

Appendix C:
Newsletters, Fact Sheets, and Frequently Asked Questions

Consultation entre les parties intéressées

Nous encourageons les membres de la collectivité, le public, les propriétaires fonciers, les groupes de parties intéressées, les agences gouvernementales et les autres personnes intéressées à participer au processus de planification du projet.

Présentement, NextBridge se concentre principalement sur deux secteurs clés, soit la sélection de l'itinéraire et l'élaboration du cadre de référence. Des rencontres seront organisées pour divers groupes et personnes intéressés tout au long de l'itinéraire désigné. De plus, des journées portes ouvertes auront lieu pendant la totalité du processus de planification.

La première ronde de journées portes ouvertes se tiendra aux endroits suivants, de 16 à 20 h :

THUNDER BAY – 2 décembre

Centre communautaire Current River

NIPIGON – 3 décembre

Légion de Nipigon Filiale no 32

MARATHON – 4 décembre

École secondaire de Marathon

WAWA – 5 décembre

Centre communautaire Michipicoten Memorial

Les renseignements fournis lors des journées portes ouvertes seront également mis à votre disposition sur le site Web du projet au www.nextbridge.ca.

Consultation entre les Premières Nations et les Métis

Un processus de consultation spécialisée a été mis en place pour les collectivités des Premières Nations et de Métis situées à proximité de l'itinéraire prévu par le projet. Les membres de ces collectivités sont également les bienvenus aux journées portes ouvertes mentionnées ci-dessus.

S'impliquer

Nous aimerais vous remercier de votre participation continue à notre programme de consultation pour ce projet. Vos commentaires nous tiennent à cœur. Si vous avez des questions ou des préoccupations ou si vous souhaitez obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur ce projet, veuillez prendre contact avec :

Oliver Romaniuk, chargé de projet

NextBridge Infrastructure

390, rue Bay, bureau 1720

Toronto (Ontario) M5H 2Y2

Courriel : info@nextbridge.ca

Télécopieur : 416 364-2533

Ligne directe pour le projet : 1 888 767-3006

ÉCHÉANCIER ACTUEL DU PROJET

PASSÉ

2010	Le gouvernement de l'Ontario désigne ce projet comme étant prioritaire
2011	Le ministère de l'Énergie somme la Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario d'entreprendre un processus de désignation pour sélectionner un système de transport dans le but de mettre en œuvre le projet
2012	La Commission informe les soumissionnaires de l'itinéraire de référence et d'une date de mise en service proposée.
Aug 2013	NextBridge est choisi comme entreprise de système de transport désignée pour réaliser les travaux préparatoires relatifs au projet.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING

Nov 2013	Avis d'établissement du cadre de référence
Dec 2013	Journées portes ouvertes, première série
Feb 2014	Soumission du cadre de référence
July 2014	Approbation anticipée du cadre de référence et début de l'évaluation environnementale
July 2014	Journées portes ouvertes, deuxième série
Oct 2014	Journées portes ouvertes, troisième série
Jan 2015	Soumission des résultats de l'évaluation environnementale au ministère de l'Environnement
Jan 2015	Présentation de la demande d'autorisation de construction à la Commission
Dec 2015	Le ministère de l'Environnement se prononce sur l'évaluation environnementale

Ressources supplémentaires

Nous vous encourageons à vous renseigner le plus possible à propos de ce projet. Veuillez vous rendre sur les sites Web ci-dessous pour obtenir des renseignements supplémentaires concernant la nouvelle ligne Est-Ouest ainsi que la prise de décision relative à l'énergie et à l'environnement en Ontario.

Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario

www.ontarioenergyboard.ca

Office de l'électricité de l'Ontario

www.powerauthority.on.ca

Société indépendante d'exploitation du réseau d'électricité

www.ieso.ca

Ministère de l'Environnement

www.ene.gov.on.ca

Ministère de l'Énergie

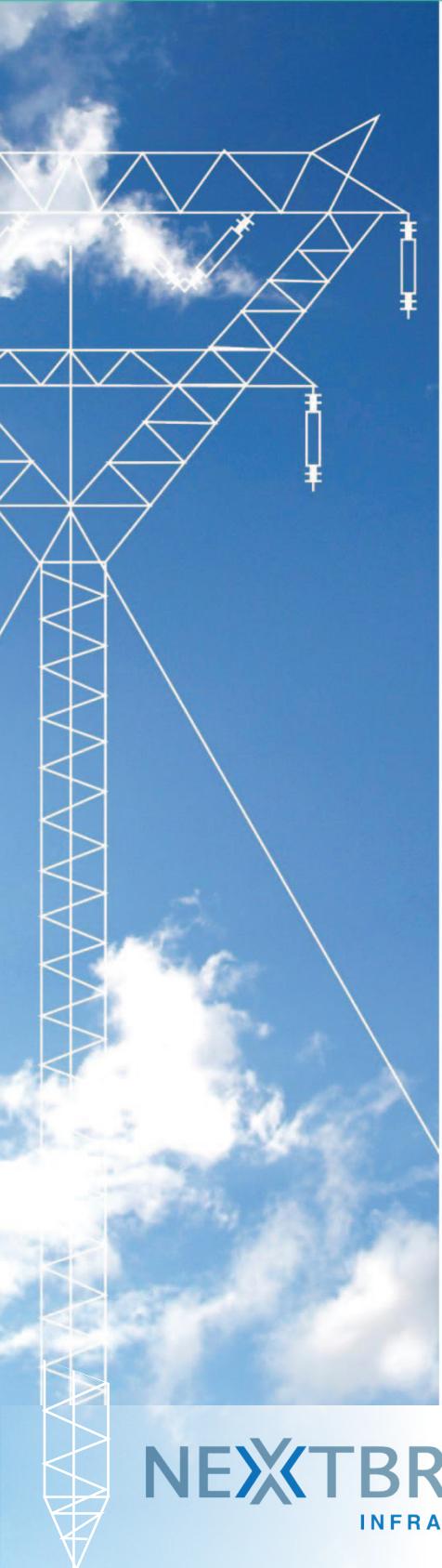
www.energy.gov.on.ca

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements à propos de la nouvelle ligne Est-Ouest, rendez-vous sur le www.nextbridge.ca.

Si vous avez reçu ce bulletin directement de NextBridge, cela signifie que vous êtes sur notre liste de contacts pour ce projet et que nous continuerons à vous envoyer des renseignements qui s'y rapportent.

Bulletin d'information PROJET DE TRANSMISSION SUR LA NOUVELLE LIGNE D'INTERCONNEXION EST-OUEST

Rendre le nord-ouest de l'Ontario plus accessible



NextBridge Infrastructure veut que le nord soit plus facilement accessible grâce à la nouvelle ligne de transport Est-Ouest

La nouvelle ligne Est-Ouest est un projet de transport de l'électricité prioritaire du gouvernement de l'Ontario. On s'attend à ce qu'elle soit, en général, comparable à la ligne de transport Est-Ouest existante entre Thunder Bay et Wawa, en Ontario.

NextBridge Infrastructure (NextBridge), promoteur du projet, s'engage à s'entretenir avec tous les membres des collectivités intéressées ainsi qu'avec toutes les parties intéressées de façon claire et respectueuse pendant la totalité du projet.

Il s'agit du premier de plusieurs bulletins d'informations qui seront distribués tout au long du projet. Nous vous invitons à examiner les renseignements contenus dans les présentes et à prendre contact avec nous si vous avez besoin de plus de renseignements, si vous avez des commentaires ou des questions, ou si vous détenez des informations qui seraient importantes dans le cadre de la planification du projet.

Nous espérons avoir de vos nouvelles bientôt et de vous rencontrer lors de l'une des journées portes ouvertes planifiées dans le cadre du projet.

