting would be required for much of the line.
There are places where the existing line crosses and is close to the highway. Some people in the community have been affected by the widening of the highway, and moving of existing towers.	NextBridge has been informed by the Ministry of Transportation that a permit is required to place a transmission line within 400 metres of any limit of a controlled access highway.  Placing the transmission line within the right-of-way is prohibited on Class I and II highways. The required setback for electric power transmission lines is 14 m from Class I and II highways and 0.3 m from other class highways.
They appear to be using smaller footprint towers as part of the highway widening. Why can't small footprint towers be used everywhere?	Some of the work along the highway involves moving towers for the 115 kV line. Towers for 115 kV transmission lines are smaller than those for 230 kV transmission lines.
How far away do your towers have to be from the existing towers in the old line?	Towers need to be located so that should one fall, it would not affect the adjacent line. There is no intention to match the Hydro One tower spacing.
Are guyed "Y" towers used in Ontario?	Single-circuit guyed "Y" towers are used in Ontario but there are currently no double-circuit guyed "Y" towers in Ontario.
What would happen if a guy-wire broke? Barrie, Ontario had a problem where the guys failed and the line was out for months.	Anti-failure or anti-cascading structures will be placed at intervals to limit the potential number of tower failures along the line. The Ontario Energy Board set standards for structural reliability. The structure proposed meets all the criteria and is more cost effective.
How deep do the tower foundations go for the guyed "Y" towers?	Foundations are anticipated to consist of an approximately 1 m x 1 m x 1 m pier underground plus 30 cm above ground. For typical, self-supporting towers, four much deeper drilled piers would be required to provide the same level of stability and costs would be higher cost.
Can you give an example of where you would use a dead-end lattice structure?	At points where the line turns and the angle is too great for a tangent structure to handle, a heavier, dead-end structure would be used. Also, if environmental or technical factors prevent installation of the guys within the right of way (such as between two lakes), a standard tangent lattice structure would be considered.
Why not stay away from Pukaskwa Park entirely?	The OPA, IESO, and OEB have identified and acknowledged the Reference Route as a starting point.



Comment	Response
	<p>The use of the existing East-West Tie RoW is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement, 2005 (PPS) which recommends making the best use of existing infrastructure and corridors, and that infrastructure be provided in a coordinated, efficient and cost effective manner before proposing new greenfield developments. This was one of the OPA's considerations in selecting the Reference Option (Route) and is consistent with the direction to other electricity transmitters in the past from provincial agencies and ministries to make use of existing ROWs and corridors before seeking approvals for "greenfield" routes.</p> <p>Going around the park adds 45 to 50 km to the Project, which would result in a significant amount of additional environment that would be affected, in addition to a significant additional cost. Discussions are underway with Parks Canada and other stakeholders to determine the feasibility of this option.</p>
Do you cross the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area (LSNMCA)?	NextBridge has contacted Parks Canada and representatives of the LSNMCA. The Project does not cross the LSNMCA.
How will you access the corridor?	Crown and private roads will be used primarily to access the corridor. Communities, roads, and works divisions will be contacted for appropriate permits.
Will other uses be permitted in the right-of-way such as trails or community gardens?	Other uses may be considered depending on easement agreements with landowners.
<b>Reliability</b>	
Are you designing the line to the icing that is seen in this region?	NextBridge will design to current applicable codes. In addition NextBridge is performing a weather study to validate that the ice load cases recommended by the code are appropriate for the Project area.
Will the line handle lightning better than the existing line?	<p>The OPA notes that the current line is rated for 350 Megawatts (MW) but when there is a storm it is downrated to 175 MW. The new system will be designed to accommodate 650 MW even if the old line goes down.</p> <p>The new line will be designed in accordance with applicable industry standards. Detailed analysis of insulation coordination, shielding, and grounding will be completed as part of the design process to determine the most appropriate means of improving lightning performance of the new transmission line.</p>
How many MW could the new line carry if both circuits of the existing HONI 230 kV line went out of service?	If both circuits of the existing line went out of service the, new line would be able to carry 650 MW.
Have you planned for a case when both double-circuit lines go down?	Prevailing reliability standards do not require planning for the loss of four transmission circuits while maintaining uninterrupted load supply.
<b>Environmental Assessment Process</b>	
Are you completing an Individual EA?	Yes.
Will the Project be subject to a	The Project does not require the preparation of a federal EA under the

Comment	Response
federal EA?	<i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (2012).</i>
Are you contacting people just along the reference route or along alternative routes as well?	Landowners have been contacted within 500 m of both sides of the centerline of the Reference Route and Alternative routes
How do you define and identify landowners?	About 1400 parcels of land were identified (private and publically owned) based on land parcel/ownership data bases. Landowners have been identified through available databases. Land agents have also gone into the field to contact landowners.
Have you considered regulations for water bodies, creeks and ponds?	Yes, NextBridge is following current guidelines and standards in route planning and facility design.
Will the ToR be reviewed by a panel?	The ToR does not require a panel review. The ToR will be reviewed by a number of government agency representatives. The ToR requires approval by the Minister of the Environment.
Will municipal comments be considered and incorporated?	Municipalities are being provided with the opportunity to review the ToR and will be provided the opportunity to review the EA report once prepared. Received comments will be considered and addressed as appropriate.
When are the next rounds of Open Houses planned?	They are currently anticipated for July and October 2014.
<b>Health and Safety</b>	
Will NextBridge use chemicals to clear the right-of-way?	Initial clearing of the right-of-way will be completed through mechanical means. Once cleared, vegetation in the right-of-way may be maintained through treatment with herbicides and trimming. Herbicides will only be used where permitted according to applicable guidelines, regulations and/or legislation, and will be applied in accordance with their labels using qualified contractors.  The EA will confirm the operational parameters and measures to minimize effects.
Will the guy wires be safe for trail users such snowmobilers?	Guy wires will be covered with coloured sleeves called "guy markers" well above the snow line to make them visible to snowmobilers and others.
A common use of the existing right-of-way is picking blueberries. Fish spawning areas are also present.	Thank you for the information.
Who will approve the line's safety?	Information on safety testing will be included in the Leave to Construct application to the Ontario Energy Board. The Ontario Energy Board will make a decision on whether to approve construction of the new line.
<b>Land</b>	
Do you intend to purchase lands for the towers and the right-of-way?	NextBridge's preferred approach is to negotiate with landowners to acquire land rights. There may be times when property is purchased but typically easements will be negotiated.  Leave to Construct approval allows NextBridge to expropriate land rights but NextBridge prefers to negotiate and reach a deal with landowners where possible.

Comment	Response
Is there a lot of crown land along the routes?	Yes, most of the land crossed is crown land with approximately 30-40% freehold landowners.
<b>Natural Environment</b>	
Will you replace trees cut for the right-of-way and will they be replaced locally?	<p>NextBridge has a Neutral Footprint policy. An assessment will be completed on the area for merchantable trees before cutting and NextBridge will replace merchantable trees one for one and lands acre for acre.</p> <p>Opportunities for replacement of trees locally will be considered first and community input will be sought but it may be necessary to move away from the Project area if there are no local opportunities for replacement.</p>
Could the filling of other community needs be considered if trees are not needed?	NextBridge has committed to plant the trees but could explore other economic development arrangements.
Where do the trees go after you cut them down?	<p>On Crown land, the use of salvageable timber from the RoW will be confirmed with the Ministry of Natural Resources and/or the applicable forestry company as applicable.</p> <p>On private property, NextBridge will confirm what the landowner reasonably wants done with the trees and vegetation through discussions prior to clearing.</p>
Will the moose still be able to move?	<p>Part of the reason for paralleling the existing line is to minimize potential impact on wildlife. It is anticipated that adjacent, connected rights-of-way may have less detrimental effects on wildlife movement than two separate rights-of-way.</p> <p>The studies that will be completed for the EA will include an assessment of potential wildlife impacts.</p>
Will caribou be an issue for the line?	
You will be dealing with a lot of sensitive areas. Have you investigated them already?	NextBridge is in the process of documenting sensitive features and this will continue through the EA.
<b>Socio-Economic and Cultural Environment</b>	
Be aware that there are artistic history and cultural landscapes in the area (Group of Seven was active here). Please consider impacts to those landscapes and others.	This is valuable information to the Project and will be considered in the EA.
Is thought given to aesthetics for boaters if a line crosses a river? Any option to put the line underwater?	These types of issues, including impacts on recreational users and aesthetics, will be considered as part of the socio-economic assessment in the preparing the EA. It is anticipated that the preference will be for a single corridor at crossings instead of two separate crossings that are spread apart. Consideration is not being given at this time to underwater crossings of rivers. They are not typically done in Ontario. It is anticipated that construction impacts could be greater and would be more costly than overhead crossings.

Comment	Response
<b>Comments about First Nation and Métis</b>	
Were partnerships with First Nations and Métis considered?	In its Long Term Energy Plan ("LTEP"), the Province of Ontario recognized that Aboriginal communities have an interest in participating in the economic benefits from future transmission projects crossing through their traditional territories and that there are a number of ways in which such communities could participate in such projects including potential commercial investment. NextBridge is exploring options to follow this policy direction.
How did you identify the First Nations and Métis you are consulting with?	In a May 31, 2011 letter to the OPA, the Ministry of Energy identified eighteen Aboriginal communities (14 First Nations and four Métis groups) to be consulted by the OPA in early consultation with respect to the Project. These communities are also referred to in the Consultation MOU between NextBridge and the Crown.
<b>Dorion-Specific Comments</b>	
Will our comments by February 10 [deadline to comment on the Draft ToR] be our last opportunity to change your preferred route through our community or will we have more opportunities after the open houses this summer?	Input will be considered for inclusion in the final Terms of Reference. NextBridge is considering local route refinements in the Township of Dorion to address concerns raised relating to the proximate location of the proposed line to existing residences. NextBridge and its agents will be in touch with members of the community and directly affected landowners and tenants that have communicated concerns. NextBridge will be reviewing these specific concerns regarding the proposed routing and will continue to engage with them through the route determination process.
<b>Nipigon-Specific Comments</b>	
The existing HONI line is 68 feet over river crossings around Nipigon and this has been a concern. Will the new line be at least as high over the rivers as the existing line?	The new line will be designed in accordance with clearances specified by the applicable codes. With the exception of federally maintained commercial channels, rivers, harbors, or canals, the anticipated clearances over navigable waterways will be 15.3 m (50 feet) unless otherwise directed by the Transport Canada office with jurisdiction over waterways crossed by the Project.
<b>Terrace Bay-Specific Comments</b>	
You should hold an Open House meeting here. Marathon is too far to go for an Open House, especially in winter. People from Schreiber would be willing to drive to Terrace Bay for a meeting.	Based on this comment, the decision was made to add another meeting in Terrace Bay on December 11 and White River on December 10, 2013.
Will Terrace Bay receive tax revenue as a result of the Project?	Comment noted. This will be investigated during the EA.
<b>Thunder Bay-Specific Comments</b>	
Is Thunder Bay in need of extra power?	The OPA notes that this Project is not just for Thunder Bay; it is for the northwest.
<b>Wawa-Specific Comments</b>	
Is there an opportunity for Wawa and local municipalities	NextBridge is not contemplating equity investment in the Project by

Comment	Response
to have an equity share and buy into the Project? This was a recommendation of the Algoma Coalition.	municipalities at this time.
Wawa, Hornepayne, and White River are all involved in the nuclear waste repository. We understand 40 MW of power will be needed to run this facility. Will the line allow for 40 MW of power to Hornepayne? Can you get on and off the line or is it a superhighway to Thunder Bay?	The OPA states that there is a 115 kV line to Hornepayne. The East-West Tie is similar to a highway with "off-ramps" for the power in the form of transformer stations. Three Transformer Stations exist in Shuniah (east of Thunder Bay), Marathon and Wawa. There is also an additional transformer station associated with the Greenwich wind farm. The new East-West line would not preclude future connections to these TS facilities.
A local development may be looking for 400 construction workers. If these two projects happen at the same time there may be a labour shortage.	Thank you for the information.
<p>We request a meeting to discuss the following three themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A potential equity stake in the project by members of the Algoma Coalition</li> <li>• The local/regional temporary and permanent economic opportunities that the project could provide</li> <li>• The local/regional temporary and permanent energy capacity opportunities that the project could provide</li> </ul>	<p>NextBridge is not contemplating equity investment in the Project by municipalities at this time.</p> <p>Local / regional temporary and permanent economic benefits may include, but are not limited to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing needed electricity to ensure that future economic development in northwest Ontario can proceed;</li> <li>Creating employment opportunities during construction;</li> <li>Enhancing the power system in northwest Ontario by improving efficiency, flexibility and reliability.</li> </ol> <p>NextBridge intends to hire local firms where possible and has done so already. NextBridge often finds that local firms are cost competitive in that they don't have to mobilize machinery or work camps and know the area well. Please note that it is difficult to determine the number of new jobs to be generated until the facility design/construction method is confirmed. Further information on number of jobs is anticipated later in 2014. During operations, a small NextBridge crew will be present. It is anticipated that some aspects of operations and maintenance will be contracted out. To address the comment of local / regional temporary and permanent energy capacity opportunities that the project could provide, please consider the following remarks;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The amount of capacity available once the Project is complete depends on many factors, including how many</li> </ol>

Comment	Response
	<p>generators there are and where they are located, and on the amount of load and where it is located.</p> <p>b. The OPA notes that there are many factors to consider and that these factors change so it is difficult to say how much capacity will be available when the line becomes operational. The Project will remove the existing constraint between Wawa Transformer Station (TS) and Lakehead TS but there are additional constraints between Wawa and Toronto. The next constraint is from Sault Ste. Marie to Sudbury and then to the south.</p>

### 4.1.3. Agency Comments during Preparation of the Draft Terms of Reference

Table 4-3: Agency Comments and Responses during Draft Terms of Reference Preparation

Comment	Response
<b>Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada</b>	
NextBridge may be required to obtain new, or amend, land permits relating to First Nation reserves. AANDC will provide NextBridge with contact information for their Lands group who can assist them with determining land permit requirements.	NextBridge will discuss land use permits with the contacts provided.
<b>Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency</b>	
The Agency has determined that, based on the information provided in the Notice of Commencement, that the project is not a project described under the new regulations and a federal Environmental Assessment is not required at this time. If the project description and scope were to change, please contact the Agency to determine whether or not the project requires a federal Environmental Assessment.	NextBridge will keep the Agency informed of changes to the Project description and scope.
<b>CN Rail</b>	
Please keep CN informed throughout this project. CN currently owns right-of-way from Thunder Bay all along Highway 17 up to Nipigon. CN also owns a stretch of track over in the vicinity of Wawa Ontario.	CN is on the Project mailing list and will be kept informed.
<b>Environment Canada</b>	
Can you provide the total length of new RoW proposed under the Reference Route and Alternative Route scenarios?	<p>Approximate distances for various segments are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lakehead to Marathon, Reference Route 231 km</li> <li>• Lakehead to Marathon, Pays Plat Alternative Route 232 km</li> </ul>



Comment	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marathon to Wawa, Reference Route 168 km</li> <li>• Marathon to Wawa, Alternative Route around Pukaskwa and Reference Route through Reserve 208 km</li> <li>• Marathon to Wawa, Reference Route through Pukaskwa and Alternative around Reserve 182 km</li> <li>• Marathon to Wawa, Alternative Routes Pukaskwa Park and Reserve 222 km</li> </ul>
<b>Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area</b>	
How wide is the study area?	The general study area is 500 m from either side of the existing 230 kV transmission line (Reference Route). NextBridge is looking at a broader area in the assessment of some indicators and effects. The right of way is anticipated to be 52 to 56 m wide. Discussions are underway to identify any opportunities to overlap with the existing Hydro One right of way.
Can you provide us with a link that will illustrate in greater detail the route being considered?	Maps are being developed and will be available during the EA.
If the study area is expanded, will the Open Houses have to be repeated?	NextBridge doesn't anticipate that once the Terms of Reference are approved by the Minister of the Environment that anything more than minor route refinements will be required. NextBridge doesn't anticipate the need for re-doing open houses related to a change in study area. Route refinements would be presented at the open houses as part of the EA stage of the project.
<b>Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA)</b>	
Please provide a shapefile of the proposed route so we can determine where in the LRCA Area of Jurisdiction this project is located.	A shapefile will be provided in the general area of LSRCA jurisdiction.
<b>Ministry of the Environment (MOE)</b>	
Can you elaborate on the concept of a "Reference Route"?	<p>The Reference Route generally parallels the existing Hydro One corridor. Possible Alternative Routes to avoid potentially sensitive features have also been identified.</p> <p>Alternatives to the Reference Route have been identified to avoid crossing two First Nation reserves, (Michipicoten First Nation and Pays Plat First Nation), Pukaskwa National Park and other sensitive features. These alternatives will be confirmed and assessed during the Environmental Assessment. Additional modifications to the Reference Route may be considered in consultation with landowners and stakeholders.</p>
<b>Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)</b>	
Can you elaborate on the concept of a "Reference Route"?	The Reference Route generally parallels the existing Hydro One corridor. Possible Alternative Routes to avoid potentially sensitive features have also been identified.



Comment	Response
	Alternatives to the Reference Route have been identified to avoid crossing two First Nation reserves, (Michipicoten First Nation and Pays Plat First Nation), Pukaskwa National Park and other sensitive features. These alternatives will be confirmed and assessed during the Environmental Assessment. Additional modifications to the Reference Route may be considered in consultation with landowners and stakeholders.
Which Aboriginal groups will be consulted?	In a May 31, 2011 letter to the OPA, the Ministry of Energy identified eighteen Aboriginal communities (14 First Nations and four Métis) to be consulted by the OPA in early consultation with respect to the Project. These communities are also referred to in the Consultation MOU between NextBridge and the Crown.
We would like to review the Consultation Plan for the project and provide feedback.	NextBridge will forward the Consultation plan to the MNR.
Many of the watercourses crossed by the transmission facility have salmonids in them and they require detailed assessment.	<p>NextBridge will make efforts to use the bridges on the Hydro One right-of-way. If so, there would be no need to impact the watercourses or shoreline areas and assessments may not be required.</p> <p>Efforts will also be made to minimize impacts to watercourses include locating towers outside of riparian areas and stringing the conductors by means of a helicopter.</p> <p>Discussions will continue with the MNR as the project progresses.</p>
Rather than using the Forest Ecosystem Classification, NextBridge should be using the Ecological Land Classification for northern Ontario.	Ecological Land Classification will be used to characterize habitat.
<p>The Ministry also indicated that the width of the study area will vary for different species. The example provided was that caribou require a wide range of land, well removed from the corridor.</p> <p>The cumulative effects of development on caribou (e.g. widening of the TransCanada Highway) need to be taken into consideration and field studies undertaken for caribou and other species should be discussed with Aboriginal communities and other communities.</p>	The potential for impacts on Caribou will be assessed. The MNR is reviewing the work program for this assessment.
A research permit is required for any work within Provincial Park boundaries. Also,	The appropriate approvals will be obtained.

