

Aboriginal Engagement

NextBridge continues to engage and consult with the 18 First Nation and Métis communities identified by the Crown. Activities relate to supporting the Environmental Assessment process and the delegated Duty to Consult, which includes participation in community meetings to provide project information and gathering traditional land use data. Along with engagement on consultation, NextBridge continues discussions with Aboriginal communities on potential commercial participation in the project.

Land and Property

NextBridge will engage landowners in an open and respectful manner, with a commitment to timely, meaningful and transparent dialogue as it relates to property owner compensation. The land acquisition process for the East-West Tie Project and the land compensation being offered will be coordinated in an equitable and consistent manner. These principles will be provided to directly affected landowners and be available at the upcoming Open Houses.

The initiation of the land acquisition process will begin in September 2014. NextBridge Land Agents will be contacting affected property owners to discuss the Compensation Principles and provide a formal offer of Compensation and Option Agreement for the project. NextBridge is committed to building and maintaining respectful relationships with landowners, municipalities and communities engaged in, and affected by its projects. It is NextBridge’s preference to come to mutually acceptable arrangements with affected property owners. Our approach and principles will support and facilitate timely resolution and fair settlement.

Getting Involved

We would like to thank you for your ongoing participation in our consultation program for this project. Your input is important to us. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you require further information regarding this project, please contact:

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Project Hotline: 1-888-767-3006

PAST & ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

PAST	
2010	Government of Ontario identifies the project as a Priority Project
2011	Minister of Energy asks the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to undertake a designation process to select a transmitter to develop the project
2012	OEB directs bidders to the reference corridor and a proposed in-service date
Aug 2013	NextBridge selected as the designated transmitter to complete development work related to the project
Nov 2013	Notice of Commencement of Terms of Reference (TOR)
Dec 2013	Open Houses Round One
Feb 2014	Submission of TOR

CURRENT AND UPCOMING	
Jul/Aug 2014	Anticipated TOR Approval and Environmental Assessment (EA) Commencement
Aug 2014	Open Houses Round Two
Sept 2014	Open Houses Round Three
Jan 2015	Submission of EA
Jan 2015	Submit Leave to Construct Application to OEB
Dec 2015	Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Decision on EA

Additional Resources

We encourage you to become as informed as possible about this project. Please visit the web sites below for additional information about energy and environmental decision making in Ontario and about the new East-West Tie.

- Ontario Energy Board
www.ontarioenergyboard.ca
- Ontario Power Authority
www.powerauthority.on.ca
- Independent Electricity System Operator
www.ieso.ca
- Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
www.ene.gov.on.ca
- Ministry of Energy
www.energy.gov.on.ca

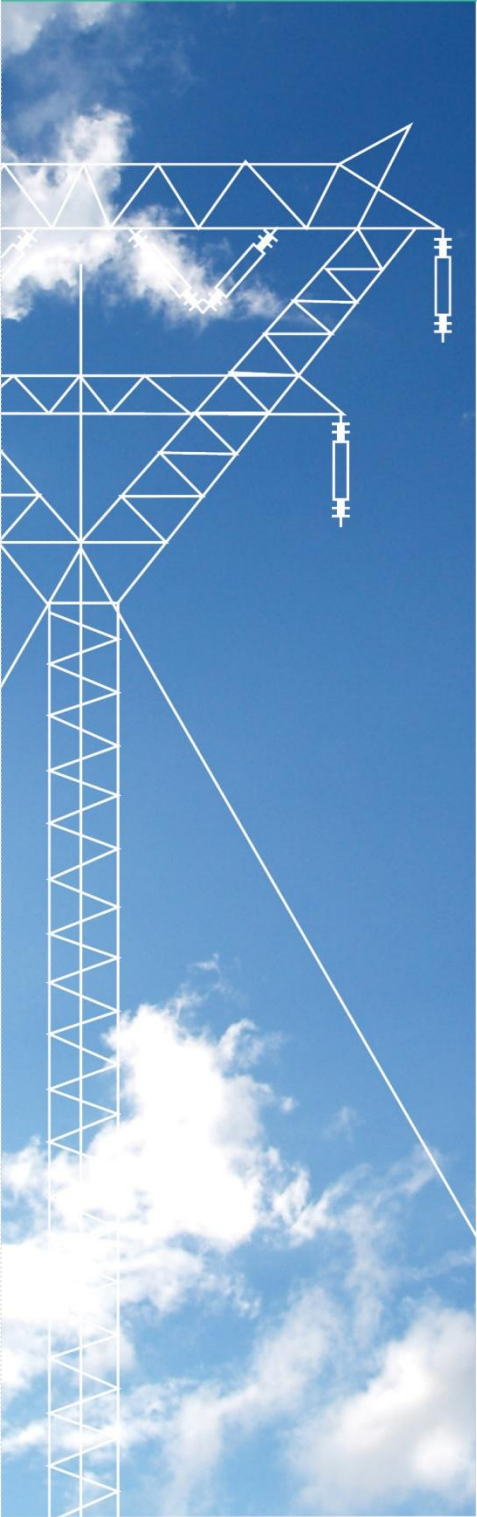
For more information on the new East-West Tie visit www.nextbridge.ca