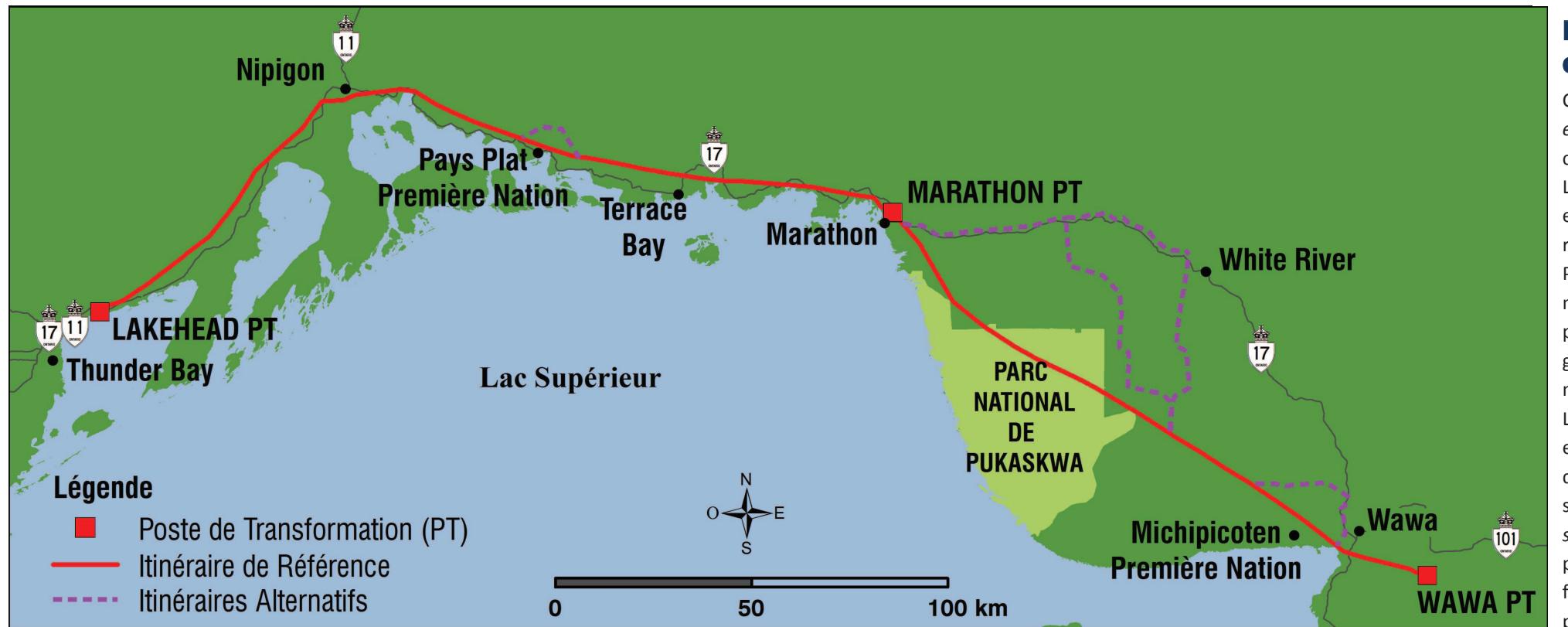
Qui nous sommes

NextBridge fait appel à l'expérience et aux ressources de trois chefs de file en matière d'infrastructures, soit NextEra Energy Canada, Enbridge Inc. et Borealis Infrastructure, dans le cadre de la planification de l'élaboration, du financement, de la construction, des activités et de l'entretien du projet. De plus, l'entreprise manifeste un intérêt bien fondé à titre de propriétaire-exploitant de la nouvelle ligne Est-Ouest, et ce, pour toute sa durée de vie utile. NextBridge s'engage à rehausser le niveau de concurrence et de rentabilité des services de transport d'électricité offerts aux contribuables ontariens.

En quoi consiste-t-il?