Comment	Response
there is no landing of aircraft (wheeled or float) within Parks or Parks Reserves without approval.	
It would be advisable for NextBridge to work with the MNR and MNDR to have the Reference Route and alternatives removed from staking of mining claims in order to discourage speculators.  A letter will have to be prepared to MNR stating the request for withdrawal of lands. MNR will submit the request to MNDR on behalf of NextBridge.	At this time, lands along the Reference Route and Alternative Routes have been withdrawn from staking. Formal agreement will be provided once defined route is understood.
Various types of land tenure (e.g. easements, license of occupation or land use permit) should be reviewed as there are significant cost differences in types of tenure.	NextBridge is undertaking this review.
MNR mapping information identifies the centre line of the existing right-of-way. Based on current standards, the MNR would seek more robust terms and conditions of a future land use permit for transmission facilities.  Overlapping with the existing right-of-way could be considered.	NextBridge will discuss terms and conditions as the project progresses and will consider overlapping with the existing RoW where feasible.
MNR will not provide contact information for Crown stakeholders at this time. MNR will provide the number of interested parties and NextBridge will prepare appropriate numbers of communication packages for distribution to Crown Stakeholders by the MNR.	NextBridge will work with the MNR to notify Crown stakeholders.
MNR is developing a new approach to forest management planning and working towards enhanced sustainable forest licenses, which includes new relationships with Aboriginal communities. Any sustainable forest license holders impacted along the line will need to be consulted.	NextBridge will consult with sustainable forest license holders during the EA.
Merchantable timber could be used at local mills.	This will be discussed with sustainable forest license holders during the EA.
Authorization for accessing Conservation Reserves is coordinated through MNR District staff. Information on Conservation Reserves can be obtained from the MNR.	NextBridge is actively engaged in this process.
There are patented and unpatented	Discussions with mining claim holders will be held during the

Comment	Response
<p>mining claims. Patented claims are treated as private land, which may or may not have implications for the project. For example, even on private land, there may be resources that are reserved to the Crown (e.g. aggregates and trees).</p> <p>For unpatented claims, the project team will need to consult with the claim holders and a disposition under the <i>Public Lands Act</i> may be required.</p>	EA.
If an easement is determined to be the long-term tenure solution, the Ministry of Infrastructure would be the responsible ministry. If land use permits are required, the MNR would be the responsible ministry.	The comments are noted. This will be discussed during the EA.
<b>Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM)</b>	
This project is of interest to the region due to current line capacity issues. Future development and investment attraction in the Superior East region (and in turn future successes to move the Growth Plan forward) would be supported by this project.	Comment acknowledged.
MNDM understands that Chapleau's electricity comes from the Wawa substation. Increased line capacity for this community would be of great importance, given the mining exploration that is happening in the region.	Comment acknowledged.
At the Northeast Superior Mayor's Group (NESMG), the Mayors indicated that they wish to be informed as the project moves through the approvals process. The Mayors have expressed a hope that their communities will be able to benefit from any spinoff activities related to this project (e.g., local hiring, local spending). I believe you have been made aware that you will be invited to the NESMG in the future.	<p>Members of the NESMG will continue to receive Project information.</p> <p>NextBridge intends to hire local firms where possible and has done so already. NextBridge often finds that local firms are cost competitive in that they don't have to mobilize machinery or work camps and know the area well.</p>
MNDM expects that interest from Aboriginal communities in this project will be high, especially from the First Nations directly affected by the project (e.g., Michipicoten and Pic Moberg First Nations). These First Nations may expect to be consulted through the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs Forum (NSRCF).	NextBridge has had discussions with these and other Crown identified First Nations and Métis.

Comment	Response
<p>There are approx. 298 Abandoned Mine Information System (AMIS) features within a 5km buffer of both the "Reference Routes" and "Alternate Route"; approx. 150 features that are deemed to hazards; and just over 20 features have been rehabilitated.</p> <p>If any of the non-rehabilitated features are to be rehabilitated as part of your proposed project they must be rehabilitated in accordance with the Ontario Mine Rehabilitation Code and a Progressive Rehabilitation report must be submitted to MNDM's Director of Rehabilitation within 60 days of the work being completed.</p> <p>Prior to disturbing any rehabilitated features, if that is necessary as part of your proposed project, authorization from MNDM's Director of Rehabilitation is required. "Disturbance" would include (but is not limited to) the removal of shaft caps, fencing, secured structures, berms or boulders erected for access prevention.</p>	<p>NextBridge will not be rehabilitating any mining related features as part of the Project. The Reference Route will seek to avoid any rehabilitated and non-rehabilitated features.</p>
<p>If the proposed route passes through active mining claims or mining lands (see CLAIMaps: <a href="http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/en/mines-and-minerals/applications/claimaps">http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/en/mines-and-minerals/applications/claimaps</a>), you will need to secure consent for the disposition of surface rights from the claim holders (it is the responsibility of the proponent to contact the claim holders). As you are already aware, to withdraw any lands from claim staking (i.e., make them unavailable for staking), you will need to ask the Ministry of Natural Resources to submit a request on your behalf to MNDM.</p>	<p>NextBridge will be seeking consent for the disposition of surface rights from relevant claim holders.</p> <p>At this time, lands along the Reference Route and Alternative Routes have been withdrawn from staking. Formal agreement will be provided once defined route is understood.</p>
<p>Marathon to Lakehead: This route exactly matches the existing 230kV line. For this reason impacts on local mineral exploration will be minimal in both the negative and positive aspects.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>First Nations Pays Plat Expansion Alt 2: This route is the only proposed route that does not follow an existing right of way.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>

Comment	Response
The geology of this area is massive granodiorite to granite (type 15) as indicated on 1:250,000 Scale Bedrock Geology of Ontario (Ontario Geological Survey Miscellaneous Release – Data 126, Revision 1). The mineral potential of the area is determined to be not provincially significant.	
Wawa to Marathon: This route exactly matches the existing 230kV line. For this reason impacts on local mineral exploration will be minimal in both the negative and positive aspects.	Comment noted.
Pic to White River: This route exactly matches the existing 150kV line. For this reason impacts on local mineral exploration will be minimal in both the negative and positive aspects. This line will, however, pass within 150m north of Newmont's Golden Giant Mine at Hemlo. MNDM recommends that the proponent solicit comments from the mine operator to ensure that there are no plans to expand the mine to the north. MNDM also recommends that this route alternative be either abandoned or moved farther north to better avoid the Hemlo area mine.	NextBridge will contact Newmont to discuss their plans.
Pukaskwa Eastern Route: This route matches the existing 115 kV line up to White River where it turns south to rejoin the 230 kV line to the south. For this reason impacts on local mineral exploration will be minimal in both the negative and positive aspects. The geology of this area is foliated tonalite suite (type 12) as indicated on 1:250,000 Scale Bedrock Geology of Ontario (Ontario Geological Survey Miscellaneous Release – Data 126, Revision 1). The mineral potential of the area is determined to be not provincially significant.	Comment noted.
First Nations Michipicoten Alt: This route exactly matches the existing 150kV line. For this reason impacts on local mineral exploration will be minimal in both the negative and positive aspects. This route is the only proposed route that does not pass within 1km of any mine	Comment noted.

Comment	Response
hazards.	
<b>Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS)</b>	
Gunflint iron formation would be the most significant known archaeological resource in the area of the Reference and Alternative Routes (taconite flakes that are ~9000 years old and were traditionally used as spear points and arrow heads). Also note the Hudson Bay Lowland Cherts.	Comment noted.
Areas near water (e.g. beach ridges and watercourses) would typically have a higher potential of finding traditional camps/settlements. The ancient waterline should be used in determining potential for cultural heritage resources.	Comment noted.
There is a potential for vision pits in the area of Pukaskwa National Park.	Comment noted.
Stage 1 archaeological assessments are used to rule out areas with no significant potential for cultural heritage resources. Stage 2 will need to address areas of high potential. Any Stage 2 studies have to be completed far enough in advance of construction to allow for Stage 3 and/or 4, if deemed necessary.	Comment noted.
For Stage 1, a combination of property inspection and LIDAR in remote areas will allow NextBridge to eliminate low potential property.	Comment noted.
Aboriginal consultation may identify other built heritage and cultural landscapes.	Comment noted. This is part of our Aboriginal Consultation Plan.
Southern Ontario licensees should consult with northern Ontario licensees when working in the north.	Comment noted. This is occurring.
If doing archaeology on the Canadian Shield, the zones of potential described in section 1.4 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists do not apply. The northern measurements of section 2.1.5 are what should be used as a measurement of archaeological potential and subsequent testing.	Comment noted.
In general, known sites are in the City of Thunder Bay, by the McKenzie River in Shuniah Township, a few around Dorion/Hurkett, a few in Nipigon, Pays Plat, and Rossport. From there eastward the sites are mostly located along the	Comment noted.

Comment	Response
<p>shore of Lake Superior, a few associated with the highway just west of Neys Prov. Park, some at the Pic River east of Marathon, and the Pukaskwa Park ones are along the shoreline.</p> <p>The lack of sites along the proposed route may be due to lack of looking for them rather than actual absence of sites. There is a website from the MTO project at Mckenzie River that may be useful to look at regarding LIDAR survey and searching for ancient shorelines: <a href="http://thunderbayarchaeology.ca/EarlyHistory.html">http://thunderbayarchaeology.ca/EarlyHistory.html</a> - the archaeologist will need to research whether such shorelines are encountered along the project route. The LIDAR survey will be particularly helpful for this. Looking for sites at the 240-250m contour particularly along the rivers where they would have emptied into Lake Superior and any upriver suitable sites.</p>	
<b>Ministry of Transportation (MTO)</b>	
<p>There are portions of the Hydro One right-of-way that are within the MTO road allowance. MTO staff confirmed that this would not be permitted going forward. The required setback depends on the classification of the highway.</p> <p>Placing the transmission line within the right-of-way is prohibited on Class I and II highways (section 15.2 encroachments and utilities, pg 64) and a permit is required to place, alter or erect any power line, pole line or other transmission line within 400 metres of any limit of a controlled access highway.</p> <p>The required setback for power/ transmission lines is 14 m from class I and II highways and 0.3 m from other class highways.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>A Traffic Impact Statement must be prepared to obtain access to roads under the MTO's jurisdiction. The MTO will review the statement to determine whether a full Traffic Impact Study is warranted.</p>	<p>Comment noted. A Traffic Impact Statement will be completed when the access plan has been completed.</p>



Comment	Response
Proposed highway corridors may not show up on title searches but this land is protected as if the highway exists. MTO has policy and guidelines regarding how to manage proposed corridors.	Comment noted.
The portion of Highway 17 between Thunder Bay and Nipigon is a controlled access highway (Class 1), meaning that new access to the highway will not be permitted.  East of Nipigon it is Class 3 and new access requests would be considered.	Comment noted.
Private forest roads may be used but an agreement would be required between the Crown and the holder of the applicable land use permit.	Comment noted.
A permit will be required for access to the right-of-way from roads under MTO jurisdiction, and for highway crossings.	Comment noted.
MTO staff will provide direction regarding access and permitting as part of the routing/alignment investigations.	Comment noted.
<b>Ontario Parks</b>	
Note that there is a difference between Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. Both are considered protected areas regulated under the <i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act</i> (PPCRA). Industrial uses are not permitted, including mining, electricity generation, logging, etc.). Ontario Parks is responsible for managing Provincial Parks, whereas MNR's Regional Operations Division is responsible for managing Conservation Reserves. Julie further mentioned that transmission facilities may need to cross Waterway Class parks (i.e. are permitted), but crossings should be minimized. Transmission facilities should avoid crossing other classes of parks.	Comment noted.
<i>Black Sturgeon River Provincial Park (Waterway Class)</i> Transmission corridors are considered to be permitted across Waterway Parks. Alternate Routes have been identified to avoid the Park and Alternatives Assessment should be conducted for all crossings.	Comment noted.

Comment	Response
<p><i>Ruby Lake Hydro Corridor (Natural Environment Class)</i> The existing hydro corridor through the Park is considered an existing non-conforming use. New corridors are problematic in terms of Park policy. Section 21 of the PPCRA requires an Alternatives Assessment for new infrastructure being proposed in parks, documenting the consideration of alternatives, environmental effects considerations, mitigation measures, etc. It was noted that while spanning the Park is an alternative to be considered, the corridor is still required (i.e. would result in some disturbance regardless of spanning). Julie noted that there are popular hiking trails along the ridge in this area, which would warrant a viewshed analysis.</p> <p>Park Management Plans are available online (including maps and recreation inventories, where available).</p>	<p>Alternatives Assessment will form part of the Environmental Assessment documentation.</p>
<p><i>Kama Hills (Nature Reserve Class)</i> Kama Hills Provincial Nature Reserve is a 1 hectare earth science geological feature. Nature Reserves are afforded the highest level of protection (e.g. no mechanized travel, low intensity uses only, etc.). Kama Hills Conservation Reserve (the surrounding area) has popular trails. A Recreation Inventory is not available online.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p><i>Gravel River (Nature Reserve Class)</i> The Reference Route crosses through the Provincial Nature Reserve and the Conservation Reserve. There is no Park Management Plan in place, but a Management Statement does exist. There is a Recreation Inventory and detailed life science/earth science inventory for this park. The river is not used for canoeing (too much blow down).</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p><i>White Lake (Natural Environment Class)</i> This is a Natural Environment Class Provincial Park; through a land use planning exercise about 15 years ago, the waterway portion was joined with the</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>

Comment	Response
Natural Environment area up by the highway. There are three new hydro developments going on in this park, one of which may be relatively close to the existing hydro corridor. She also mentioned that flooding has made the waterway a lot larger than the mapping illustrates. The Park's Regulation Plan and Management Plan only reflect the Park, not the actual limit of water (there's also a large dam in the area).	
<i>Kwinkwaga Ground Moraine Uplands</i> This is a Conservation Reserve, managed by Regional MNR staff. The project team should follow up with MNR's Northeast Region staff.	Comment noted.
<i>Pukaskwa River Provincial Park (Waterway Class)</i> Pukaskwa River Provincial Park is a Waterway Class Provincial Park and the river is a popular canoeing/white water paddling route.	Comment noted.
<i>Pukaskwa River Provincial Park (2<sup>nd</sup> crossing)</i> Pukaskwa River is a popular canoe route. The Interim Management Statement for this Park indicates that it offers advanced recreation opportunities.	A Project Description Report was submitted to Parks Canada to assist in determining whether the Reference Route through Pukaskwa National Park may be assessed as part of the EA. Parks Canada has made a determination in a letter dated February 11, 2014. This letter states that Parks Canada is not prepared to accommodate such a proposal to construct a transmission line through Pukaskwa National Park at this time. NextBridge has not yet had time to fully explore the rationale for this decision with Parks Canada, however, should the route through Pukaskwa National Park not be allowed by Parks Canada then the Alternative Route around the Park will become the Reference Route.
<i>Nimmoosh Provincial Park</i> This is a Waterway Class Provincial Park, which could allow for transmission facilities, subject to appropriate assessment.	Comment noted.
Regarding land use and tenure, Ontario Parks will adopt the approach determined to be appropriate by MNR. A provincial land use permit would likely be the instrument to address long-term tenure.  Any associated mitigation and management plans should be submitted along with the land tenure application.	Comment noted.
There are applications and permits	Comment noted.

Comment	Response
required to conduct studies within Parks.	
Craig's Pit is an existing Nature Reserve Class park south of Marathon. An addition and some replacement area were recommended through previous land use planning exercises. The existing transmission line abuts the addition so if the new right-of-way is added, there could be implications depending on which side of the existing right-of-way the new transmission line is built on.	Comment noted.
<b>Parks Canada</b>	
Parks Canada will require a Project Description to be submitted in order to make a determination regarding support of the new transmission line through the Park.  Parks Canada will conduct a review of the portion of the line within Pukaskwa Park, rather than the whole line (i.e. within their jurisdiction).	A Project Description was prepared and submitted. A response was issued on February 11, 2014.
The decision of Parks Canada regarding the route through the Park is based on not only environmental aspects of the project, but policies and political influences as well.	Comment noted.
There are no known bridge structures in the Park within the Reference Route area.	Comment noted.
There are archaeological studies from when the Park was established and some important cultural sites are known in the area.	Comment noted.
Parks Canada has a close working relationship with Pic River First Nation and others and would like to be kept in the loop regarding consultation efforts. Parks can use the consultation efforts of the proponent to satisfy their duty to consult, however, the duty cannot be delegated (this requires documentation of who was consulted with, how, and what the results of consultation were).	Comment noted.
There is a library on-site including some Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC) information, but this record is incomplete.	Comment noted. The library has been visited by Project team members.
Park staff have a wide range of natural environment information including insects, birds, fish, trails, and natural	Project team members spoke to Parks staff and a copy of the ELC data was obtained.

Comment	Response
<p>history, as well as limited species at risk information.</p> <p>Parks staff have a good understanding of Ecological Land Classification through the Park (collected between 1994 - 1998).</p> <p>Parks Canada will provide a copy of ELC data (complete).</p>	
<p>The Project Description should be a high level document and that detailed information and evaluation would be appropriate should the Reference Route through the Park be carried forward to the Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>The Project Description should address, at a preliminary level, the impact of the project on the user experience within the Park, which is another component of the Parks Canada mandate.</p>	Comment noted.
There is a cultural (Aboriginal) youth camp within the park, relatively close to the Reference Route.	Comment noted.
There are First Nation cultural sites within the Park.	Comment noted.
The 1995 approved Park Management Plan has been updated and the revised version is expected to be approved anytime.	A copy of the updated Park Management Plan has been obtained.
The portion of the Park the Reference Route runs through is designated as a "wilderness zone" in the Management Plan. There are two definitions of wilderness zone, one of which is identified in the Park Management Plan, the other is an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) designation. Pukaskwa Park may be seeking this designation in the future and will be cautious when considering any approvals that may compromise their future designation process.	Comment noted.
Although Pukaskwa Park has not yet been gazetted as a national park (due to some outstanding First Nations concerns), it is in fact federal land meaning that their review will follow the <i>Canada National Park Act</i> in principle.	Comment noted.