If you received this newsletter directly from NextBridge you are on our contact list for this project and we will continue sending you project information.

Newsletter
EAST-WEST TIE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Issue 2 - July 2014

Connecting Ontario’s Northwest



Project Update

After considerable study and engagement, the Terms of Reference for the East-West Tie Project Environmental Assessment was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change on February 28, 2014. Approval of the Terms of Reference is anticipated in the summer of 2014. In anticipation of this approval, field studies have begun, and NextBridge has developed compensation principles for potentially affected landowners.

Please take the time to review this newsletter and consider attending one of the Open Houses scheduled in August. NextBridge representatives are always happy to discuss the project, so get in touch with us through any of the contact methods listed on the back of this newsletter. The more we can learn from you, the better the project will be.

Project Summary

The new East-West Tie is an approximately 430 km double-circuit 230 kV transmission line from the Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) in Shuniah to the Wawa TS with a connection approximately mid-way at the Marathon TS.

The project is required to ensure the long-term reliability of the electricity supply in northwestern Ontario. 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 to the electricity supply in the area, the Ontario Power Authority has identified supply needs for the northwest, which can be met with additional transmission or generation. The OPA analyzed these alternatives and recommended expansion of the East-West Tie based on technical, economic and other considerations. The East-West Tie was included as a priority project in the Government of Ontario’s 2010 Long Term Energy Plan. The target in-service date is the first half of 2018.

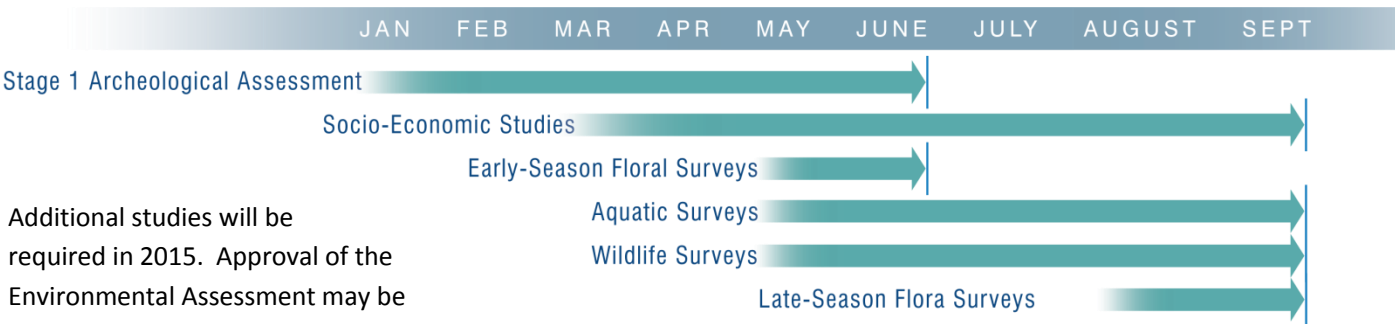
- For more information, please visit www.nextbridge.ca.