- Besoin d'approvisionnement dans le nord-ouest de l'Ontario
- Détails du projet
- Processus d'évaluation environnementale
- Autres approbations
- Servitude et accès à un bien-fonds
- Activités de consultation
- S'impliquer
- Échéancier actuel du projet
- Ressources supplémentaires

NEXTBRIDGE
INFRASTRUCTURE



Besoin d'approvisionnement dans le nord-ouest de l'Ontario

L'Office de l'électricité de l'Ontario, c'est-à-dire l'agence responsable de la planification à long terme en matière d'électricité dans la province, a recommandé la construction de la ligne Est-Ouest afin d'assurer la fiabilité à long terme de l'approvisionnement en électricité dans le nord-ouest de l'Ontario, et elle a précisé l'échéancier et la portée de ce projet.

On s'attend à ce que les activités industrielles qui ont lieu dans le nord-ouest de l'Ontario, en particulier dans le secteur minier, entraînent une importante croissance de la demande en électricité au cours des dix prochaines années. Associant cette croissance à une diminution de l'approvisionnement dans le secteur, l'Office prévoit un nouveau besoin en approvisionnement se chiffrant à environ 500 mégawatts dans le nord-ouest de l'Ontario d'ici 2018.

Les besoins en approvisionnement cernés peuvent être comblés grâce à la construction d'une ligne de transport supplémentaire ou à l'augmentation de la production. L'Office a étudié ces solutions et a recommandé l'expansion de la ligne Est-Ouest en se basant sur des critères techniques, économiques et autres.

Détails du projet

Le projet consistera en une ligne de transport à double circuit de 230 kilovolts d'une longueur approximative de 400 km qui, en général, sera comparable à la ligne de transport à double circuit de 230 kilovolts qui relie actuellement le poste de transformation de Wawa à celui de Lakehead, près de Thunder Bay. De nouvelles routes d'accès améliorées ainsi que des aires de travail et de dépôt de l'équipement seront nécessaires dans le cadre du projet. La date de mise en service prévue se situe dans le premier semestre de 2018.

Un itinéraire de référence a été désigné et des solutions de rechange pour éviter les événements potentiellement écosensibles ont été envisagées. NextBridge s'efforcera de choisir l'itinéraire qui entraînera globalement le moins de répercussions. Pour arrêter notre choix sur l'un des itinéraires, nous prendrons en considération les précieux commentaires émis par tous les membres des collectivités potentiellement touchées, les parties intéressées, les propriétaires fonciers, les locataires, et les collectivités des Premières Nations et des Métis qui sont situés le long des itinéraires proposés. Pendant le processus de sélection de l'itinéraire, nous tiendrons compte des facteurs tels que la chasse, les sentiers de piégeage, les activités de récolte, les sites de nidification des oiseaux, les voies d'eau, le tourisme, les activités agricoles, les caractéristiques écologiques et les répercussions sur les résidents et les entreprises. Il est important de noter que, bien que tous les itinéraires soient considérés comme étant viables à l'heure actuelle, une seule ligne de transport sera construite.

Le processus d'évaluation environnementale

Conformément à la *Loi sur les évaluations environnementales* de l'Ontario, NextBridge a établi le cadre de référence pour l'évaluation environnementale. Lors de celle-ci, NextBridge procédera à des études environnementales et rencontrera les agences, les représentants des collectivités, les collectivités des Premières Nations et des Métis ainsi que les membres du public afin de cerner les effets positifs et négatifs potentiels du projet sur les gens, les entreprises, l'économie et l'environnement naturel dans le secteur étudié.

La première étape du processus d'évaluation environnementale consiste en la préparation d'un cadre de référence. Celui-ci précise le plan de travail qui sera suivi par NextBridge pour respecter les exigences de la *Loi sur les évaluations environnementales*. S'il est approuvé par le ministre de l'Environnement, le cadre de référence fournira la structure requise pour la deuxième étape du processus, à savoir la préparation de l'évaluation environnementale.

Aperçu du processus d'évaluation environnementale



Autres approbations

Avant de procéder à la construction, les éléments suivants seront requis dans le cadre du projet :

- Autorisation de construction par la Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario;
- Permis délivrés par les agences provinciales, l'office de protection de la nature et les municipalités;
- Un examen ou des permis fédéraux pourraient être requis dans certains secteurs où des terrains fédéraux seraient touchés.