Comment	Response
<p>Features to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a chain of lakes used for canoe trips by the youth camp (Lurch, Birch, and Lower Birch).</li> <li>• Parks staff indicated that they used to have a Friends of Pukaskwa interest group, but this has since disassembled (this information will not be provided).</li> <li>• The White River suspension bridge and river viewing area and is a main attraction within the Park.</li> <li>• There are patrol cabins at Cabin Lake and Widgeon Lake, as well as a weather station north of Lurch Falls that is used to monitor fire.</li> <li>• There is a cabin on Willow Lake, which is accessed through the existing Hydro One right-of-way.</li> <li>• There are a number of white water paddlers that use Pukaskwa and White Rivers. The Pukaskwa River is considered the most remote route south of the 48th parallel and draws in paddlers from all over the world (at certain times of year), whereas the White River is paddled all year long.</li> <li>• A day use map was provided, identifying the location of the coastal hiking trail.</li> <li>• The Park does have a permitting process for research and information collecting applicable to lands within the Park (application online).</li> <li>• GIS data can be sent including the spatial location of features like cabins.</li> <li>• The Ministry of Natural Resources is restructuring and will form a new Forestry Management Group that will differ from the how MNR traditionally dealt with forest management plans and license holders. The new system uses an eco-management area approach and will involve a partnership between MNR, forestry companies, and Aboriginal groups.</li> <li>• Parks also tries to influence land use activities adjacent to the Park boundary (e.g. specific concerns with a logging road in the area).</li> <li>• This Park attracts attention locally,</li> </ul>	<p>Comment noted. This item will be considered during the Environmental Assessment process</p>

Comment	Response
regionally, nationally and internationally. Some examples include Bill Mason, Roberta Bondar and David Suzuki.	
Parks Canada is not prepared at this time to accommodate such a proposal to construct a transmission line through Pukaskwa National Park.	NextBridge has not yet had time to fully explore the rationale for this decision with Parks Canada, however, should the route through Pukaskwa National Park not be allowed by Parks Canada then the Alternative Route around the Park will become the Reference Route.

#### 4.1.4. Interest Group Comments during Preparation of the Draft Terms of Reference

Table 4-4 summarizes interest group questions and comments provided to NextBridge up to the release of the Draft ToR for review. Responses to questions related to need and rationale for the Project are provided by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA).

Table 4-4: Interest Group Comments and Responses during Draft Terms of Reference Preparation

Comment	Response
Aguasabon Chamber of Commerce	
Have any generating stations in the north been closed?	The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) notes that Atikokan Generating Station (GS) is being converted to use biomass as a fuel source and Thunder Bay GS is being converted to use advanced biomass as a fuel source.
How does the north compare to the rest of the province with respect to demand?	The OPA notes that the northwest has a peak demand of about 700 MW in 2012 while the province had a peak of about 25,000 MW.
Are most EA issues related to construction?	The EA will document the potential construction and operation effects of the Project including socio-economic issues as well as impacts to natural areas. Opportunities to minimize impacts will be identified. For example, NextBridge is looking to keep corridors together to reduce number of separate corridors for wildlife and aesthetic impacts.
Will the new line be on new towers in a new corridor or the existing corridor?	Additional towers won't fit within the existing right-of-way. A new corridor/RoW is needed but it is expected that a new corridor adjacent to the existing corridor will have less of an impact than a new "greenfield" corridor located away from the existing corridor. Discussions are underway to identify any opportunities to overlap with the existing Hydro One right-of-way.
Why can't you use existing towers and add new lines to it?	The existing towers are designed to support the current lines (conductors). They cannot support more lines due to weight restrictions.
Will you buy the land from landowners or lease it?	NextBridge's preferred approach is to negotiate with landowners to acquire land rights. There may be times when property is purchased but typically easements will be negotiated.  Leave to Construct approval allows NextBridge to expropriate land rights but NextBridge prefers to negotiate and reach a deal with landowners where possible.
How much of the corridor is	Most of the land crossed is Crown land with approximately 30-40%



Comment	Response
owned by landowners?	crossing privately held lands.
We've heard that Hydro One may start charging for use of trails in rights of way. They have been putting up gates and barricades.	With an easement, NextBridge won't have all the rights to the land. NextBridge is looking at dual use of the right of way but any additional approved uses will have to be safe.
How much more space do you need for the guy-wires on the towers?	The right-of-way for a guyed structure is about 8 metres wider.
The image of the guyed "Y" towers appears to show the towers end at a point at base. Is this accurate?	The point is a pivot hinge. It is secure and won't move. A pin connection enables as small a foundation as possible.
Heard that narrower towers are stronger and can withstand ice storms better. Is this true?	There are minimum specifications NextBridge and all transmitters have to meet. As long as towers are designed to meet the standards, they should be equivalent.
The Chamber of Commerce is part of Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce and we have been lobbying for the transmission line for over 10 years. It makes sense from an economic development perspective.	Thank you for the comment.
All businesses and addresses in area (Terrace Bay, Schreiber, Rosspoint) are on the Chamber web site.	Thank you for the information.
<b>Economic Development Corporation – Wawa</b>	
Is the need for the Project in addition to current generating capacity?	The OPA states that the assessment of Project rationale was based on consultations held with many parties (Common Voice Northwest, mining, other industries). High and low demand scenarios were developed based on what projects might go forward and when. In all cases, there is a need for additional transmission.
I'm not familiar with 230 kV in terms of line losses. Understood generation was better to have local to reduce line losses?	The OPA notes that high-voltage transmission has lower line losses. In Ontario, there are 500 kV, 230 kV and 115 kV transmission lines. In Northern Ontario, 230 kV is the standard transmission voltage. 230 kV is the most efficient line in the north. The longer the line the more loss but with 230 kV lines it is approximately 1% to 2%.
In 1900 there was a route for the Algoma central rail road from Wawa to White River. It was mapped, it might be useful.	Thank you for this information.
What would the increase in right of way size be if you went through the Pukaskwa National Park?	Approximately 52 to 56 m right-of-way is required for the new line. Discussions are underway to identify any opportunities to overlap with the existing Hydro One right of way.

Comment	Response
Will you have to conduct a Federal EA?	The Project does not require the preparation of a federal EA under the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i> (2012).
There are several ANSI's along the route as well that will have to be considered.	The EA will consider the natural and socio-economic environment as well as First Nations, Métis and stakeholder considerations when confirming the route and tower locations. Opportunities to minimize impacts will be identified. Further, in some situations the spacing of towers can be adjusted a little to avoid features.
How do you stop somebody from putting a mining claim on your corridor now that it has been made public?	Information on existing mining claims will be collected for the EA.  At this time, lands along the Reference Route and Alternative Routes have been withdrawn from staking. Formal agreement will be provided once the defined route is understood.
If there is an ice storm and the line is damaged in Pukaskwa Park, how do you get there to fix it?	Helicopters are used for access in remote locations. Spare towers will be stored and heli-cranes will be available to fix any damage to the line.
Will the towers be manufactured in the province? Any chance they'll be constructed along the line?	Details such as this have not been confirmed. NextBridge is interested in learning about local contractors that have the skills that are needed. It is more cost effective to hire locally. Contractors are encouraged get in touch with NextBridge to identify the services they can offer and to visit the Project web site for information about the Project.
How many jobs will be created?	It's difficult to determine a job number until it is known how the line will be built. Further information on number of jobs is anticipated later in 2014. During operations, a small NextBridge crew will be present. It is anticipated that some aspects of operations and maintenance will be contracted.
You currently don't have any lines in Ontario but you'll operate and maintain this line?	NextBridge will be responsible for operating and maintaining the line. During operations, a small NextBridge crew will be present. It is anticipated that some aspects of operations and maintenance will be contracted out.
Will the start of the line require a larger area than other parts of the line?	Staging areas will be used for assembly of towers. Completed towers will be flown to the installation site. The first tower does not require more space than other towers and the right of way will be similar for all towers.  The OPA added that the Transformer Stations will also be upgraded by Hydro One. There will be expansion at each one to accommodate this Project.
Please note that the EDC can help you coordinate construction. We have brownfield sites, shops, and lands that could be used for staging areas for instance.	Thank you for the comment.
Does this help us get into small solar programs? We are limited in some ways to get onto lines.	The OPA notes that they have several programs, 10 kw or less is a microFIT project; 10 to 500 is Small FIT; and, 500 kw or more is a FIT project. The Project does not influence microFIT projects, which connect with the local distribution system (not at Transformer Stations associated with the East-West Tie). For Small FIT and FIT projects, the East-West Tie

Comment	Response
	is expected to provide more opportunities.
If a separate entity constructs the line, will we still be allowed to link in?	Connection to higher voltage lines such as the existing 230 kV line or the new East-West tie can be at an existing Transformer Station or an application can be made to construct a new transformer station connection, as was done for Greenwich wind farm.
You mentioned you can't parallel a highway; how far away do you have to be?	NextBridge has been informed by the Ministry of Transportation that a permit is required to place a transmission line within 400 metres of any limit of a controlled access highway.  Placing the transmission line within the right-of-way is prohibited on Class I and II highways. The required setback for electric power transmission lines is 14 m from Class I and II highways and 0.3 m from other class highways.
Is a copy of the report recommending transmission vs. local generation available?	The OPA reports on system needs in Ontario are publically available. The most recent report, <i>Updated Assessment of the Rationale for the East-West Tie Expansion</i> (October 8, 2013) is available at the following link.  <a href="http://www.rds.ontarioenergyboard.ca/webdrawer/webdrawer.dll/webdrawer/rec/412719/view/">http://www.rds.ontarioenergyboard.ca/webdrawer/webdrawer.dll/webdrawer/rec/412719/view/</a>
Can the power flow both ways?	The line will permit flows in both directions.
A fraction of the power that is being generated here stays here. We get concerned about prices and adding more infrastructure when we are net generators of energy.	The OPA states that this Project provides a net benefit to Ontario as a whole so the whole province pays for the Project. By providing efficiencies in the system there are other benefits.
I understood that there is overcapacity in Northern Ontario.	The OPA confirms there currently is. This solution helps with both situations; when you have too much and when you don't have enough.
Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce	
Why aren't they upgrading the existing lines instead of building new towers?	To upgrade, the existing line would have to be removed and replaced with a new 500 kV line which would involve significant work. There would also still be reliability issue with only one line. By building a second line, there is a redundant supply if one line goes down.
Regarding RFPs, is it possible for NextBridge to set up a web site registry to say what jobs might be available and when?	NextBridge will investigate the possibility of setting this up.
Why did NextBridge wait until after winning the bid to make contact with First Nations?	Of the 14 First Nations, six had joined together into Bamkushwada and partnered with Hydro One and Great Lakes Transmission in the bid to become the designated transmitter. The partnership precluded NextBridge from taking to them, except to inform them that NextBridge was an applicant in the designated transmitter process.
You mentioned the Bruce to Milton project. It this where you got your timeline?	NextBridge looked at the timing required for the Bruce to Milton project, and considered the nuances of the East-West Tie Project and Ministry guidelines. Working backward from Ontario Energy Board requirements and the Ontario Power Authority in-service date, the Project timeline

Comment	Response
	was developed. The scheduling led NextBridge to believe that it could meet the deadlines.
I heard you say minimum requirements will be met. The weather and forest fires are a concern. Is it wise to go with minimum requirements?	The transmission line will be designed meet or exceed transmission code requirements. Furthermore, NextBridge is obtaining a weather study to check if the transmission code requirements are adequate for the area.
<b>Thunder Bay Field Naturalists</b>	
Provided information on sensitive features found on Nature Reserve lands that may be impacted by the Reference Route or Alternative Routes.  (Note: Information and maps showing the areas were provided to NextBridge but are not being made public at the request of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists.)	Thank you for the information.
What, if any, fire suppression methods would be used to protect the line?	Similar to other transmission lines in the area, the proposed East-West Tie would rely on the forest fire fighting capabilities of the MNR.
<b>Trappers</b>	
Note the following hunting/trapping seasons: Martin – Oct 25 to end of Feb Beaver – Oct 5 to mid-Apr Fox/Wolf – Sep 15 to end of Mar	Thank you for the information.
Concerned about impact of additional noise, dust, and traffic on access roads during construction on trapping activities.	During the construction phase, NextBridge will mitigate construction impacts wherever practicable. This will include various measures to minimize the impacts of noise and traffic disruptions as appropriate and practicable. NextBridge will endeavor to communicate hours of work, traffic impacts, and road detours to stakeholders and affected people in the area in advance of the work being conducted.
Will trappers be compensated if they are affected by the Project?	In Ontario, Crown land is divided into registered areas called trap lines. Every trapper on Crown land is assigned a specific trap line and provided exclusive rights for the area. There may be registered trappers actively participating in fur harvesting along the proposed corridor for the Project. NextBridge will, in coordination with MNR, determine which trappers, if any, may be negatively affected by the proposed corridor. Registered active trappers will be consulted and provided compensation if impacted by construction of the Project. This will include damage to trapper assets, general disturbance, adverse effects and impacts to trapping operations.
Concerned about the effects of herbicides on medicinal plants.	Initial clearing of the right-of-way will be completed through mechanical means. Once cleared, vegetation in the right-of-way may be maintained

Comment	Response
Will herbicides be used on the right of way?	through treatment with herbicides and trimming. Herbicides will only be used where permitted according to applicable guidelines, regulations and/or legislation, and will be applied in accordance with their labels using qualified contractors.  The EA will confirm the operational parameters and measures to minimize effects.
<b>Claim Holders</b>	
What effect will the Project have on mining claims?	Consultation with mining claim holders is being initiated. Consent from the mining claim holders will be required where they are crossed by the line.
<b>Mines</b>	
Concerned that the placement of the towers and other facilities will interfere with mineral resource extraction.	Consultation with existing mining operations is being initiated. NextBridge will work with Mining Operators to limit interference with mineral resource extraction and avoid where possible. Consent will be sought from the Mining Operator where the operation is crossed by NextBridge.
Concerned about use of mine access roads for Project construction.	If access roads used/maintained by mines would assist in the construction of the Project, the contractor hired for construction will contact the mine regarding possible use at a future time.
<b>Potential Vendors</b>	
Request that you use local contractors for construction and maintenance.  Training and maintaining a skilled workforce should be part of the Project and considered a positive environmental impact.	NextBridge intends to hire local firms where possible and has done so already. Local firms are often cost competitive in that they don't have to mobilize machinery or work camps and know the area well.

## 4.2. Comment Received on the Draft Terms of Reference

Table 4-5 summarizes the comments received during the review of the Draft Terms of Reference. Comments that resulted in a change to the Terms of Reference are noted in the "Response Provided" column with the statement "change made". The statement, "no change required" signifies that no changes were required or made to the Terms of Reference as a result of the comment.

Table 4-5: Comments Received on the Draft Terms of Reference

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	<b>AGENCY</b>	
No.	Ministry of Environment, Dave Bell, Special Project Officer, Letter Dated February 10, 2014 to Carrie Wiklund, NextBridge Infrastructure L.P. (NextBridge)	
MOE 1	Section 2.1.1, Page 8 Comment: Change "Once the ToR is approved" ...to "Should the	Comment accepted; change made.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	ToR be approved..."	
MOE 2	Section 2.0 Comment: Identify in the ToR that all permits and approvals will be outlined in the EA.	Comment accepted; change made.
MOE 3	Section 2.1.2, Page 8 Other applicable approvals MOE notes that the text indicates that the EA process will be used to fulfill other EA processes. Comment: MOE acknowledges the integrations of potential EA requirements for disposition of Crown land and activities in Provincial Parks. Integration of any MNR comments in this regard is important for the final ToR.	Comment noted; no change required.
MOE 4	Section 2.5, Page 12 The ToR text indicates that: NextBridge may initiate permit and approval activities (including related construction with interested individuals) and applications concurrently with the EA process to provide government agencies with ample review time and to meet the Project schedule. Where this is not possible due to not having enough detailed information, or due to other unforeseen events, NextBridge will undertake these activities prior to Project construction. Comment: Does this mean that permits level information and details will be integrated in to the EA or that permits will be submitted or concurrently with the EA? Note- Unless permits are required for specific pre-construction studies, Provincial Ministries have a policy of not granting permits until an EA is approved. Circulating a schedule or a list of these permits and their purpose once the EA commences could help clarify intentions.	Where possible, permits will be submitted concurrently with the EA. Should this not be possible, they will be submitted for approval prior to construction. Where additional information is required for the permit application, it will be sourced concurrently with EA study, but not necessarily incorporated into the EA. Comment accepted; a list of required permits will be provided in the EA report.
MOE 5	Section 3.1.1 The Text correctly identifies that you will need to identify: The actions necessary or that may reasonably be expected to be necessary to prevent, change, mitigate or remedy the effects upon or the effects that might reasonably be expected upon the environment, by the undertaking and the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking;	Comment accepted; clarification provided in Section 3.1.1 and cross-reference to Section 6 (Alternatives).

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	<p>Comment:</p> <p>Define this term in the ToR as the text typically mentions mitigation only.</p>	
MOE 6	<p>Section 3.2, Page 17</p> <p>RE supporting documentation to the EA</p> <p>The last bullet in the list indicates that supporting documentation will be in an appendix.</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>There are options for including technical reports and other supporting documents in an EA. They can be in an appendix or supporting documents. Note that a list of studies will need to be in the EA in accordance with the EA Regulations (Regulation 334 2(1)).</p>	<p>Comment accepted; a list of studies will be submitted as part of the EA in accordance with applicable Regulations.</p>
MOE 7	<p>Section 3.4, Page 18</p> <p>Flexibility</p> <p>MOE notes that it is beneficial to provide for flexibility in a ToR to allow for alterations to aspects of the proposal without requiring a proponent to start the process over again.</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>Insert a commitment for in the "Section 9 consultation plans" indicating how you will engage or consult with any person who may be affected by such unforeseen project changes as a described in s 3.4.</p>	<p>Comment accepted; change made in Section 9.3 and 9.4.</p>
MOE 8	<p>Section 4.1, Page 19</p> <p>Re the overview of the proposed undertaking</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>This section would benefit from a brief chronology (like a bulleted list) that summarizes the earlier planning in support of the "Purpose" and the proposed reference route selection.</p>	<p>Comment noted; please refer to the bulleted list on pg. 20 of the ToR.</p>
MOE 9	<p>Section 5.3, Page 27</p> <p>The text indicates the study area will include approximately 500 meters on either side of the reference route.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Please provide a rationale for selecting a 1 kilometer study area along the Reference Route and Alternative Routes for the purpose of the ToR.</li> <li>▪ Text indicates that studies may be more focused. Please identify how decision will be made for focused studies.</li> <li>▪ Text indicates that some environmental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Comment accepted; clarification provided.</li> <li>▪ Comment accepted; clarification provided.</li> <li>▪ Comment accepted; clarification provided.</li> </ul>



	Comment Received	Response Provided
	components may be evaluated based on a different study area like caribou. Please identify any other environmental components that will have a different study area.	
MOE 10	<p>Section 5.3, Page 27 Text indicates that "...input from Project stakeholders..." will be solicited to determine and refine study boundaries. Text says that "Study area boundaries are anticipated to be finalized shortly after the commencement of the EA".</p> <p>Comment: Please identify how this will be done and also include these activities and/or steps in the section 9 Consultation plans.</p>	Comment accepted; clarification provided in Section 5.3, 9.3 and 9.4.
MOE 11	<p>Section 5.5.1, Page 35 Provincial and Municipal Policy MOE notes that this section referenced the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA).</p> <p>Comment: The Reference Route and the alternative routes traverses several Provincial Forest Management Unites (FMU) <a href="http://www.efmp.lrc.gov.on.ca/efMP/home.do">http://www.efmp.lrc.gov.on.ca/efMP/home.do</a>). MOE recommends that NextBridge consult with MNR planners and/or foresters during the EA to identify any further considerations, beyond those in the CLUPA, such as any long term management directions from relevant FMU are appropriately considered in routing evaluation/decisions and where necessary in effects assessment.</p> <p>Comment: This comment also applies to Section 6 Assessment of Alternatives.</p>	Comment accepted; clarification provided in Section 5.5.1 and Section 6.3.
MOE 12	<p>Section 5.5.6, Page 36 (Cultural and Heritage resources and others) As per the definition of Environment, "cultural heritage values and resources" are be broader than archaeological resources.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOE recommends that NextBridge discusses the cultural criteria with the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport (MTCS) to ensure that there is appropriate consideration of cultural resources for both the evaluation of alternatives (Section 6) the effects assessment and Aboriginal community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comment accepted; the term "cultural heritage" has been included in the Glossary Section. NextBridge will continue to consult with MTCS regarding the assessment of cultural heritage resources.</li> </ul>