What We're Studying

Studies for the Environmental Assessment began early this year and will continue throughout 2014.

2014 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDIES



Additional studies will be required in 2015. Approval of the Environmental Assessment may be conditional upon the completion of these studies.

Field crews may be in your area conducting studies. They will not access your property without prior notice.

Route Selection Process

A Reference Route that generally parallels the existing East-West Tie was presented to you during the Terms of Reference. Valuable feedback from you led to the identification of alternatives to the Reference Route. These proposed alternatives have been evaluated over the past several months based on natural environment, socio-economic and technical criteria. This evaluation resulted in a refined list of potential routes. The routes currently under consideration are illustrated on the map above.

For most of the line, a single route parallel to and on the north side of the existing East-West Tie and north of an existing 115 kV transmission line (from Marathon to White River) is being further assessed.

Two or more routes are currently under assessment in four areas – in the Township of Dorion, in and around the First Nation communities of Pays Plat and Michipicoten, and from White River south to the existing East-West Tie. Although multiple alternatives are currently being assessed, only one preferred route will be identified through the Environmental Assessment and proposed for the East-West Tie.

We are eager to hear what you have to say about the evaluation process that led to these routes and any information you have to share about locations where there is more than one route currently under assessment.

Opportunities for Public Input

The second round of Open Houses is scheduled from August 18 to 23. We received a tremendous amount of useful information at our first round of Open Houses last December and hope that you are able to attend one of our August events. If you attend, you'll get to speak directly to NextBridge staff about the project and share your thoughts on the following topics:

- Environmental Assessment and Leave to Construct processes;
- Studies taking place during the Environmental Assessment;
- Routing considerations and decisions to date;
- Land and property matters; and,
- Next steps in the Environmental Assessment process.

All Open Houses, with the exception of the Wawa Open House, will take place from 4pm to 8pm. The Wawa Open House will take place from 10am to 2pm.

- THUNDER BAY – August 18:** Current River Community Centre
- DORION – August 19:** Dorion Community Centre
- SCHREIBER – August 20:** Schreiber Recreation Centre
- MARATHON – August 21:** Marathon Centre Mall (Scotia Bank Entrance)
- WHITE RIVER – August 22:** Royal Canadian Legion Branch
- WAWA – August 23:** Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre

Information presented at the Open Houses will be available on the project web site at www.nextbridge.ca.

Required Approvals

NextBridge must receive Environmental Assessment approval from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Leave to Construct approval from the Ontario Energy Board, and several other approvals before construction can begin.

LEAVE TO CONSTRUCT

The Leave to Construct application to the Ontario Energy Board is being completed in parallel with the Environmental Assessment. When the Ontario Energy Board receives a Leave to Construct application, it reviews the material, make the information public and provides an opportunity for interested parties, including First Nations and Métis communities, to provide input.

In carrying out its mandate, the Ontario Energy Board considers the impacts that the project may have on consumers with respect to prices, as well as matters that concern the reliability and quality of electricity service. The Ontario Energy Board will approve projects they consider to be in the public interest.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Terms of Reference was prepared late in 2013 and early 2014. During its preparation, consultation and engagement activities solicited input on the project and the Terms of Reference. One round of Open Houses was held in early December 2013 and a Draft Terms of Reference was released for public review and input.

Your input was considered and changes were made to the Terms of Reference to address your concerns.

The proposed Terms of Reference was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change on February 28, 2014. It was subsequently revised in response to stakeholder comments and re-submitted on May 22, 2014. Approval of the Terms of Reference is anticipated in the summer of 2014. NextBridge has initiated the Environmental Assessment as outlined in the Terms of Reference.