Servitude et accès à un bien-fonds

NextBridge aura besoin d'intérêts de servitude pour tenir compte de l'emprise permanente d'environ 56 mètres (184 pieds) requise pour l'installation de la nouvelle ligne. La majorité des activités seront contenues dans l'emprise permanente, mais il est possible qu'un espace de travail et un accès supplémentaires soient requis dans certains cas pour la construction.

Si votre terrain a été désigné comme étant potentiellement touché par le projet proposé, un représentant de NextBridge prendra contact avec vous au cours des prochaines semaines afin d'en discuter.

Afin d'évaluer correctement toutes les répercussions potentielles du projet, notre équipe devra mener des sondages, des études et, au besoin, avoir accès aux propriétés privées. Si nous devons avoir accès à un bien-fonds dans le cadre de nos études, nous discuterons avec les propriétaires fonciers concernés situés le long des itinéraires potentiels. Si nous devons avoir accès à votre propriété dans le cadre de l'étude, nous prendrons contact avec vous. Veuillez prendre note que nous n'accéderons à aucune propriété sans d'abord émettre un préavis.

C'est avec plaisir que nous discuterons du projet avec toute partie intéressée, et nous vous encourageons à prendre contact avec nous si vous avez des questions ou des préoccupations.

Stakeholder Consultation

Members of the community, public, landowners, stakeholder groups, government agencies, and other interested persons are encouraged to participate in the planning process. The two key areas that NextBridge is currently focusing on are route identification and the development of the Terms of Reference. Meetings will be held with various interested groups and persons along the proposed routes. In addition, Open Houses will be held throughout the planning process.

The first round of Open Houses will be held at following locations from 4pm to 8pm:

- **THUNDER BAY – December 2:** Current River Community Centre
- **NIPIGON – December 3:** Nipigon Legion Branch #32
- **MARATHON – December 4:** Marathon High School
- **WAWA – December 5:** Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre
- **WHITE RIVER – December 10:** Royal Canadian Legion Branch
- **TERRACE BAY – December 11:** Terrace Bay Cultural Centre

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

First Nations and Métis Consultation

A dedicated consultation process has been established for First Nation and Métis communities located in proximity to the project. Members of First Nations and Métis communities are also welcome to attend the Open Houses listed above.

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:

Oliver Romaniuk, Project Manager
NextBridge Infrastructure
390 Bay Street, Suite 1720
Toronto, ON M5H 2Y2
Email: info@nextbridge.ca
Fax: 416-364-2533
Project Hotline: 1-888-767-3006

CURRENT 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

CURRENT AND UPCOMING

Nov 2013	Notice of Commencement of Terms of Reference (TOR)
Dec 2013	Open Houses Round One
Feb 2014	Submission of TOR
July 2014	Anticipated TOR Approval and Environmental Assessment (EA) Commencement
July 2014	Open Houses Round Two
Oct 2014	Open Houses Round Three
Jan 2015	EA submission to Ministry of the Environment (MOE)
Jan 2015	Submit Leave to Construct Application to OEB
Dec 2015	MOE 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
www.ene.gov.on.ca
- Ministry of Energy
www.energy.gov.on.ca