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	<p>understanding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The term Cultural Heritage values and resources is used in a number of locations throughout the ToR, please ensure that reference to cultural heritage values and resources in Section 6, Section 7 and 9.4 (page 55) are consistent with the EA Act.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comment accepted; clarification provided in Section 6.3, 7.1 and 9.4.3</li> </ul>
MOE 13	<p>Section 6.1, Page 41 Text indicates that the evaluation criteria will be developed during the EA. Comment: Please ensure this activity is identified in your Consultation plans in Section 9.</p>	<p>Comment noted; clarification is provided in Section 6.1. No change made to Section 9.</p>
MOE 14	<p>Section 6.2.1, Page 41 Re the range of alternatives Comment: How was the range of alternatives selected? Please include a description on how alternative routes were selected or screened. Such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How were alternative routes selected?</li> <li>Were any other routes identified?</li> <li>Did you exclude any possible routes that did not meet the section 6.2 criteria?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments accepted; additional information regarding route selection is incorporated into Section 6.2.1 and 6.2.2.</li> </ul>
MOE 15	<p>Section 7, Page 45 Potential Effects Assessment Comment: Re terminology and clarity, please identify how environmental "features" (p. 45) differ from environmental "components" and environmental "criteria."</p>	<p>Comment accepted. The term "environmental component" has been removed and replaced with "environmental features" throughout the ToR. "Environmental criteria", noted on page 20, has been replaced by "evaluation criteria" to provide clarity. Appendix D, which includes some environmental features, has been updated to reflect the title "evaluation criteria".</p>
MOE 16	<p>Section 7, Page 45 Potential Effects Assessment Text indicates that environmental features will be confirmed in the EA. Comment: Please indicate in the ToR when environmental features will be confirmed.</p>	<p>Comment accepted; clarification provided in Section 7.1.</p>
MOE 17	<p>Section 8, Page 47 Commitments and Monitoring Comment: Please include with the ToR a list of any relevant</p>	<p>No specific commitments were made during the ToR process regarding environmental monitoring.</p>

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	commitments made during the development of the ToR. This could alternatively be included in Section 9.2 "Consultation during the EA ToR."	
MOE 18	<p>Consultation Plan for the EA (Section 9)</p> <p>In accordance with the EA Act, CoP ToR and the CoP Consultation in Ontario's EA Process (Consultation), the ToR must include a consultation plan for the EA, outlining the proposed consultation methods, committing to undertake consultation related to key decision-making milestones, and identifying how input will be obtained and an issue resolution strategy. Further the EA is to include a description of any consultation about the undertaking and the results of the consultation.</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>The terms "consultation," "participation" and "engagement" are used in Section 9. MOE suggests wording be simplified.</p>	<p>Comment accepted; a section from the Aboriginal Participation Plan has been added that should clarify the meanings of "consultation" and "participation". "Engagement" is used inclusive of activities with Aboriginal communities; both consultation and participation. "Consultation" is used to describe activities that are undertaken in order to fulfill the delegated Duty to Consult from the Crown. "Participation" is used to describe activities that provide an economic benefit to communities (such as jobs, training, commercial investment etc.)</p>
MOE 19	<p>Consultation Plan for the EA (Section 9)</p> <p>MOE notes that there are commitments throughout the ToR to confirm or finalize certain planning tools such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>confirming study boundaries (Section 5.3)</li> <li>confirming evaluation criteria (Section 6.1)</li> <li>confirming detailed criteria and indicators (Section 6.3); and,</li> <li>confirming environmental features (Section 7).</li> </ul> <p>Comment:</p> <p>Please identify the steps or activities in the Consultation plans so that Government reviewers, the public, Aboriginal communities or persons will know when their input will be sought.</p>	<p>Some of these confirmation activities will be done through ground-truthing and other studies and are not directly related to consultation.</p> <p>Consultation activities and points of contact are outlined in Section 9, such as public participation at open houses or review of EA documentation.</p> <p>Information provided to project staff during these activities that may assist in confirming planning tools will be considered during the EA.</p> <p>Comment noted; no change required.</p> <p>An additional section named "Information Exchange" has been added to the Aboriginal section to provide clarity.</p>
MOE 20	<p>Section 9.3.3, Page 53</p> <p>French Language</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>MOE notes that you have committed to providing French language notices.</p>	<p>Comment noted; French language notices will be provided as described in the ToR.</p>
MOE 21	<p>Sections 9.3 and 9.4</p> <p>MOE notes that a draft EA will be made available to the public. Section 9.3.11, on page 60 the text says that Aboriginal communities will also be given an opportunity to comment on the Draft EA</p>	<p>Comment accepted; changes have been made to the 2 sections in order to provide a link to both activities.</p>

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	documentation. Comment: The Draft Review opportunity is difficult to find in Section 9.4, you may wish to parallel the activities in the two consultation plans.	
MOE 22	Section 9.4 MOE notes that Energy will be providing additional comments on this section.	Comments were received from the Ministry of Energy, accepted and incorporated into the Terms of Reference.
MOE 23	Section 9.5, Page 62 Issue resolution strategy. Comment: Please identify the point(s) of contact(s) where stakeholders and Aboriginal persons or communities can enter the issues resolution strategy (process).	Comment accepted; additional text has been incorporated into Section 9.5.
MOE 24	Section 9.2 and Record of Consultation Proponents must consult with interested and affected persons in an environmental assessment. The consultation and the results must be described and presented in a "Record of Consultation." The Record of Consultation must include, among other things, comments raised and the proponent's responses, details about how comments/issues were considered during the process and incorporated in the ToR and list any outstanding concerns. Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A ToR Record of Consultation was not reviewed.</li> <li>▪ Ensure that Section 9.2 (page 50) summarizes what consultation activities occurred during the preparation of the ToR and the results. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Section 9.3 mentions Open House round 1. Please describe Round 1, the purpose topics and how input was incorporated into the ToR.</li> <li>▪ Describe any one-on-one activities and any results.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ In Section 9.2 page 50, and the accompanying Record of Consultation, provide a summary of comments raised, your responses, identifying how issues were considered in the process and any outstanding concerns, including comments received during the review of the draft ToR in the consultation section of the ToR.</li> <li>▪ In the accompanying Record of Consultation, comments should be arranged as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General public should be arranged by type (for example, put all water quality comments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Comment noted; the RoC will be submitted with the ToR.</p> <p>Comment noted; this information is summarized in the RoC. The ToR describes the consultation plan for the EA.</p> <p>Comment accepted; clarification provided in Section 9.3.10.</p> <p>Comment accepted; this information is summarized in the RoC.</p> <p>Comment noted; this information has been summarized in the RoC. The Code of Practice for Consultation states that, "the RoC is for past consultation that took place during the preparation of the ToR." To avoid duplication, we have only provided this information in the RoC.</p> <p>The Record of Consultation has been arranged as requested.</p> <p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Comment noted.</p> <p>A Record of Consultation will be</p>

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	<p>together);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aboriginal communities, the comments should be organized by the community or organization rather than by issue type; and,</li> <li>▪ Regulatory bodies (Government Review Team) the comments should be organized by the Ministry rather than by the issue type.</li> <li>▪ A Record of Consultation is required for the EA as well as the ToR.</li> <li>▪ See updated Code of Practice Consultation (2014)</li> </ul>	<p>prepared for the EA. The ToR has been updated based on the updated Code of Practice.</p>
	<p>Ministry of Environment, Stefanos Habtom, Senior Wastewater Engineer, Environmental Approvals Branch, Letter Dated January 28, 2014 to Antonia Testa, Project Officer, MOE MOE Wastewater Comments (Attached Memo - January 28, 2014)</p>	
MOE 25	<p>Comment: I have reviewed the above noted draft terms of reference in terms of the mandate of the Environmental Approval Services Section, EAB, under Section 53 of the Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA). The above noted draft terms of reference indicates that details on stormwater and sewage works impacts will be provided during the EA documentation. We will provide review comments in regards to stormwater management and other sewage works alternatives when the Environmental Assessment Report for the project is submitted.</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR.</p>
	<p>Ministry of Environment, Kirk Crosson, Senior Environmental Officer, Sault Ste. Marie Area Office, Northern Region, Letter Dated January 27, 2014 to David Bell, Special Project Officer, MOE MOE District Comments (Attached Memo - January 27, 2014)</p>	
MOE 26	<p>Comments: <u>WASTE:</u> As part of the consultation process, NextBridge will need to determine the waste sites it will be using for non-hazardous waste that is generated from this project. An agreement should be established ahead of the construction activities, as many municipal waste sites in the north have capacity issues. In some communities only waste generated from local residences/businesses are accepted at their waste site(s). In this process, NextBridge will also learn about any available waste segregation requirements or recycling opportunities (metal, cardboard, cans and plastics) within these communities. Waste is not to be burned at the construction sites, with the exception of</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.</p>

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	<p>clean wood (see Guideline C-7 Burning at Landfill Sites), depending on seasonal weather conditions and with a permit under the Forest Fire Protection Act. Waste diversion through reuse and recycling is suggested.</p> <p>Liquid Industrial Waste such as waste oil or waste fuels, need to handled and stored in a safe manner. Please ensure proper secondary spill containment is in place, as outlined in the Guideline for Environmental Protection Measures at Chemical and Waste Storage Facilities. In addition, registration in the Hazardous Waste Information Network may also be required. Spill Prevention and Reporting is also a key responsibility, and therefore it is suggested that a Spill Prevention/Reporting/Training and Response Plan be established for this project.</p>	
MOE 27	<p><u>OTHER:</u></p> <p>It is suggested that a dust abatement and erosion control plan be established for this project. Should blasting occur near any water features, care needs to be taken to prevent spillage of ANFO and the side effects of ammonia to the natural environment. In the event of drilling operations, control of the cuttings needs to occur to mitigate sediment from the project site. Depending on the volumes of water taken for drilling fluid, a permit may be required. It was noted that cement will be generated and used as part of this project (anchor foundations). It is not clear if a mobile batch plant will be used to supply the cement or if local suppliers would be used. If a mobile batch plant is to be used, please ensure that the necessary air and water taking permits are in place.</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.</p>
	<p>Ministry of Environment, Enoch Tse, Senior Noise Engineer, Letter Dated February 5, 2014 to Dave Bell, Special Project Officer, MOE MOE Noise and Vibration Comments (Attached Memo - February 5, 2014)</p>	
MOE 28	<p>The following are our noise and vibration review comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Applicable Guidelines and Documents: Section 5.4.11 of the ToR does not state the specific noise guidelines that will be used to compare with the baseline noise levels and evaluate the noise impacts. The following documents need to be part of the operational and construction requirements of the project: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Operations Noise: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Ontario Hydro, Protocol For</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.</p> <p>Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.</p>

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	<p>Community Noise Control, January 7, 1981;</p> <p>ii. "Publication NPC-300" means the Ministry Publication NPC-300. "Environmental Noise Guideline, Stationary and Transportation Sources – Approval and Planning, Publication NPC-300", August 2013, as amended.</p>	
MOE 29	<p>b. Construction Noise:</p> <p>i. MOE Publication NPC-115, "Construction Equipment";</p> <p>ii. MOE Publication NPC-118, "Motorized Conveyances"; and</p> <p>Any applicable municipal noise by-laws along the transmission route.</p>	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.
MOE 30	<p>c. Construction Vibration:</p> <p>i. MOE Publication NPC-207, "Impulse Vibration in Residential Buildings", Final Report, August 1978.</p>	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.
MOE 31	<p>d. Construction Blasting:</p> <p>i. MOE Publication NPC-119, "Blasting", Model Municipal Noise Control By-law, Final Report, August 1978.</p>	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.
MOE 32	<p>e. Noise Report shall be prepared in accordance with the following documents:</p> <p>i. MOE Publication NPC-233, "Information to be Submitted for Approval of Stationary Sources of Sound", October 1995, as amended; and</p> <p>ii. Supporting Information for the Preparation of an Acoustic Assessment Report, Prepared by the Air and Noise Unit, Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, November 2003.</p>	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.



	Comment Received	Response Provided
	Ministry of Environment, Nathalie Osipenko, NR Environmental Planner/EA Coordinator, Letter Dated February 7, 2014 to David Bell, Special Project Officer, MOE MOE Regional Planning Comments (Attached Memo - February 7, 2014)	
MOE 33	<p>As requested, I have reviewed the referenced Draft Terms of Reference (ToR). Overall the planning and decision-making process for the environmental assessment (EA) seem to be well outlined and easy to follow. I still have several suggestions to improve clarity or help better align the process with the ministry's legislation, policy and procedures. My comments focus on land use compatibility and environmental planning.</p> <p>Soil Contamination (Sec. 5.4.1, pg. 28)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide an approach for determining if and when assessing or managing soil contamination may be considered.</li> </ul> <p>While it may not be a significant concern, a comprehensive assessment should consider the potential for soil contamination concerns and outline how they may be addressed. The <i>Guide on Site Assessment, the Cleanup of Brownfield Sites, and the Filing of Records of Site Condition</i> can provide some direction.</p>	Comment accepted; change made in Section 5.4.1.
MOE 34	<p>Acoustic Environment (Sec. 5.4.11, pg. 33)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide some additional detail for both the reference and alternate routes by referring to crossing several communities, recreational areas, the existing transmission line and some different potential sensitive receivers.</li> <li>Recognize that noise levels measurements, studies and/or mitigation measure may be required in some areas depending on the proximity to sensitive receivers.</li> </ul> <p>Acoustics and noise only becomes a consideration once there is a point of reception and communities have a different acoustic environment. When a facility is proposed MOE <i>Guideline D-1 Land Use Compatibility</i> outlines the proponent's responsibility in determining: the influence area; identity and distances from existing or committed sensitive land use(s); severity of impacts; and feasible mitigation (Guideline D-1, sec. 1.3.2). MOE's <i>Environmental Noise Guideline</i>, NPD 300 applies to EA projects. It provides sound level limits for different classes of area (e.g., urban, rural).</p>	<p>Comment accepted; additional information is included in Section 5.4.11.</p> <p>Comment accepted; additional information is included in Section 5.4.11.</p>

	Comment Received	Response Provided
MOE 35	<p>Human Health and Aesthetics (Sec. 5.5.5, pg. 37)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarify how noise, air and water conditions will be assessed and managed either by linking to other sections in the ToR or adding details in this section.</li> </ul> <p>This section commits to provide baseline conditions and potential effects for noise, air and water quality with possible monitoring program then only provides specifics for EMFs and visual assessments.</p>	<p>Comment accepted; appropriate cross-references have been included in Section 5.5.5.</p>
MOE 36	<p>Infrastructure and Service (Sec. 5.5.6, pg. 38 and D-3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add reference to “waste management” in this section and its associated row in Appendix D.</li> </ul> <p>The construction phase of this project may generate significant water. The proponent should also assess the projects effect on existing waste management services.</p>	<p>Comment accepted; change made in Section 5.5.6 and Appendix D.</p>
MOE 37	<p>Sensitive Land Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Table 6, pg. 43 – Add “sensitive land use” in examples for rule about incompatibility with existing land uses.</li> <li>Appendix D – Preliminary List, pg. D2-D3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In “Air Emissions” row – Add “and other sensitive land uses” after residences in fourth column</li> <li>In “noise” row – Add “and other sensitive land uses” after residences in fourth column</li> <li>Refer to “other sensitive land uses” either by listing separately or adding to existing “Residential Receptors” criteria and indicator.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>In addition to residences, other sensitive land uses are to be protected. Guideline D-1 applies when a new facility is proposed by an existing sensitive land use that may be within the facility’s potential influence area. A sensitive land use is defined broader than residences and may include: facilities where people sleep or institutions such as hospitals, schools, camp grounds; agricultural operations; and bird/wildlife habitats or sanctuaries (Procedure D-1-3).</p>	<p>Comment accepted; change made.</p> <p>Comment accepted; change made.</p> <p>Comment accepted; change made.</p> <p>Comment accepted; change made.</p>
MOE 38	<p>Land Use Compatibility (Table 7, pg. 45)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add “land use compatibility” either by referring to it in an existing feature or listing it independently. While it may be inferred within a few features, MOE</li> </ul>	<p>Comment accepted; change made in Table 7.</p>