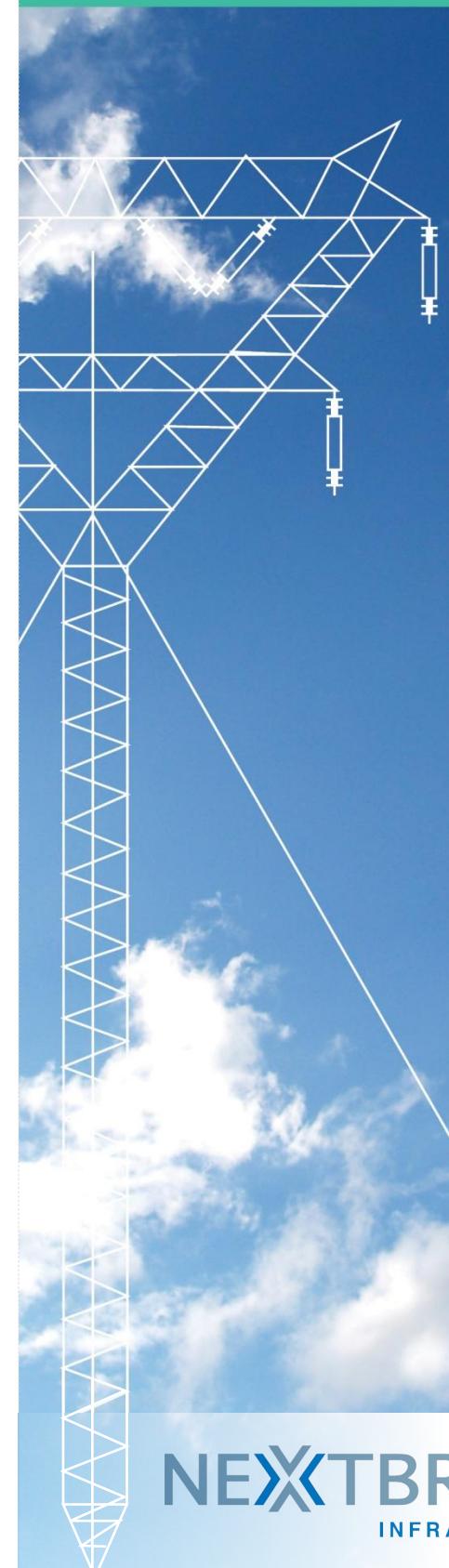
For more information on the new East-West Tie visit
www.nextbridge.ca

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

Connecting Ontario's Northwest



NextBridge Infrastructure wants to Connect the North with a New East-West Tie Transmission Line

The new East-West Tie was identified as a priority electric power transmission project by the Government of Ontario. The new line is anticipated to generally parallel the existing East-West Tie between Thunder Bay and Wawa, Ontario.

NextBridge Infrastructure (NextBridge), the proponent for the project, is committed to consulting with all interested community members and stakeholders in a clear and mutually respectful manner throughout the life of the project.

This is the first of several newsletters that will be distributed during the course of the project. We invite you to review the information contained within and contact us if you require further information, have comments or questions, or have information that is important for project planning.

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting you at one of the Open Houses planned for the project.

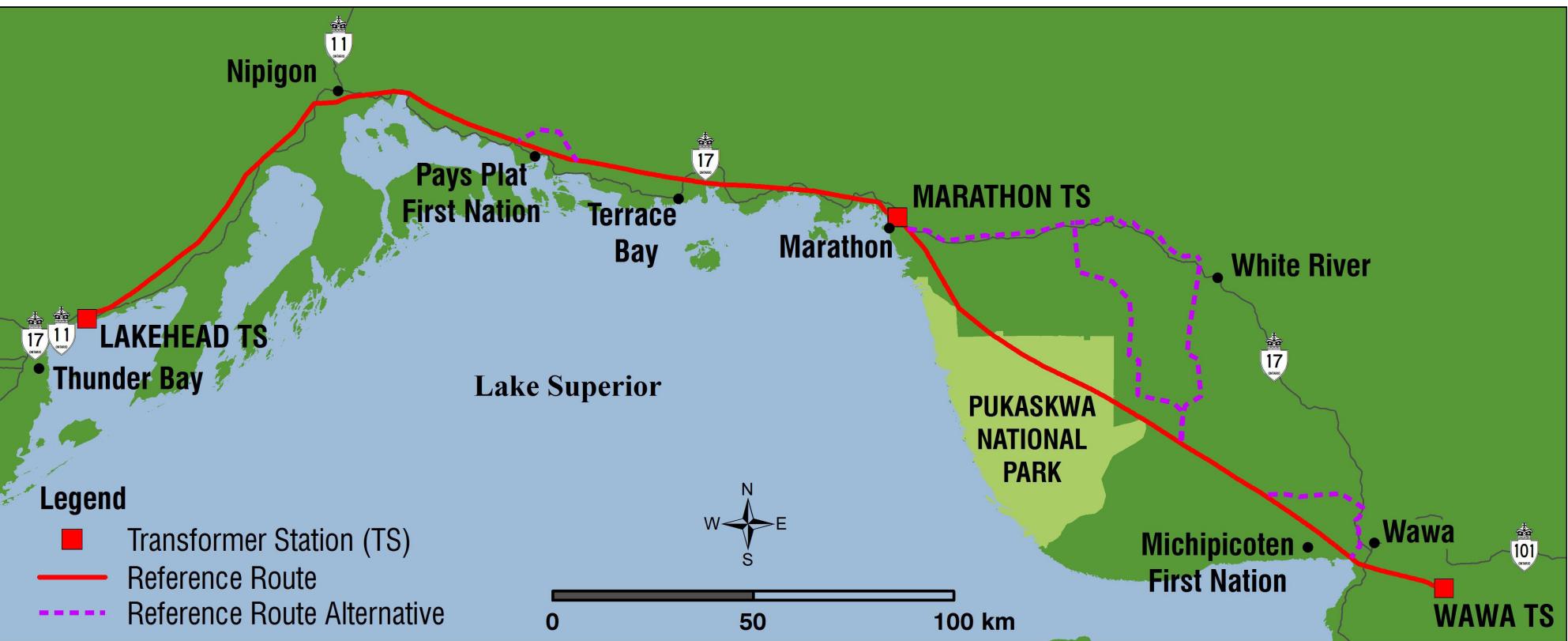
Who We Are

NextBridge draws on the experience and resources of three infrastructure leaders – NextEra Energy Canada, Enbridge Inc., and Borealis

Infrastructure – in our plan for development, financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of the project, together with a well-aligned interest in owning and operating the new East-West Tie over the course of its useful life. NextBridge is committed to increasing the competitiveness and cost effectiveness of providing transmission service to the ratepayers of Ontario.

What's Inside?

- Need for Supply in Northwestern Ontario
- Project Details
- Environmental Assessment Process
- Other Approvals
- Easements and Access to Land
- Consultation Activities
- Getting Involved
- Current Project Schedule
- Additional Resources



The Need for Supply in Northwestern Ontario

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA), the agency responsible for long-term electricity planning in the province, has recommended the new East-West Tie to ensure the long-term reliability of the electricity supply in northwestern Ontario, and has specified the timing and scope of this project.

Industrial activities in northwestern Ontario, particularly in the mining sector, are expected to drive strong electricity demand growth in the coming decade. Coupled with a decrease in supply in the area, the OPA forecasts a need for around 500 megawatts (MW) of new supply in northwestern Ontario by 2018.

The identified supply needs 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.

Project Details

The project will consist of an approximately 400 km double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line generally paralleling the existing double-circuit 230 kV transmission corridor connecting the Wawa Transformer Station (TS) to the Lakehead TS near Thunder Bay. The project will also require new and improved access roads and temporary laydown and work areas. The targeted in-service date is the first half of 2018.

A Reference Route has been identified along with possible alternatives to avoid potentially sensitive features. NextBridge will endeavour to select the route with the least overall impacts. To identify the final route, we will be considering the valuable feedback from all potentially affected community members, stakeholders, landowners, tenants, First Nations and Métis communities along all proposed routes. During the route selection process, we will consider factors such as hunting, trap lines, gathering activities, bird nesting sites, waterways, tourism, agricultural operations, environmental features, and impacts to residents and businesses. It is important to note that all routes are considered viable options at this time; however, only one transmission line will be built.

Easements and Access to Land

NextBridge will require easement interests to accommodate the approximately 56 metre (184 foot) permanent right-of-way required for the installation of the new line. The majority of activity will be contained within the permanent right-of-way however, in some instances, additional work space and access may be required for construction.

If your land has been identified as potentially impacted by the proposed project, a NextBridge representative will be contacting you within the next few weeks to further discuss this project.