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	would prefer to see it clearly referenced.	
MOE 39	Existing and Planned Lands (Preliminary List, Appendix D, pg. D-4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add "MNR, MMAH, and Parks Canada" to data sources for existing and planned land use.</li> </ul> For unorganized land MMAH is the approving authority. MNR administers the affected crown land and Parks Canada the federal parks and conservation areas.	Comment accepted; change made in Appendix D.
	Ministry of Environment, Mira Majerovich, Environmental Scientist, Letter Dated February 6, 2014 to David Bell, Special Project Officer, MOE MOE Surface Water Comments (Attached Memo February 6, 2014)	
MOE 40	<p>Evaluation Criteria</p> <p>NextBridge Infrastructure identified the environments that could potentially be effected by the Project for both the Reference Route and Alternative Routes, including the natural environment. Within the natural environment, NextBridge Infrastructure acknowledged the potential effects on surface and groundwater quantity and quality by listing the indicators of these effects as: short-term disruption or alterations to natural groundwater levels and flow patterns; reduced shade, increased thermal loading of watercourses and increased algae growth; increased downstream erosion and sedimentation; interface with water well and septic tanks; alteration of surface water drainage system and the potential for contamination due to accidental release of deleterious substances. In addition, there may be potential effects on wetlands including: alteration of wetland habitat function; alteration of wetland hydrologic function; introduction and/or spread of wetland associated invasive species and fragmentation of wetland habitat.</p> <p>Suggested preliminary evaluation criteria indicators to be used when assessing and comparing routing sites include: avoidance of significant natural features (i.e. Environmentally sensitive areas, wetlands, watercourses) and adhere to appropriate setback requirements; minimize watercourse crossings and reduce impacts to woodlands, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, and natural areas avoid areas with unsafe or hazardous slopes, number of watercourses on or adjacent to the site; potential for contamination or disruption to surface and ground water sources; and effects on surface and ground water quality, quantities or flow, including significant sedimentation or soil</p>	Comment noted; no change required.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	erosion on or off site.	
MOE 41	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>The ToR document provides a general description of the potential impacts to surface water quality and quantity associated with the proposed undertaking. If during the EA process the company characterizes the indicators notice above by sufficiently assessing the type and severity of common surface water impacts associated with the project and the potential for contamination and disruption to surface water sources, it is possible for the company to adequately evaluate the negative impacts to surface water quality and quantity, and is therefore my opinion that the EA will be sufficient in assessing these impacts. Please see the following comments which may be useful to address during the EA process:</p>	Comment noted; no change required.
MOE 42	<p>Construction in Wetland Areas:</p> <p>Should any work occur in wetlands or areas too wet to access, such work should either be left to take place during dry conditions or carried out during frozen conditions.</p>	Comment noted; no change required.
MOE 43	<p>Potential Permit and Approval Requirements:</p> <p>Please be aware that, should water takings at a combined rate of over 50,000 litres per day be required, Section 34 of the Ontario Water Resources Act would require the proponent to obtain a Permit to Take Water (PTTW). Activities such as excavation dewatering in areas of high water table for pole placement, or temporary stream diversions to facilitate in-water work at water crossings are considered water takings and may require a PTTW. For more information on water taking and PTTW requirements, please contact myself or Lara Welch, Regional PTTW Evaluator at: (8074)475-1595. Please be aware that any necessary water takings should be carried out in such a manner that stream flow is not stopped and is not reduced to a rate that will cause interference with downstream uses of water or with the natural functions of the stream.</p>	Comment noted; no change required.
MOE 44	<p>Discharge Water:</p> <p>Should dewatering activities be required, care should be taken during any discharge of water to ensure that the linear velocity of discharge does not produce scouring, erosion or flooding of the land or receiving</p>	Comment noted; no change required.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	stream.	
MOE 45	Accidental Spill and Contaminants: Equipment used in the vicinity of a water body/watercourse should be located as far away as possible from such surface water features, and where necessary protected by combinations of dykes and plastic, capable of containing all fuels, oils and lubricants found at the site, to prevent spills from entering surface water. Adequate spill clean-up equipment and/or supplies should be available at the site for fuel, oil and lubricant spills.	Comment noted; no change required.
MOE 46	Surface Runoff and Storm water: Should storm water management controls be necessary at transmission stations or other locations along the transmission route, the proponent should consult the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOE's Storm water Management Planning and Design Manual (2003) when determining and designing storm water management controls, and</li> <li>MOE's Guideline B-6 – Guidelines for Evaluating Construction Activities Impacting on Water Resources when developing erosion and sediment control plans.</li> </ul>	Comment noted; no change required.
	Ministry of Natural Resources, Justin Standeven, Regional Planning Coordinator, Email Dated February 11, 2014 to Carrie Wiklund, NextBridge	
MNR 1	Section 2.5, Page 13 Table 1 – A work permit under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act will be required for work carried out in provincial parks. Crown lease or land use permit may be issued under PPCRA for portions of corridor in provincial parks. PPCRA approval date is 2006, not 1990.	Comment accepted; change made.
MNR 2	Section 5.3, Page 27 Preliminary study area may need to be larger than "500 m on either side of the Reference Route and Alternative Routes" in situations where the line may be visible (affecting recreation dependent on aesthetics) from more than 500 m away.	Comment accepted; change made.
MNR 3	Section 5.4.4, Page 30 Table 3 is missing Prairie River Mouth PP. The Reference Route study area is within Prairie River Mouth PP. The proponent should be aware that Craig's Pit PP addition is nearby.	Comment accepted; change made.
MNR 4	Section 5.4.12, Page 34 This comment relates to many other parts of the document also, but has not been repeated throughout this comment table. Table 4 indicates that the natural	Comment accepted; change made.

**NEXTBRIDGE**  
INFRASTRUCTURE

	Comment Received	Response Provided
MNR 8	<p>Section 7.2, Page 46</p> <p>Mitigation measures identified at this stage for Pukaskwa National Park in the Parks Canada Project Description will generally suffice for provincial parks, however the following modifications/enhancements will be required: Restoring a vegetation cover in provincial parks must be completed using local plant/seed sources with no non-native or invasive species. To mitigate noise impacts to park users, plan construction to avoid seasons of high use. Locate and/or design the transmission line to mitigate aesthetic impacts to park visitors visiting areas because of the views they offer (e.g. viewpoints on hiking trails, campground beaches, popular fishing lakes). Note that other mitigation measures may be needed once the actual project description including provincial parks is available. Finally, construction and operation/maintenance must not create any new access to a provincial park.</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.</p>
MNR 9	<p>Section 9.3</p> <p>So far MNR has done 2 mailouts on behalf of the proponent. Will this continue throughout the EA, or is/can the proponent ask recipients to indicate if they want to receive further notices? If this hasn't occurred yet, but is a possible approach MNR could provide some wording about MNR interests with the project (or possible effects of the projects on MNR's mandate).</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. NextBridge will follow-up with MNR staff.</p>
Ministry of Natural Resources, Justin Standeven, Regional Planning Coordinator, Email Dated February 12, 2014 to Carrie Wiklund, NextBridge		
MNR 10	<p>Section 2.5 (Table 1)</p> <p>Comment – Under MNR heading: "cutting permit to cut trees on crown land" is not an accurate description of the requirement. Overlapping forest resource licences will be required, for each of the seven forest management units the transmission line traverses.</p> <p>For more information please contact the MNR.</p> <p>Suggestion - Replace bullet with: Forest Resource Licences will be required to harvest timber on crown lands, as per the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994.</p>	<p>Comment accepted; change made.</p>
MNR 11	<p>Section 3.1</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>In the second full paragraph, wording is not entirely clear that alternative routes will be investigated to</p>	<p>Comment accepted; change made.</p>



	Comment Received	Response Provided
	<p>some extent. Perhaps additional text could be added to describe that “alternative methods” term does include assessment of alternative routes and local route refinement (for those not clear with the two terms used by MOE)</p> <p>Suggestion: After: “will not include an assessment of alternatives to.....alternative”</p> <p>Add wording: In accordance with the EA Act, “alternative methods”, for example local route refinement around sensitive features or alternative routes around federal land, will be explored through the EA process.”</p>	
MNR 12	<p>Section 3.1.1 Comment: There is no mention of cumulative effects as an EA consideration.</p> <p>Suggestion: In addition to existing text identifying that effects to the environment will be described, please add text indicating that an assessment of the cumulative effects will also be considered.</p>	Comment accepted; additional information regarding cumulative effects provided in Section 7.1.
MNR 13	<p>Section 3.2 Comment: (pg16) States “the EA will generally include...”; however it is not clear if you are proposing this EA will include these elements in their entirety, or if some of the elements will be removed.</p> <p>Suggestion: Please clarify if all of these items will or will not be include in the EA. If any item is to be excluded, please provide rational.</p>	Comment noted; no change required. This list represents a direct quotation from the MOE’s Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing EAs in Ontario.
MNR 14	<p>Section 3.2 Comment: (pg17) states EA will include information on “alternative methods of completing the project.....” There is no mention that assessment of impacts will be completed when looking at these alternatives.</p> <p>Suggestion: Please add text that impact assessment on alternative routes and route refinement will take place as a basis for route determination and selection.</p>	Comment noted; no change required. Bullet 6 on pg. 17 identifies that an impact assessment will be done as part of the EA.
MNR 15	<p>Section 4.1.1 Comment:</p>	Comment accepted; change made.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	(pg20) last paragraph appears to lump Aboriginal groups into "stakeholder" category. This should be avoided. Suggestion: "...consultation with applicable agencies, Aboriginal Communities and other stakeholders..."	
MNR 16	Section 4.2 Comment: Notes under "operation" that a comprehensive vegetation management will take place – does this this has the potential to involve herbicide? Is so, possibly (elsewhere in the document) specific reference to studying impacts of herbicide treatments can be made to assist with consultation on this topic area. Suggestion: Please confirm if long-term herbicide programs are likely – or if alternative vegetation management practices are going to be reviewed as part of the EA process.	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be addressed during the EA.
MNR 17	Section 5.1 Comment: (pg23) does not explicitly state that government and Aboriginal input will be used for EA consideration, draft lists stakeholders and many other information sources – but should include these two key areas. Suggestion: "...primary sources (i.e., filed recon...) Government, Aboriginal Community and stakeholder input"	Comment accepted; change made.
MNR 18	Section 5.3 Comment: Preliminary study area 500 m on either side of the reference route will not be adequate to address some social and economic impacts (e.g., forestry, mining, remote tourism, recreation). Suggestion: "It is likely that a larger study area will be required to address some of the potential social and economic impacts of the project (e.g., impacts on communities, mining, tourism)."	Comment accepted; change made.
MNR 19	Section 5.4 Comment: (pg27) The work plan has not yet been developed "in consultation" with MNR Suggestion:	Comment accepted; change made.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	"work plan is being developed with input from the MNR"	
MNR 20	<p>Section 5.4.4 Comment: States the EA report will provide potential effects and mitigation for protected areas. Are the potential effects going to form the basis of alternative route and route refinement? This would be positive Does not indicate if field studies are going to be required in protected areas? Suggestion: Please confirm if anticipated effects in protected areas could result in route refinement or alternate route selection; if effects will form the basis of mitigation and avoidance measures. Please clarify if field studies are going to be required to assess impacts in Parks, Conservation Reserves and ANSIs.</p>	Comment accepted; change made.
MNR 21	<p>Section 5.4.12 (Table 4) Comment: There is no discussion that potential effects may be a change to wildlife use of an area/habitat – this can often be a significant effect (e.g., avoidance because of noise, fragmentation). Suggestion: change to habitat availability or use</p>	Comment accepted; change made.
MNR 22	<p>Section 5.5 Comment: To be consistent with 5.5.4 Suggestion: "...traditional land and resource uses."</p>	Comment accepted; change made.
MNR 23	<p>Section 5.5.7 Comment: Section notes that tourism is important, but does not describe that remoteness and wilderness feel is a desirable feature for many northern tourist operations. This is important from an access standpoint if greenfield areas are to be considered, or new access created. Suggestion: Add: "several tourism-based outfitters in the area that focus on hunting and fishing, relying on remoteness and wilderness experiences in many cases; in addition to tourism and local business associated with parks...."</p>	Comment accepted; change made.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
MNR 24	<p>Section 5.5.8 (Table 5)</p> <p>Comment: This table provides a good overview of potential effects. It should be noted that installing and operating this transmission line will also permanently remove the area from productive forestry (56m x 400km ~ 2200 ha productive land loss); and from mineral exploration/development – with social and economic implications that should be noted.</p> <p>Suggestion: Under “Economy and Resource Use”, add a bullet describing potential effects associated with reduction of productive forest area, Consider describing impact to mining lands.</p>	<p>Comment accepted; Table 5 has been updated to reflect potential forestry and mining impacts.</p>
MNR 25	<p>Section 7.1</p> <p>Comment: Potential effects assessment section does not discuss what types of criteria or indicators may be used to determine effects; as outlined by MOE guidance. It is unclear what sort of evaluation methods may be used.</p> <p>Suggestion: Please describe the data sources or information (criteria and indicators) that might be required to determine effects. This can be done by “feature” as described in Table 7; or generally described, if this level of detail cannot be provided at this time.</p>	<p>Comment accepted; reference to Appendix D (Criteria and Indicators) included in Section 7.1.</p>
MNR 26	<p>Section 8.2</p> <p>Comment: (pg 47)_ should be clear that Government and Aboriginal feedback and concerns will also be considered (Gov and Aboriginal are typically not considered as “stakeholders”)</p> <p>Suggestion: Add (underlined): “integrate Government, Aboriginal and stakeholder feedback and concerns...”</p>	<p>Comment accepted; change made.</p>
	Ontario Parks, via Ministry of Natural Resources, Justin Standeven, Regional Planning Coordinator, Email Dated January 28, 2014 to Carrie Wiklund, NextBridge	
OP 1	<p>Management direction (plan or statement) includes policies for protection, management, operation and development of individual parks. The information below describes the policies in plans/statements for utility corridors. If the management direction is not consistent with provincial policy, then the project cannot proceed or a management direction amendment may be considered. Amending</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.</p>

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	<p>management direction is a time-consuming process that requires consideration of natural, cultural and recreation values; and pressures (natural and human activities) on those values. Public, stakeholder and Aboriginal consultation is required.</p> <p><u>Black Sturgeon R Provincial Park (waterway class)</u> Two hydro lines and a pipeline cross the park near the south end; these are identified as permitted non-conforming uses in the park management plan. The park management plan says new utility corridors will not be permitted, therefore move the refinement route further south (outside park).</p> <p><u>Ruby Lake (natural environment class)</u> The park management plan says new non-park utility corridors should avoid park land wherever possible, but may be permitted.</p> <p><u>Kama Hill (nature reserve class)</u> The interim management statement is silent on the existing corridor and new corridors.</p> <p><u>Gravel River Provincial Park (nature reserve class)</u> The interim management statement acknowledges the existing corridor but is silent on new corridors.</p> <p><u>Prairie River Mouth (nature reserve class)</u> The study area of the reference corridor is in the park. It is unclear if the final transmission line may be located anywhere within the study corridor. The interim management statement is silent on new corridors, however it says:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "land tenure will not be issued for commercial purposes"; and,</li> <li>▪ "development will be limited to trails for non-mechanized use ...".</li> </ul> <p><u>Neys (natural environment class)</u> The study area of the reference corridor is in the park. It is unclear if the final transmission line may be located anywhere within the study corridor. The park management plan says new utility corridors will not be permitted subject to the provisions of provincial park policy.</p> <p><u>Red Sucker Point (nature reserve class)</u> The study area of the reference corridor is in the park.</p>	

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	<p>It is unclear if the final transmission line may be located anywhere within the study corridor. The interim management statement is silent on new corridors, however it says:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "land tenure will not be issued for commercial purposes"; and,</li> <li>▪ "development will be limited to trails for non-mechanized use ...".</li> </ul> <p><u>White Lake Provincial Park (natural environment class)</u> The park management plan acknowledges the existing utility corridor at the west end of the park says that new hydro corridors associated hydro development may need to be developed.</p> <p><u>Pukaskwa River Provincial Park (waterway)</u> The interim management statement acknowledges the existing utility corridor crossing near the west end of the park and says that any future (new) utility corridors proposed through the park, where park lands are unavoidable, will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p><u>Nimmoosh Provincial Park (waterway)</u> The interim management statement acknowledges three existing utility corridor and says that new utility corridors may be necessary but will avoid the park if possible.</p> <p>As a reminder, section 21 of the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act outlines conditions which must be met in order for the Minister to approve a new utility corridor in a provincial park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ there are no reasonable alternatives;</li> <li>▪ lowest cost is not the sole or overriding justification; and,</li> <li>▪ environmental impacts have been considered and all reasonable measures will be undertaken to minimize harmful environmental impacts and to protect ecological integrity.</li> </ul>	
	Environment Canada, Denise Fell, Environmental Assessment Officer, Email Dated February 10, 2014 to Carrie Wiklund, NextBridge	
EC 1	It is indicated in Table 1- Potential Notifications, Permits and Approvals of the ToR that a MBCA approval may be required for this project. Please be advised that permits cannot be issued for the incidental take of migratory birds or their nests as a result of economic activities.	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated in the EA.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
EC 2	EC generally notes that in Section 5.4.9 - Species at Risk of the ToR it is not specified if the species at risk that have been identified as having the potential to occur in the study area are only those that are provincially listed, or if the background information collected also took into account species listed under SARA. Several of the species at risk listed in this section of the ToR as having the potential to occur in the study area are listed under SARA: Eastern Whip-poor-will, Peregrine Falcon, American Badger, Wolverine, Woodland Caribou, Pitcher's Thistle and Snapping Turtle. In addition to this list we would expect that other SARA listed migratory bird species would also have the potential to occur in the study area (such as Common Nighthawk), so it does appear that federally listed species may not have been considered in the background review.	Comment accepted; additional information provided in Section 4.9.
EC 3	EC further notes that Section 7.1 Potential Effects Assessment does not provide information with respect to the methodology and analysis that will be used to determine the impact of the project on species at risk. Further, cumulative effects do not appear to be included in the effects analysis. We are aware of other projects in the Study Area that also have the potential to adversely affect Woodland Caribou Critical Habitat (such as the Marathon Mine and Coldwell Wind Farm) and recommend the EA include an assessment of the cumulative effects of this project in conjunction with other projects in the area.	Comment noted. The assessment of Species at Risk will follow the same assessment process outlined for the other features listed in Table 7.  Comment accepted; additional information regarding cumulative effects provided in Section 7.1.
EC 4	Woodland Caribou As mentioned above, it is noted in Section 5.4.9 of the ToR that Woodland Caribou (Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population), a species which is listed as Threatened under schedule 1 of the SARA and which has a posted final federal Recovery Strategy (RS), has the potential to occur within the study area. The Project in fact falls within the ON6 Lake Superior Coastal Range (LSCR) as defined in the RS. A list of Activities Likely to Result in the Destruction of Critical Habitat has been developed for this species including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any activity resulting in the direct loss of boreal caribou critical habitat. Examples of such activities include: conversion of habitat to agriculture, forestry cut blocks, mines, and industrial and infrastructure development.</li> </ul>	Comment noted; no change required.



	Comment Received	Response Provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any activity resulting in the fragmentation of habitat by human-made linear features. Examples of such activities include: road development, seismic lines, pipelines, and hydroelectric corridors.</li> </ul>	
EC 5	<p>Recommendations for the ToR</p> <p>EC's website has recently been updated to provide information on the MBCA and MBR and best approaches to avoiding impacts on migratory birds; we suggest you consult our website to assist in your assessment of impacts on migratory birds and development of measures to mitigate any impacts: <a href="http://ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb/default.asp?lang=En&amp;n=C51C415F-1">http://ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb/default.asp?lang=En&amp;n=C51C415F-1</a>.</p>	Comment noted; no change required.
EC 6	<p>Table 1- Potential Notifications, Permits and Approvals of the ToR should not indicate that MBCA approval may be required for this project as such a permit cannot be issued. The referral to a potential SARA permit may remain.</p>	Comment accepted; change made to Table 1.
EC 7	<p>The EA should address impacts on all species under federal legislation, and should clearly identify the provincial and federal status of species at risk, and the implications. Sections 5.4.9 and 7.0 of the ToR should include and specifically identify species at risk listed on Schedule 1 of SARA (and all migratory bird species at risk).</p>	Comment accepted; changes made to Sections 5.4.9 and 7.1.
EC 8	<p>The EA should clearly identify the methodology and analysis used to determine the impact of the Project on species at risk. Fieldwork and associated methodologies should use commonly accepted techniques to determine the presence of species at risk and habitat availability, to evaluate habitat use, and to assess potential adverse effects.</p>	Comment noted; no change required.
EC 9	<p>With respect to Woodland Caribou, the evaluation of habitat availability should use the framework described in the provincial General Habitat Description, and apply the assessment methods used within the federal Recovery Strategy.</p>	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated in and addressed through the EA.
EC 10	<p>The EA should include a consideration of the cumulative environmental effects of this project in conjunction with other projects in the area (such as the Marathon Mine and Coldwell Wind Farm), particularly</p>	Comment accepted; change made in Section 7.1.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	with respect to Woodland Caribou, and this intention should be reflected in Section 7.1 – Potential Effects Assessment of the ToR.	
EC 11	The following EC website contains links to our environmental assessment guidelines for migratory birds, wetlands, and species at risk: <a href="http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/eppp-archive/100/200/301/environment_can/cws-scf/occasional_paper-e/n110/html/publications/eval/index_e.cfm">http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/eppp-archive/100/200/301/environment_can/cws-scf/occasional_paper-e/n110/html/publications/eval/index_e.cfm</a> . We recommend that the environment assessment follow these guidelines.	Comment noted; no change required.
	Township of Dorion, Ed Chambers, Reeve, Letter Dated February 6, 2014 to Cindy Tindell, NextBridge	
Dorion 1	After listening to a presentation by NextBridge to Council in November 2013, attending an Open House in Nipigon in December 2013 and talking to many residents, Council requests that any corridor through Dorion be limited to an area with an absolute minimum impact on our residents and community.	Comment noted; no change required.
Dorion 2	Has another Reference Route Alternative north of what is now the Reference Route been considered?	Comment noted; no change required.
Dorion 3	At a Council meeting on February 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2014, a group of concerned citizens made a deputation and indicated that they did not support the proposed right-of-way through the Township of Dorion. Please find attached draft minutes of that meeting and an attachment of their deputation. Their concerns and recommendations will be considered by Council. Results of those discussions will be submitted during the EA process.	Comment noted; no change required.
Dorion 4	Presently, our community is transgressed by 3 main transmission lines, the TransCanada Highway, the TransCanada Pipeline, one active CPR Railway line, and a decommissioned CNR corridor. A 4 lane highway is scheduled to go through the community within a few years. We are concerned that the proposed East-West transmission line through Dorion will have yet another negative economic impact. We are very determined to protect the residential, farm lands, and sensitive areas in our community. Please refer to the attached map.	Comment noted; no change required.
Dorion	Council is reviewing the Terms of Reference and plans	Comment noted; no change required.

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5	to attend the Open Houses this summer and fall with additional comments.	
Dorion 6	Council will be facilitating a Town Hall Meeting as soon as possible (late February or March 2014). We will be inviting representatives from NextBridge to attend. At this meeting local residents may express their concerns and ask questions. We will also be attending the two Open Houses later this year. Could one of the two Open Houses planned for Nipigon be held in Dorion? It is apparent to us that Dorion has more concerns than Nipigon.	Comment noted; no change required. Dorion will be considered to host an Open House event during the EA.
Dorion 7	We will also be gathering information from other agencies that may have concerns about the East-West Tie going through sensitive areas in Dorion – i.e., the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority and the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists.	Comment noted; no change required.
Township of Dorion, NextBridge Delegation/Deputation to Council, February 4, 2014		
Dorion 8	Comments and Concerns: The plan contains alternative routes to avoid Pays Plat First Nation and Michipicoten/Pukaskwa. Why not Dorion?	NextBridge is considering local route refinements in the Township of Dorion to address concerns raised relating to the proximate location of the proposed line to existing residences. NextBridge and its agents will be in touch with members of the community and directly affected landowners and tenants that have communicated concerns. NextBridge will be reviewing these specific concerns regarding the proposed routing and will continue to engage with them through the route determination process.  No change required.
Dorion 9	3 transmission lines, 2 railway corridors, the TransCanada Pipeline and a planned twinning of Hwy 11/17 already bisect Dorion. We've done our share toward provincial infrastructure.	Comment noted.  No change required.
Dorion 10	We expect Council to strongly represent our objections to NextBridge, our MPP and the media.	Comment noted.  No change required.
Dorion 11	Council was asked to contact Shuniah to determine level of concern there.	Comment noted.  No change required.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
Dorion 12	One family was planning to build a lot home in 2014 but are reluctant to proceed. Will this line cross over their new home?	While the route has not yet been finalized or approved, you should speak with the NextBridge team and their Land Agents to discuss your proposal.  No change required.
Dorion 13	One family was considering selling but now face devaluation due to this limbo.	NextBridge does not anticipate that property values will be affected in the long-term. However, NextBridge will compensate for injurious affection where appropriate.  "Injurious affection" (injury to land) occurs when it is determined that the market value of a property is reduced because of NextBridge's use of the portion of the land for the Project. The amount of compensation will be determined as part of an independent appraisal process.  No change required.
Dorion 14	Importing Manitoba power should be investigated before building the E-W Tie.	Ontario is currently electrically connected with Manitoba. In order to meet the Northwest's resource needs with supply from Manitoba, it would be necessary to sign a power purchase agreement. The cost of imported energy and/or capacity under such an agreement would be based on terms negotiated with Manitoba. In addition, the amount of capacity required to meet the reliability need of the Northwest exceeds the current capability of the existing interconnection, and significant new transmission facilities would be required.  No change required.
Dorion 15	NextBridge has not investigated any options beyond their Provincial Reference Route.	The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) directed the use of the existing East-West Tie as a reference route. Alternative routes and local route refinements will be considered to avoid sensitive features. NextBridge is seeking input from stakeholders on the route.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
		No change required.
Dorion 16	A similar proposal was abandoned in the early 1990s. At that time it was agreed that the new transmission line would parallel the northern TransCanada Pipeline but it was never constructed.	<p>Pipelines are typically not paralleled because this has been shown to cause an increase in pipeline corrosion and therefore, a large amount of cathodic protection may be required. The paralleling of the existing 230 kV line offers a number of benefits including use of existing access, corridor sharing and similar land use.</p> <p>No change required.</p>
Dorion 17	What kind of tax benefit does Dorion receive from all these lines?	<p>Comment noted. This will be investigated during the EA.</p> <p>No change required.</p>
Dorion 18	There are many other issues that can be raised later including electromagnetic wave exposure, property assessment and taxation impact. We reserve the right to add additional issues as discussions continue.	<p>There will be opportunities to discuss additional issues during the EA process. The following are responses to the issues you raise here.</p> <p><u>Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs)</u> Also called electric and magnetic fields, these are invisible forces that surround electrical equipment, power cords, and power lines. You cannot see or feel EMFs. Every time you use electricity and electrical appliances, you are exposed to EMFs at extremely low frequencies (ELF). EMFs produced by both power lines and use of electrical appliances belong to this category. EMFs are strongest when close to the source. As you move away from the source, the strength of the fields fades rapidly.</p> <p>There is no compelling scientific evidence that EMFs in living and school environments, regardless of distance from transmission lines, cause ill health.</p> <p><u>Property Assessment</u> For each directly affected parcel of</p>

	Comment Received	Response Provided
		<p>private property, a Benchmark Market Valuation will be completed to determine the fair market value on a per hectare basis. Upon completion of this valuation NextBridge will present an offer of compensation that includes compensation for the easement interest and consideration for injurious affection where applicable. Loss of timber will be assessed and appropriate compensation will be determined on a per hectare basis.</p> <p><u>Taxation Impact</u> Property tax questions should be addressed to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).</p> <p>No change required.</p>
	Métis Nation of Ontario (via Calliou Group - Tracy Campbell, Principal), Letter Dated February 10, 2014 to Devi Shantilal, Manager - Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch (forwarded via email to Jennifer Tidmarsh, NextBridge)	
MNO 1	<p>1.0 Introduction</p> <p>The description of the regulatory process anticipated for this Project is predicated upon previous decisions made by OPA in 2011 and 2013, which includes an in-service date of early 2018 and pre-determined route. In order to be meaningful, the Aboriginal consultation process for this Project must entertain the possibility that the Project may not be approved (may result in unacceptable adverse effects to the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights that cannot be mitigated) or that set regulatory timelines may have to be extended based on input received from the Métis community.</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. Section 3.4 of the ToR provides for flexibility to accommodate new circumstances.</p>
MNO 2	<p>Figure 2: Transmission Development Process</p> <p>Although the source of this figure is accredited to OPA, the figure does not identify Ministry of Environment as "Key Participant" in the Project Development or Approvals silo; this is significant as the minimization and lack of clarity regarding the role of Ministry of Environment in the Aboriginal consultation process is a recurring theme of the document. We suggest revision a revision of the figure to provide clarity with respect to the Ministry of the Environment's role.</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. MOE's role is well documented in Section 2.1 of the ToR. Figure 2 relates to the Transmission Development process, rather than the EA approval process.</p>
MNO	1.3 Purpose of the Undertaking	Comment noted; no change required.

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3	The projected lifespan of the Project is projected to be “approximately 50 years of longer”; we would request clarification on the actual expected lifespan of Project infrastructure as well as contractual or financial lifespan of arrangements.	As mentioned, the projected lifespan of the Project is expected to be 50 years or longer. Contractual information is considered confidential and outside of the scope of the EA.
MNO 4	1.5 Background on the Proponent Wording in this section should be consistent with description of potentially affected individuals and groups, including Aboriginal groups.	Comment noted; no change required.
MNO 5	1.6 Outline of the Terms of Reference We note several recommendations in the “Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario” were not followed by the Proponent for the preparation of this document, including a recommendation to provide DTOR well in advance of submission to interested groups.	Comment noted; no change required. There is no legal requirement to provide a Draft ToR for comment and this was done by NextBridge to solicit comments prior to formal submission.
MNO 6	2.1.1 Provincial EA Process The commitment outlined in this section commits the commencement of the environmental assessment only following the approval of the final ToR. We believe this is correct approach, as the final identification of valued components is first necessary prior to the collection of baseline information for components. However, the timeline for preparation of the EA is currently only 6 months, with the submission of the application identified as January 2015. This should be confirmed with both the regulator and Proponent.	Comment noted; no change required. NextBridge will file a Notice of Commencement of the EA once the ToR receives approval. Based on standard practice, baseline data can be collected prior to formal commencement of the EA.
MNO 7	2.1.2 Other Applicable Provincial EA Processes Please clarify how consultation will occur on the disposition of Crown lands in sections of the route where MNO citizens have the right of access to exercise their rights. We believe that this consultation is impossible (given the proposed timelines and lack of field reconnaissance) within the individual EA process.	Comment noted; no change required. Consultation will occur through the EA process; please refer to Section 9.4 specifically.
MNO 8	Figure 3 Provincial EA Process This figure is not generated by the Proponent; however it outlines the prescribed timelines as outlined in Ontario Regulations 616/98. It is important to note 12 weeks from submission of ToR and approval by Minister; this is an extremely tight timeline for identification of Métis-specific valued ecological components for inclusion in ToR.	Comment noted; no change required. Métis-specific valued ecological components will be included in the EA as per the commitments made in the ToR.



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MNO 9	<p>2.2.1 Section 67 of CEAA 2012 – Federal Lands</p> <p>It is unclear whether a formal determination under section 67 will be completed following the submission of the final EA to Parks Canada to ensure the Project will not result in significant adverse effects. Moreover, the process by which Parks Canada will undertake a review and determination of significant adverse environmental effects is unclear, notwithstanding the inclusion of a secondary Project Description. Clarification should be sought from federal authorities regarding harmonization between the two processes and how impacts to Aboriginal rights will be assessed with respect to the federal approval.</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. Clarification will be provided through discussions with federal authorities during the EA. The Parks Canada review/determination process is an internal process, which MNO should contact them directly with questions.</p>
MNO 10	<p>2.3 OEB Leave to Construct</p> <p>It is unclear if/how the Proponent define the Aboriginal consultation process that will be used to identify MNO concerns for the OEB leave to construct application. Clarification should be sought if a timeline will be provided for this activity so MNO can appropriately plan internal timing and capacity for involvement in this additional process.</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. This will be clarified through the OEB Leave to Construct process.</p>
MNO 11	<p>2.5 Other Notifications, Permits and Approvals</p> <p>In the event that approvals under Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994, Species at Risk, 2002, Fisheries Act, 2002 are required, it is unclear how consultation efforts with MNO for those federal approvals will be coordinated (in the absence of CEAA 2012 trigger). Clarification should be sought from federal authorities regarding harmonization.</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. Clarification will be sought from federal authorities.</p>
MNO 12	<p>3.2 EA Report Preparation and Submission</p> <p>It is important to note the Proponent has correctly indicated the EA report will include a “description of the environmental baseline setting that could be potentially be affected by the Project”; however, as Métis-specific VECs will only be chosen following internal workshop held by the Métis community, the allowance for sufficient time to collect baseline information on all VECs is critical. This is a non-permissive requirement.</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. NextBridge has committed to working with Aboriginal groups in the preparation of the EA.</p>
MNO 13	<p>3.3 EA and Project Management Principles</p> <p>The principles outlined in this section do not reflect basic Aboriginal consultation principles as set out in</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. Please refer to Section 9.4.</p>

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	Ontario Government policies as well as case law. These principles should inform and apply to how the EA will be conducted and identified separately or incorporated. At minimum, the ToR should clarify who "interested persons" are.	
MNO 14	5.0 Description of Existing Environmental Conditions The Project setting should include a description of asserted, accommodated and established Aboriginal and treaty rights and claims within the Project area, including those of the Métis. The MNO has provided information on these Métis claims to the Crown and the Proponent in its letter dated January 28, 2014. We recommend that these be summarized and included in the ToR.	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be included in the EA.
MNO 15	5.1 Data Collection Methodology As MNO was not involved in the development of the ToR, no information related to TLU was received by the Proponent as part of the ToR consultation program. Preliminary environmental inventory is not informed by MNO information. This highlights the importance of MNO completing a TLU to ensure the Proponent has sufficient Métis-specific information to craft a baseline specific to the Project. Language with respect to the collection of Métis TLU should not be permissive or ambiguous. This information is necessary for a proper EA.	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be included in the EA. Please also refer to Section 9.4 of the ToR.
MNO 16	5.1 Data Collection Methodology Fieldwork is referenced in this section but there is no specific information on whether participation in this fieldwork will be extended to MNO to ensure Métis TLU is incorporated into the results.	Comment noted; no change required. Please refer to Section 9.4.3 of the ToR.
MNO 17	5.1.1 Records Reviewed as Part of the Terms of Reference MNO sources of information should be used and reflected in this list of Key Records for finalized ToR development.	Comment noted; no change required. MNO sources of information will be documented in the EA. Please also refer to Section 9.4.
MNO 18	5.2 Environmental Features and Socio-Economic Components The listings of Natural Environment Components and Socio-Economic Components do not include Aboriginal rights and interests. The existing categories of 'cultural and heritage resources' and 'traditional land and	Comment noted; no change required. Under the socio-economic category of Section 5.2, both cultural heritage resources and traditional land and resource use are identified. Combined with Section 9.4.3, this addresses Métis

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	resource use' do not fully encompass all aspects of Aboriginal rights. Although Proponent acknowledges the list would be subject to change, clarification should be provided in ToR that some "Métis-specific VECs" at minimum will be included. It is unclear if "vegetation clearing" relates only to construction phases; if so, include "vegetation management" in list of Project activities.	concerns.
MNO 19	5.3 Preliminary Study Areas It is unclear how the designation of a preliminary study area will or will not restrict VEC scoping for Métis-specific components. We ask for clarity on this issue.	Comment noted; no change required. Section 5.3 also states that "...in some cases separate study areas will be developed for various environmental components..." The mutual development of scoping VECs will occur as part of Aboriginal consultation during the EA.
MNO 20	5.4.2 Surface and Groundwater Quality and Quantity As the Reference Route potentially crosses a large number of watercourses, the section related to surface and groundwater must also include specific details on how the watercourses and waterbodies within the reference route are used by MNO citizens (i.e, travel route, navigational aids, exercise of rights, etc.) in order to ensure the baseline is accurate and complete.	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.
MNO 21	5.4.3 National Parks and 5.4.4 Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest This section must include detailed description of MNO citizens' use (direct and indirect) of Pukaskwa National Park and other provincial parks in the exercise of their Aboriginal rights in order to ensure a fulsome baseline. Also the process by which Parks Canada will "determine that the Reference Route through the Park is a viable option" must be clear to the MNO so it is provided the opportunity to provide views. We recommend that clarification be sought from federal authorities on this.	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be included in the EA. The Parks Canada review/determination process is an internal process, which MNO should contact them directly with questions.
MNO 22	5.4.5 Vegetation Critical vegetation species harvested by the Métis community in the exercise of their Aboriginal rights must be described in the vegetation baseline and included in the overall description within the ToR. Often the data to describe conditions at the eco-district level does not contain sufficient information to be of use in the prediction of effects to Aboriginal	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA based on the process established in Section 9.4.

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	communities.	
MNO 23	5.4.6 Fish and Fish Habitat Fish species commonly harvested by the Métis Community in the exercise of their Aboriginal rights must be documented as part of the baseline conditions for Fish and Fish Habitat. This should be identified in the ToR and described in the EA.	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA based on the process established in Section 9.4.
MNO 24	5.4.8 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Baseline conditions described in the EA should include wildlife species critical to the exercise of Métis community rights as well as TK related to Wildlife Habitat. This should be outlined in the ToR and included in the final EA.	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA based on the process established in Section 9.4.
MNO 25	5.4.10 Air Quality Potential receptors for air quality should be identified in partnership with MNO citizens that utilize the study area and not simply by permanent residence. Air quality is a critical component of MNO citizen's sense of place while exercising their Aboriginal rights. Inclusion should be explicitly outlined in the ToR and included in the environmental assessment, once developed.	Comment noted; no change required. The MNO will have an opportunity to provide input to air quality considerations as per the general framework outlined in Section 9.4.
MNO 26	5.4.11 Acoustic Environment The acoustic environment largely contributes to MNO citizens experience while harvesting. Potential noise receptors should be selected in consultation with MNO to ensure an accurate assessment of MNO citizen's sense of place while exercising their Aboriginal rights, including noise generated during operations phase (i.e., vegetation management).	Comment noted; no change required. The MNO will have an opportunity to provide input to acoustic considerations as per the general framework outlined in Section 9.4.
MNO 27	5.5 Socio-Economic Environment This section is not a description of components necessary to identify effects to Métis way of life. A 'placeholder' should be included in this section to identify Métis-specific components (i.e., loss of 'cash crops' from gathering, internal trade and bartering practices, etc.).	Comment noted; no change required. Please refer to Section 5.5.4.
MNO 28	Table 4: Preliminary Potential Effects – Natural Environment There are no potential effects identified that directly relate to Aboriginal rights. This should be amended to	Comment noted; no change required. Both the cultural and heritage resources and the traditional land and resource use noted in Table 5 addresses this.

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	reflect the above comments related to the exercise of Aboriginal rights and the potential effects that may arise, and further finalized following the identification of Métis-specific valued components so that natural environment components will compliment and inform human environment components selected for EA study.	
MNO 29	5.5.1 Provincial and Municipal Policy Planned land uses must acknowledge the exercise of Aboriginal rights and should be included in this section.	Comment noted; no change required. MNO concerns are addressed in Section 5.5.4 not Section 5.5.1.
MNO 30	5.5.2 Population and Demographics Often the data collected to describe baseline conditions of this component uses public data only; this distorts Métis inclusion in public data particularly as it related to economic conditions or the prediction of positive benefits (i.e., “skills assessment”). The Proponent should be aware if this data is used to inform other components, Métis-specific data must be collected. It is important to identify Métis as distinct group as well as identify locations of Métis population within broader populations of communities, since Métis do not have an identifiable land base in region.	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.
MNO 31	5.5.4 Traditional Land and Resource Use The characterization of “treaty rights, land claims and traditional lands” as traditional land and/or resource use is incorrect. Treaty rights, land claims and traditional lands are not characterized as traditional lands or resource use, rather traditional land and/or resource use is a method of exercise of the Aboriginal rights held by Métis communities and First Nations. Traditional lands are generally the areas where these rights are exercised. Further, there are also Aboriginal rights in region, which are not “treaty” rights as well as other outstanding Aboriginal claims (i.e., breach of honour of the Crown) that are not “land claims”. We strongly suggest rewording this to improve clarity and direction of the assessment. Also suggest specifically including reference to citizens represented by MNO. Statement that “NextBridge will consider First Nation and Métis interests” is vague. We recommend greater clarity on this issue.	Comment noted; no change required. When this is read in conjunction with Section 9.4, it provides greater clarity.
MNO	5.5.5 Human Health and Aesthetics	Comment noted; no change required.

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32	This section must include specific data related to Aboriginal use in the vicinity, including identification of receptors relevant to Métis community. The assessment must also consider visual assessment receptors related to Aboriginal use in the study area to ensure Métis quality of experience during the exercise of their Aboriginal rights remains intact.	Should the MNO be able to identify how electromagnetic fields and aesthetic effects impact their members differently than other land users, this information could be incorporated into the EA. The discussion regarding EMF is for information and the visual assessment is a tool to incorporate stakeholder, Aboriginal and agency concerns into the EA.
MNO 33	5.5.5.2 Visual Assessment It is incorrect to assume where Project parallels existing line, "effects to existing viewpoints or line-of-sight are not anticipated to be as significant when compared to sections of the Project that will be located away from the existing line." We recommend that this be deleted. The development of viewpoints must be completed with the involvement and knowledge of Métis harvesting locations.	Comment noted; no change required. This statement is based on public feedback from numerous transmission line studies and the Provincial Policy Statement. Please also refer to Section 9.4.
MNO 34	5.5.7 Economy and Resource Use It is unclear how Métis-specific components may be informed by the baseline data collected for this component; clarity should be sought following the identification of components.	Comment noted; no change required. Please refer to Table 5.
MNO 35	Table 5: Preliminary Potential Effects – Socio-Economic Environment This table must be updated to including Métis-specific components (such as hunting pursuant to Aboriginal rights) as a potential effect to traditional land and resource use. At minimum, a 'placeholder' should be inserted in this Table to reflect that Métis-specific components will be identified prior to finalization of ToR. "Interruption" is a too vague to predict change resulting from Project activities.	Comment noted; no change required. When combined with Section 9.4, the socio-economic features involving Aboriginal peoples reflect Métis concerns.
MNO 36	6.2.1 Alternative Routes around Federal Lands Please clarify statement that "AANDC and Parks Canada is currently being consulted to determine if routing through federal lands will be possible." Clarity from federal departments should be sought to determine methodology and consultation process with MNO.	Comment noted; no change required. The Parks Canada review/determination process is an internal process, which MNO should contact them directly with questions.
MNO 37	6.2.2 Local Refinements to the Reference Route "Sensitive environmental and/or socio-economic features" must explicitly include land and resources	Comment noted; no change required.



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	necessary for the exercise of Métis community's rights.	
MNO 38	Table 6: Preliminary General Routing Considerations Constraints listed in this Table do not reflect an acknowledgement of Aboriginal rights and interests. We recommend that this be revised and explicitly include reference to Aboriginal rights.	Comment noted; no change required. Please refer to Section 9.4.
MNO 39	7.1 Potential Effects Assessment As per the baseline descriptions above, the sections in the effects assessment must also include the above referenced species, activities and receptors to ensure a fulsome assessment of Métis rights and interests.	Comment noted; no change required. NextBridge will be consulting with the MNR, First Nations and Métis communities during the EA to ensure this is considered.
MNO 40	Table 7: Preliminary List of Environmental and Socio-Economic Features This section does not explicitly refer or include Métis-specific component. We recommend that a placeholder be included for Métis-specific VECs.	Comment noted; no change required. Métis-specific interests are included under cultural heritage resources and traditional land and resource use.
MNO 41	7.2 Mitigation Measures Clarity should be sought if description of mitigation measures will include legislative or prescribed measures required by regulation.	Comment noted; no change required. Section 7.2 states that "mitigation measures will be developed in consultation with agencies and other stakeholders..."
MNO 42	9.2 Consultation on the Terms of Reference The statement that Métis were involved in the development of the ToR by provision of input is incorrect. Public open houses held in December were not the appropriate vehicle to solicit input on a DTOR from the Métis community. This document constitutes the second round of input MNO has provided and both were provided following the submission of the draft ToR for public comment. The allowance for 30 days of input on the DTOR is insufficient.	Comment noted; no change required. MNO comments on the draft ToR, in addition to telephone conversations and a face-to-face meeting between the MNO and NextBridge, have assisted in the development of the proposed ToR that will be formally submitted to the MOE for approval. The MOE will provide a public comment period on the proposed ToR.
MNO 43	Figure 5: Consultation Plan We note the commitment for consultation on the Draft EA report and within Section 9.3.11. This commitment appears ambitious given the prescribed timelines set out by Ministry of Energy. We recommend that clarity with respect to this commitment be obtained.	Comment noted; no change required. Please see Section 9.3.11, which refers to agencies and other stakeholders. Section 9.4 refers to the Aboriginal engagement and consultation.
MNO 44	9.4 Aboriginal Engagement and Consultation Plan The MNO has not been provided the opportunity to have input or provide comments on the Aboriginal Consultation Plan. It is recommended that the	Review of the draft ToR has provided the MNO with an opportunity to review the Aboriginal Consultation Plan, which was attached as an Appendix.



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	Aboriginal Consultation Plan be reviewed with development of specific comments. Notably, the MNO has identified several preliminary issues and concerns have been outlined in its letter dated January 28, 2014.	NextBridge has considered MNO's January 28, 2014 letter and incorporated MNO's comments into the proposed ToR.
MNO 45	9.4.1 Community Identification The MNO was identified by the Ministry of Energy in May 2011 and Proponent was designated in the Summer of 2013, however, MNO has only recently been engaged by the Proponent for consultation on the Project. This significant gap in community identification and consultation execution has led to a lack of MNO involvement and input in the preliminary guiding documents for the execution of the EA. The Proponent acknowledges that "at law ...it is ultimately the Crown's responsibility to assess the adequacy of consultation of rights-based impacts". It is therefore imperative to require the collection of information in sufficient detail and scope to facilitate identification of effects to rights in EA process.	Comment noted. This information will be incorporated into the EA.
MNO 46	9.4.2 Proposed Approach to Aboriginal Consultation and Participation The MNO requires Project specific traditional knowledge and land use be collected for this Project. The statement that "...traditional knowledge that has been mapped or collected by the community..." unduly restricts baseline conditions. Existing information will not accurately reflect the level of use or importance of the Project area to MNO citizens. Much of the previously collect information available to MNO was documented in relation to other projects with a focus on their specific study areas. We recommend collection of current baseline info for all VECs.	Comment noted; no change required. Please refer to Section 9.4.3, which states that "NextBridge will work with First Nation and Métis communities to help define the process to identify, collect and evaluate existing...and potentially develop additional TEK/TLU information related to the Project area."
MNO 47	9.4.3 Use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Information This section should be expanded to provide clearer direction on how the collected information will be incorporated into the effects assessment of the EA. This description restricts info collection to TLU/TEK only; baseline info on other socio-economic components may be necessary depending on finalization of VECs. Additional clarity is require on the Proponents criteria for "...timely, appropriate and cost effective manner..." of data collection.	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.

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MNO 48	<p>9.4.4 Aboriginal Engagement Tools</p> <p>Staff and community meetings are an inappropriate forum to understand "...whether, and if so, to what extent,..." there are Project impacts on their own. As the Project may potentially cause impacts to rights and interests, including traditional land uses, harvesting patterns, customs, practices and traditions, an effects assessment must occur. This must be completed through inclusion of Métis species, activities and receptors in the larger assessment where assessment methodology can be applied to identify any effects. Following this identification, staff and community meetings can be used to collaboratively develop mitigation measures appropriate to both parties and ensure the scope of any identified effect is properly understood. Public open houses are inappropriate tools for Aboriginal consultation.</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. In addition to Section 9.4 there are numerous references throughout the ToR relating to how Aboriginal peoples will be consulted. Additional clarification has been added to section 9.4.4 regarding Aboriginal participation in public open houses.</p>
MNO 49	<p>9.4.5 Consultation and Capacity Funding Agreements for Aboriginal Communities</p> <p>The simplistic description in this section of reaching agreement (following one introductory meeting) on consultation and capacity is misleading. To date, MNO success of reaching agreement with the Proponent is limited. The terms of "consultation" and "capacity" are ill-defined. As consultation on this Project will conclude with the approval of the Project, projecting consultation activities following approval is misleading. The monthly report submitted thus far did not contain sufficient back-up documentation (including meeting minutes) as described. Finally, "benefits agreements" are narrowly defined.</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required.</p>
MNO 50	<p>9.4.6 Aboriginal Advisory Board</p> <p>This is an inappropriate mechanism to include in a description of an Aboriginal consultation program. The individuals identified to participate in the board do not represent collective Métis interests and do not speak on behalf of MNO citizens. We cannot stress how inappropriate this mechanism is, as described.</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required.</p>
MNO 51	<p>9.5 Documentation and Issues Resolution Strategy</p> <p>MNO should request a monthly report outlining consultation efforts, including back-up documentation to check for inaccuracies.</p>	<p>Comment noted; no change required. NextBridge can accommodate this request.</p>

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MNO 52	Appendix D: Preliminary List of Criteria and Indicators We strongly suggest the development of (following provision of sufficient capacity to MNO) detailed information on criteria and indicators specific to MNO Aboriginal rights and interests for inclusion in the Preliminary List of Criteria and Indicators listed in Appendix D. These components should then be considered, included and assessed by the Proponent. Until that time, a 'placeholder' should be included in this table to indicate that Métis-specific VECs will be selected and submitted prior to finalization of the ToR.	Comment noted. In Appendix D, traditional land and resource uses (including First Nation and Métis communities) are identified as criteria. NextBridge intends to mutually develop indicators and criteria with Aboriginal communities during the EA process.
	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Joseph Muller, Heritage Planner, Letter Dated February 10, 2014 to Oliver Romaniuk, NextBridge	
MTCS 1	Archaeological Resources This Draft Terms of Reference states that a Stage 1 archaeological assessment (AA) will be conducted for this EA by an OHA licensed archaeologist and the AA report forwarded to MTCS for review. Thank-you for committing to this assessment: we will be notified by our Archaeology Programs Unit when the report has been received, although we would appreciate direct confirmation that it has been submitted.	Comment noted; no change required.
MTCS 2	Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes The MTCS Screening for Impacts to Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes checklist attached determines whether your EA project may impact these such cultural heritage resources: clerks for municipalities transected by your EA project can provide information on property registered or designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, while staff at the respective First Nations and Pukaskwa National Park can advise on any such resources within their portion of the proposed corridor. If your EA project may impact known or potential cultural heritage resources, preparation by a qualified heritage consultant of a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report will determine their cultural heritage value or interest, and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) address how any impacts by the project will be mitigated. The MTCS Info Sheet #5: Heritage Impact Assessments and Conservation Plans outlines the scope of HIAs. Please send completed HIAs to MTCS and affected parties for review, and make it available to local heritage organizations with an interest.	Comment noted. A definition of cultural heritage was included in the Glossary, which includes archaeological resources, built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes. Table 7 was also updated to reflect cultural heritage resources. This information will be incorporated into the EA.

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MTCS 3	Environmental Assessment Reporting HIA and AA reports and their recommendations are part of the EA project. The environmental study report should document and summarize any determinations that no cultural heritage resources are impacted and no technical studies are warranted as part of the EA process. MTCS is in no way liable if the information in the completed checklists is found to be inaccurate or incomplete.	Comment noted; no change required.
MTCS 4	P14 - Table 1 (MTCS) For Cultural Heritage Resources, our Ministry receives archaeological reports that meet the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologist, along with Heritage Impact Assessment reports. The Ontario Heritage Trust may also have properties affected by the proposed project, and Municipalities may issue heritage permits if properties designated under Parts IV or V of the Ontario Heritage Act are impacted.	Comment noted; no changes required.
MTCS 5	P26 - 5.2 Environmental Features and Socio-Economic Components The terms cultural heritage resources, comprising archaeology, built heritage, and cultural heritage landscapes, are formalized in provincial legislation, regulations, guidelines, and the Provincial Policy Statement (2005). For clarity, we suggest that this terminology is used.	Comment accepted; a definition of cultural heritage was included in the Glossary.
MTCS 6	P35 - 5.5 Socio-Economic Environment – 5.5.1 Provincial and Municipal Policy Release of the latest Provincial Policy Statement is impending and while the amendments to cultural heritage resources are relatively minor (Section 2.6), they warrant review.	Comment noted; no changes required.
MTCS 7	P36 - 5.5.3 Cultural and Heritage Resources As above for 5.2, the category titles of cultural heritage resources, or cultural heritage and archaeology, are established, and conforming to this terminology may help to maintain clarity. Please note that the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists stipulate that relevant Aboriginal groups are consulted, We recommend that a response protocol be developed with relevant Aboriginal groups to manage any accidental discovery of archaeological and/or human	Comment noted; no change required. Section 9 identifies that consultation with Aboriginal communities will form part of the consultation protocol during the EA. NextBridge has employed an archaeologist who will be contacting and working with the identified communities to ascertain if there are archaeological, built heritage and

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	remains. We also suggest that First Nations and Métis be consulted for information on any archaeological, built heritage and cultural heritage landscape resources in the study area.	cultural heritage landscape resources. This archaeologist will also develop plans based on individual community needs and traditions. NextBridge will develop a Project-specific protocol for managing the discovery of archaeological or human remains that adhere to existing Aboriginal and regulatory requirements.
MTCS 8	P37 - 5.5.4 Traditional Land and Resource Use We suggest mentioning in this section that First Nation and Métis groups can provide relevant traditional ecological knowledge.	Comment accepted; additional clarification provided in Section 5.5.4.
MTCS 9	P40 - Table 5 – Preliminary Potential Effects As discussed above, we recommend using the term cultural heritage resources as an umbrella term for archaeology, built heritage and cultural heritage landscapes (or alternatively, cultural heritage and archaeology). Given that the Human Health & Aesthetics section considers how the proposed work may alter the existing landscape and visual character of the area (including scenic values and viewpoints), we recommending making a clear distinction between such viewsheds and cultural heritage landscapes, or merging the two categories.	Comment accepted; change made.
MTCS 10	P43 - 6.3 Evaluation of Alternative Methods - Table 6: Preliminary General Routing Considerations We note (and concur with) the term cultural heritage resources used here, but as above advise that terms are used consistently. It would be useful to define these terms in the glossary to this Terms of Reference: documents such as the Provincial Policy Statement provide established definitions.	Comment accepted; definitions for built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscape from PPS are provided in the Glossary.
MTCS 11	P45 - 7.1 Potential Effects Assessment Table 7: Preliminary List of Environmental and Socio-Economic Features As noted above, we recommend consistency in the terminology used.	Comment accepted; definitions for built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscape from PPS are provided in the Glossary.
MTCS 12	P46 - 7.2 Mitigation Measures The Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists stipulate avoidance of site disturbance is the preferred alternative for mitigation in archaeology.	Comment noted; no change required.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
MTCS 13	<p>P55 - 9.4 Draft Aboriginal Engagement and Consultation Plan</p> <p>My colleague Amy Didrikson has already provided comments on the Aboriginal Consultation Plan submitted to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on January 22, 2014. Brett Smith at the Ministry of Energy (MoE) has also advised that Section 9.4 of this document and the OEB Aboriginal Consultation Plan should both be substantially the same, with which I concur. One other form of engagement may be the training and presence of First Nation and Métis staff for the archaeological work, and potentially the cultural heritage landscape assessment.</p>	<p>Comment accepted; additional information provided in Section 9.4.</p>
MTCS 14	<p>P67 - Glossary</p> <p>We suggest adding the terms for cultural heritage resources in this document to the glossary.</p>	<p>Comment accepted; definitions for built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscape from PPS are provided in the Glossary.</p>
MTCS 15	<p>PD-4 - Appendix D: Preliminary List of Criteria and Indicators</p> <p>As noted above, we recommend consistency in the terminology used, and note that this is the first mention of cemeteries in the document. Please clarify whether this refers to land use or archaeology. We also note reference to heritage districts for the first time in the document, and suggest it be incorporated in the cultural heritage resource field, as it is not a land-use per se.</p> <p>Visual landscape may also fall under the cultural heritage resource rubric, as this discipline has developed standards for their evaluation.</p>	<p>Comment accepted; reference to cemeteries and heritage districts have been removed from Appendix D as these terms are more detailed than necessary. These land uses and areas will be identified through the EA. Visual landscapes will also be addressed through the EA.</p>
MTCS 16	<p>Appendix E: Details of Aboriginal Consultation and Capacity Funding Agreements and Principles of Consultation</p> <p>As above for Section 9.4, I am deferring to my colleague's comments on the Aboriginal Consultation Plan submitted to the OEB, and MoE's observations that the OEB document should be substantially the same as this one.</p>	<p>Comment accepted; Section 9 has been updated.</p>
MTCS 17	<p>Additional Note</p> <p>The potential downstream effects of this corridor's construction on cultural heritage resources and others may be considered, as it will provide a route to areas of the interior not otherwise readily accessible, whether its use is permitted or not.</p>	<p>Comment noted; the corridor will be constructed primarily in parallel with the existing transmission line and/or other existing linear corridors. Access will be addressed through the EA.</p>



	Comment Received	Response Provided
	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, James Antler, Policy Advisor, Northern Policy and Planning Unit, Email Dated February 7, 2014 to Carrie Wiklund, NextBridge	
MTCS 18	Comment: Thank you for the notice relating to the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the above project. For your information Gerry Webber has recently retired from the Ontario Public Service so please direct future correspondence/emails on the project directly to me (note my contact information below).	Comment noted; no change required. The contact list has been updated accordingly.
MTCS 19	On behalf of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's Northern Policy and Planning Unit (Tourism), I am pleased to provide the following comments on the draft ToR. For your information, our Unit's main function is to provide strategic tourism policy and planning expertise to industry, other ministries and other levels of government as it relates to Northern Ontario. We also promote activities that protect, diversify and enhance tourism industry interests on patented/Crown lands and waters in the north. As such, our comments on the draft ToR relay a tourism perspective. The Culture side of our Ministry would be responsible to provide comments on the document relating to their mandate.	Comment noted; no change required.
MTCS 20	In general, we are satisfied with the draft ToR. We appreciate that tourism is directly referenced as an important economic contributor and stakeholder in the project area in Section 5.5.6 on page 38 and in Section 5.5.7 on pages 38-39. Furthermore, Table 5 on page 40 identifies that disruption to, or displacement of, local businesses (including tourism) are a potential effect of the project. In addition, the preliminary list of criteria and indicators in Appendix D (page D-3) recognize commercial activities as a criteria and the type of enterprise (e.g. tourism) as an indicator.	Comment noted; no change required.
MTCS 21	One of the key considerations for our Unit in the environmental assessment process is that interested and/or potentially impacted tourism businesses have a variety of opportunities to become aware of planned projects, express comments/concerns and have them addressed. Aside from incorporating the usual consultation techniques in EA's (e.g. open houses, websites, mailing lists,) we acknowledge that NextBridge is making land agents available to meet with individual landowners/tenants to help address property-specific concerns (Section 9.3.8, page 54). While we do not know if any tourism businesses may	Comment noted; no change required.



	Comment Received	Response Provided
	be directly impacted in such a fashion, making such unique resources available is a positive step. We also acknowledge that meetings and presentations with "other stakeholders", beyond elected, municipal, provincial and federal officials, will be entertained (Section 9.3.9, page 54).	
MTCS 22	We appreciate that a socio-economic impact assessment will be completed as outlined in Section 5.5 (page 35). To assist in that effort, we can provide a regional tourism profile for the Thunder Bay District (Census Division 58). A small component of the project area will be in the Algoma District (Census Division 57) and we can provide information for that area as well if desired. A large majority of the Algoma District, however, is outside of the project area. Please advise if, and when, NextBridge would like such information.	Comment noted; no change required.
MTCS 23	Section 5.5.7 (pages 38-39) identifies that there are several resource-based tourism outfitters in the area of the proposed project as well as national and provincial parks. It also states that the EA will document and assess potential effects to existing "recreational areas" in the study area. Does this mean that potential effects to tourism businesses will be considered as part of "recreational areas"? Or will they be assessed separately?	Comment accepted; potential effects to tourism businesses will be considered as part of recreational activities identified in Table 5.
MTCS 24	Section 9.3.1 (pages 51-52) indicates that NextBridge has identified stakeholders who may be affected by, or may be interested in, the Project. There are no details in the draft ToR about who those stakeholders may be. Given our interest from a tourism perspective, at what point in the process will tourism-related stakeholders be identified? Resource-based tourism operations (lodges, camps and outfitters) are of particular interest. Our Ministry can provide some information on resource-based tourism operations in the Wawa-Thunder Bay corridor if needed but our database is not geo-referenced. The Ministry of Natural Resources has information on the location of facilities that may be on Crown land, through Land Information Ontario, and may also be able to assist if needed.	Comment noted. Several tourism-related groups are currently on the contact list, which is included in the Record of Consultation. NextBridge will follow up with the contacts provided to update the mailing list.
MTCS 25	If not already identified, we suggest that Nature and Outdoor Tourism Ontario (NOTO) be added to the project stakeholder list so that they can be directly informed of the proposed project. Contact information for the association is below. NOTO 386 Algonquin Avenue	Comment noted. NOTO is currently on the contact list.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	North Bay, ON P1B 4W3 Attn: Laurie Marcil, Acting Executive Director Tel: 705-472-5552 Fax: 705-472-0621 Email: info@noto.net, laurie@noto.net Web: <a href="http://www.noto.ca">www.noto.ca</a>	
	Ministry of Energy, Jennifer Heneberry, Senior Advisor, First Nation and Métis Policy and Partnerships Office, Email Dated February 11, 2014 to Jennifer Tidmarsh, NextBridge	
Energy 1	Comment: "I am pleased to provide you with Ontario's comments on the Aboriginal Engagement and Consultation Plan section (9.4) of the Terms of Reference. These comments are being provided on behalf of the other ministries that have reviewed the document. I apologize in the delay in getting you these comments.	Comment noted.
Energy 2	The Ministry of Energy requests that NextBridge amend Section 9.4 to incorporate additional text from the Aboriginal Consultation Plan that was submitted to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on January 22, 2014. This will provide greater consistency and reduce confusion for audiences reading the two consultation plans.	Comment accepted; Section 9 has been updated.
Energy 3	The ministry recognizes that some information contained in the OEB Aboriginal Consultation Plan may not be required within the context of the Terms of Reference (ToR), either because the language is specific to the regulatory requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act or because information from the OEB report is already contained to a substantial extent in other sections of in the ToR. For example, the following sections from the OEB Aboriginal Consultation Plan do not need to be incorporated into Section 9.4: "The Duty to Consult and Accommodate" (page 4, OEB Aboriginal Consultation Plan), "Introduction" and "Project Background" (Pages 6-8, OEB Aboriginal Consultation Plan) and "Project Development and Key Regulatory Processes" (page 14, OEB Aboriginal Consultation Plan). However, other material and language used in the OEB Aboriginal Consultation Plan should be incorporated into the ToR wherever possible, and the language used should be consistent (e.g. using the phrase "mitigate and/or avoid" as in the OEB plan, rather than only "mitigate" as is currently in the ToR).	Comment accepted; Section 9 has been updated.
Energy 4	It would be helpful for NextBridge to make mention of the Consultation MOU with the Crown alongside the mention of the OEB Aboriginal Consultation Plan at the	Comment accepted; Section 9 has been updated.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	very beginning of section 9.4.	
Energy 5	The Ministry of Energy notes that the Ministry of the Environment has provided comments on the ToR under separate cover, and recognizes that some of their suggestions for changes to the text in other sections (e.g. 5.5.6 Cultural and Heritage Resources) may necessitate further adjustments to the language used in the Aboriginal Engagement and Consultation Plan section."	Comment accepted; Section 9 has been updated.
	Conservation Ontario, Samantha Dupre, Policy and Planning Officer, Email Dated January 14, 2014 to Carrie Wiklund, NextBridge	
CO 1	Conservation Ontario was circulated on the below project, as the association of Conservation Authorities Conservation Ontario refers projects to the relevant local Conservation Authority. This project is being proposed in the jurisdiction of Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, so I have copied the appropriate contact there on this email. Therefore, Conservation Ontario should not need to be circulated on this further. Please conduct further follow up with Lakehead Conservation Authority directly.	Comment noted; no change required. Conservation Ontario has been removed from the contact list.
	Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Tony Scarr, Manager Technical Services Unit, Mining Lands Section, Email Dated February 10, 2014 to Carrie Wiklund, NextBridge	
MNDM 1	Comment: Please note that the proposal may impact certain pre-existing mining interests and certain mining land rights governed by the Mining Act. There are 133 pre-existing unpatented mining claims which the proposed routes may cross. The consent of the claim holders or an Order of the Mining Recorder or Commissioner under Section 51 (2) of The Mining Act is required before a disposition for a transmission corridor can proceed over the pre-existing mining claims.	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA and appropriate permits will be sought.
MNDM 2	There are also 310 other mining land dispositions that exist along the proposed routes which are; 21 Mining Leases for Surface and Mining Rights 3 Mining Leases for Surface Rights Only 75 Free Hold Patents for Mining and Surface Rights 74 Free Hold Patents for Surface rights Only 2 Licences of Occupation for Mining and Surface Rights	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA.
MNDM 3	Please note that the leasehold interest grant exclusive control of the land for mining purposes only and likely the licences of occupation create a first right to the land for mining purposes only. The lessee or licensee, while having exclusive rights to the property, the right are held for mining purpose only. The lessee or	Comment noted; no change required. This information will be incorporated into the EA and appropriate permits will be sought.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	licensee cannot consent to or authorize any other purpose or use of the lands. As such the current rights holder must be willing and be prepared to surrender certain rights to the Crown, which may then be re-disposed of to another interest (NextBridge) for a transmission corridor.	
MNDM 4	Freehold patent lands are entirely private property and the land owner has full ownership and control of those properties.	Comment noted; no change required.
MNDM 5	Certain mining lands may be subject to closure plans under the Mining Act as well as the associated mine rehabilitation regulations.	Comment noted; no change required.
MNDM 6	The proponent must be cognizant of the pre-existing mining lands and rights therein and must address all mining stakeholders' interests along the proposed corridor.	Comment noted; no change required.
MNDM 7	In addition, this Ministry is reviewing a request by the Ministry of Natural Resources to withdraw the surface rights in Crown Lands along the proposed corridor, to ensure the surface rights remain available should the proposal proceed through to a disposition of Crown Land by the Ministry of Natural Resources.	Comment noted; no change required.
MNDM 8	If you require further information, please contact Jennifer Paetz, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, MNDM.	Comment noted; no change required.
	Red Sky Métis Independent Nation, Susan Blekkenhorst, Consultation Coordinator, Letter Dated February 10, 2014 to info@nextbridge.ca	
Red Sky 1	Comment: Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Draft Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference for the proposed East-West Tie Transmission Project. At this time, Red Sky Métis Independent Nation does not have any additional input to provide. We look forward to reviewing the Environmental Assessment once it is prepared.	Comment noted; no change required.
	Byron LeClair, Director of Energy Projects, Pic River First Nation Chief Duncan Michano, Pic River First Nation Email Dated January 13, 2014 to Jennifer Tidmarsh, NextBridge	
Pic River 1	Comment: Chief Michano forwarded me your email concerning the draft terms of reference for environmental assessment work being proposed for the East West Tie Transmission Project. We ask that you forward this response to your contact at the Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Environment. On all future communications with Pic River, please include me in	NextBridge has passed along these comments to both the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Environment.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	<p>your correspondence. I have attached a confirming BCR appointing me as the prime contact for this project.</p> <p>Please note that this response is without prejudice to the Rights and Claims of the Pic River First Nation.</p> <p>I would like to begin by thanking you for your email regarding the draft terms of reference prepared by NextBridge for the Environmental Assessment for the East West Tie project. Please accept this as our response to this notice.</p>	
Pic River 2	<p>We have received the draft ToFR and are quite surprised to have received same. As you are no doubt aware from the OEB proceeding, the Pic River First Nation has in place a consultation protocol. This protocol requires our inclusion at the very outset to develop the process under which draft T of Reference could be discussed and developed. These draft Terms of Reference we received from you have been prepared without any input or review from the Pic River First Nation.</p> <p>This is especially concerning in that the ToR contemplate an environmental assessment for the development of a proposed 230 kv transmission line from Wawa, Ontario to Thunder Bay, Ontario. A vast tract of the project area will occupy the territory of the Pic River First Nation, territory that is subject to an Aboriginal title claim currently before the courts. As the exclusive rights bearing nation in this territory, we believe that the Crown's obligations to our community with respect to planning and decision making concerning resources and the obvious impacts of this development, requires the highest standard of engagement between the Crown and our community. As a result, Pic River wants to see direct government to government engagement. Thus far, no one from government has approached our community to discuss this project and to date, the draft ToR do not account for or contemplate this engagement. We wish to see direct government to government engagement in this project.</p>	<p>Comment noted; NextBridge has requested the consultation protocol from Pic River First Nation.</p> <p>Comment noted; direct government engagement is at the discretion of the Crown.</p>
Pic River 2	<p>Separate and apart from consultation, although directly related to it, we must address the matter of our economic participation in this project and NextBridge's commitment to the Aboriginal communities affected by this development. In their application, NextBridge committed to negotiating</p>	<p>Comment noted; it is NextBridge's goal to carry out meaningful consultation with the Pic River First Nation regarding the draft ToR pursuant to our delegated consultation obligations in a manner consistent with our MOU with the</p>

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	economic participation with affected First Nations prior to the submission of a leave to construct application.	provincial Crown.  While our consultation activities are ongoing we are also engaging in parallel discussions with Pic River regarding potential economic participation. However, NextBridge cannot delay its EA or delegated consultation duties until such time as definitive arrangements regarding participation is concluded.
Pic River 3	Further, NextBridge met representatives of five of the affected First Nations in December 2013 and committed itself to negotiate terms for a commercial partnership. The fulfillment of this commitment and the resulting partnership is foundational for Pic River. A strong, fair and equitable arrangement will set the stage for a respectful and longlasting relationship and will ensure each partner has the incentive to see this project succeed.	See above
Pic River 4	Once I these agreements are concluded, Pic River First Nation looks forward to designing a process to develop ToR which, among other things, will also accommodate the government to government engagement previously noted.	See above
	Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment, Michael Helfinger, Senior Policy Advisor, Cabinet Office Liaison and Policy Support Analysis, Letter Dated January 22, 2014 to Carrie Wiklund, NextBridge	
MEDTE 1	Comment: We do not possess the expertise to comment on the technical details of the document. However, as a general principle, MEDTE recognizes the fundamental importance of reliable access to base load electricity generating capacity to investment attraction and retention and, consequently, to creating and keeping jobs. It is our assessment that the proposed undertaking would provide significant support to economic development in Northwestern Ontario. It is also our understanding that the project, if completed, could provide a building block for a Canadian East-West electrical grid, which would secure Ontario industrial/commercial and household customers more firmly to power supplies from Western Canada and Quebec, complementing existing linkages to the Northeastern and Midwestern US. This could help insulate Ontario from major electricity system disruptions such as the 2003 blackout, and	Comment accepted; additional information included in Section 1.2.

	Comment Received	Response Provided
	improve the industry confidence in the province's power infrastructure. We might suggest making reference to this as part of the need/economic rationale for the project in the final Terms of Reference as well as the Environmental Assessment. For the reasons outlined above, NextBridge Infrastructure may look forward to MEDTE's continued support for the project.	
	PUBLIC	
	Routing	
Public 1	The Township of Dorion already has many infrastructure corridors (transmission lines, highways, active and inactive railways, and a pipeline. This transmission line would be in addition to those present in a community that is trying to grow as a tourist destination. We request that route that bypasses the Township of Dorion be considered.	
	Consultation Program	
Public 2	<p>Concerned that the information available on the Project to date indicates a bias to locate the transmission line adjacent to the existing line in the Township of Dorion and the Terms of Reference do not provide adequate opportunity or support to reasonably consult on personal property interests.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference does, however, provide accommodation and resource support for other parties similarly affected by the proposed transmission line.</p> <p>As a result, the consultation process appears discriminatory as outlined in the Terms of Reference and we would like this matter addressed before we can support the consultation process.</p>	Comment noted; no change required.



## 5. RESULTS OF FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS DISCUSSIONS

Formal consultation has not yet commenced with First Nation and Métis communities. Memoranda of Understanding and other kinds of agreements must first be in place before consultation can begin. Discussions have been initiated and are ongoing with the 18 First Nations and Métis, as well as with the Métis Nation of Ontario. A summary of these discussions is presented below.

Table 5-1: Comments from Initial Contact with First Nations and Métis

Community	Comments from Initial Contact
<b>First Nations</b>	
Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation (Lake Nipigon Ojibway)	Materials presented along with an introduction of the Project to leadership. AZA would like to have further discussion on the Project and the Chief will ask Council how they would like consultation to proceed. The community will follow up in Q1 2014
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation (Rocky Bay)	Materials presented to Lands and Resources Director along with an introduction of the Project to leadership. Lands and Resources Director indicated that the First Nation has a draft protocol that they would like to use as a basis for discussion on the Project.
Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation)	Materials presented to Economic Development Officer along with an introduction to the Project. Materials were forwarded to Consultation Coordinator and meeting scheduled with Chief and Council at the end of February 2014 to discuss the Project.
Fort William First Nation	Meeting with leadership held to inform about Project. Existing consultation protocol is being submitted to NextBridge and a meeting is being scheduled with Chief and Council at the end of February 2014 to discuss the Project.
Ginoogaming First Nation	Materials forwarded to Economic Development Officer and Consultation Coordinator. Meeting to be set with leadership in Q1 2014.
Long Lake No. 58 First Nation	Meeting with Consultation Coordinator and Band Manager held. Existing protocol submitted to NextBridge. Meeting with leadership scheduled at the end of February 2014 to discuss the Project..
Michipicoten First Nation	Initial discussions held with Chief. Meetings to discuss economic participation underway. Community consultation to be held with the permission of leadership in Q1 2014.
Missanabie Cree First Nation	Discussion held with Chief, Council and Elders to present Project, the proponent, and be informed of their protocol. Mapping information will be mutually shared in Q1 2014.
Ojibways of Batchewana	Initial discussion was held with the Chief and the Director of Renewable Energy-Transmission in regard to setting up a meeting to discuss consultation protocol. Plans are to have one or two meetings to discuss how the consultation will work, and present to Council in Q1 2014.
Ojibways of Garden River	Initial discussions held with staff. Initial meeting to present Project, the proponent, and be informed of their protocol held at the beginning of February 2014 with the Supervisor of Capacity Development. A summary

Community	Comments from Initial Contact
	document of Garden Rivers' Consultation and Accommodation policy was provided.
Ojibways of Pic River (Heron Bay First Nation)	Initial conversation held with Chief. Meetings to discuss economic participation underway. Community consultation to be held with the permission of leadership in Q1 2014
Pays Plat First Nation	Initial conversation held with Chief. Meetings to discuss economic participation underway. Community consultation to be held with the permission of leadership in Q1 2014
Pic Mobert First Nation	Initial conversation held with Chief. Meetings to discuss economic participation underway. Community consultation to be held with the permission of leadership in Q1 2014
Red Rock Indian Band	Initial conversation held with Chief. Meetings to discuss economic participation underway. Community consultation to be held with the permission of leadership in Q1 2014
<b>Métis</b>	
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)	NextBridge is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the MNO. It will encompass consultation with Greenstone Métis Council, Superior North Shore Métis Council and Thunder Bay Métis Council. Interim capacity agreement signed to assist with discussions. Meeting held with leadership and members of communities to discuss EA and traditional knowledge.
Greenstone Métis Council	See above
Superior North Shore Métis Council	See above
Thunder Bay Métis Council	See above
Red Sky Independent Métis Nation	Meeting held with Executive Director and community staff to present Project and be informed of range of traditional territory. Staff will provide information to community members and investigate possible impacts to traditional territory. Follow up meeting in Q1 2014 with community.

## 6. REFERENCES AND WORKS CITED

Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), 2012. Regulations Amending the Regulations Designating Physical Activities. Government of Canada. Accessed from: <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2013/2013-11-06/html/sor-dors186-eng.php> (November 26, 2013).

MOE. 2009. Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments on Ontario. Ministry of the Environment.

OPA. 2013. Ontario Power Authority (OPA), Updated Assessment of the Rationale for the East-West Tie Expansion, October 8, 2013.