The Environmental Assessment Process

NextBridge has initiated the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*. During the EA, NextBridge will conduct environmental studies, and meet with agencies, community representatives, First Nations and Métis communities, and members of the public to determine the potential positive and negative impacts of the project on the people, places, businesses, economy and natural environment in the study area.

The first step in the EA process is the preparation of a TOR. The TOR outlines the work plan NextBridge will follow to address the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. If approved by the Minister of the Environment, the TOR will provide the framework for the second step in the process, the preparation of the EA.

Overview of Environmental Assessment Process

Prepare & Submit Terms of Reference Document

Government, First Nations & Public Review of Terms of Reference

Decision

Prepare & Submit Environmental Assessment Document

Government, First Nations & Public Review of Environmental Assessment

Final Decision

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION THROUGHOUT

STEP 1
Terms of Reference

STEP 2
Environmental Assessment Study

Project Need Fact Sheet

EAST-WEST TIE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Connecting Ontario's Northwest



The Changing Landscape for Electricity Planning in Ontario's Northwest

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA), the agency responsible for long-term electricity planning in the province, has recommended the new East-West Tie to ensure the long-term reliability of the electricity supply in northwestern Ontario, and has specified the timing and scope of this project.

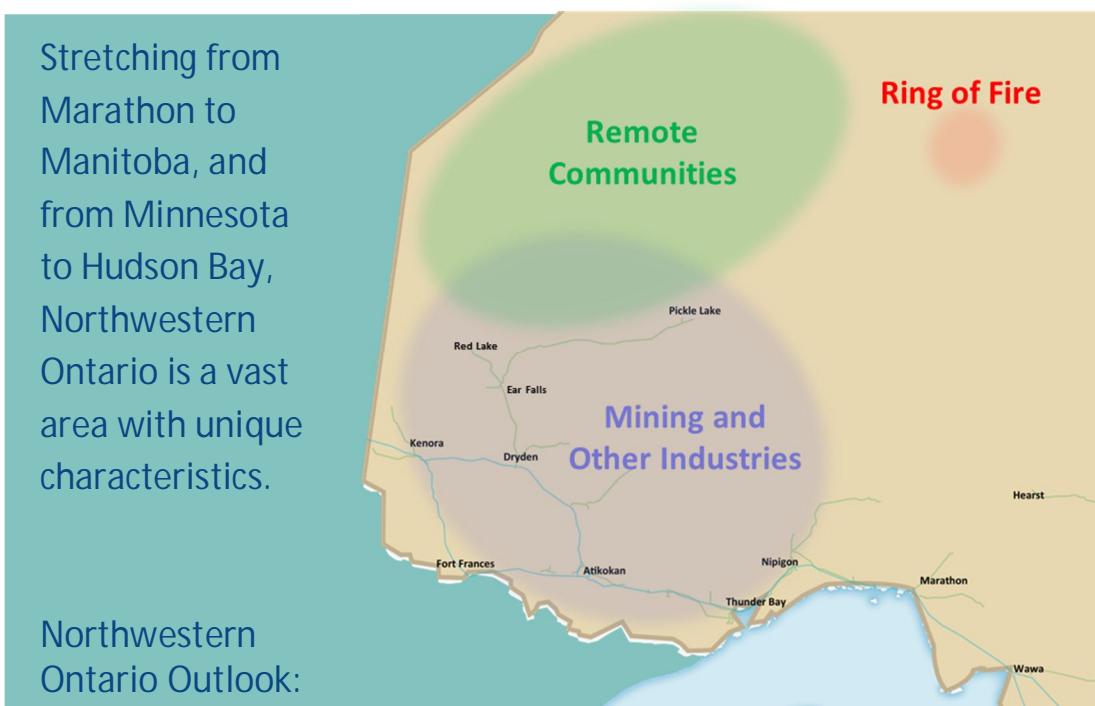
Industrial activities in northwestern Ontario, particularly in the mining sector, are expected to drive strong electricity demand growth in the coming decade. Coupled with a decrease in supply in the area, the OPA forecasts a need for around 500 megawatts (MW) of new supply in northwestern Ontario by 2018.

The identified supply needs 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.

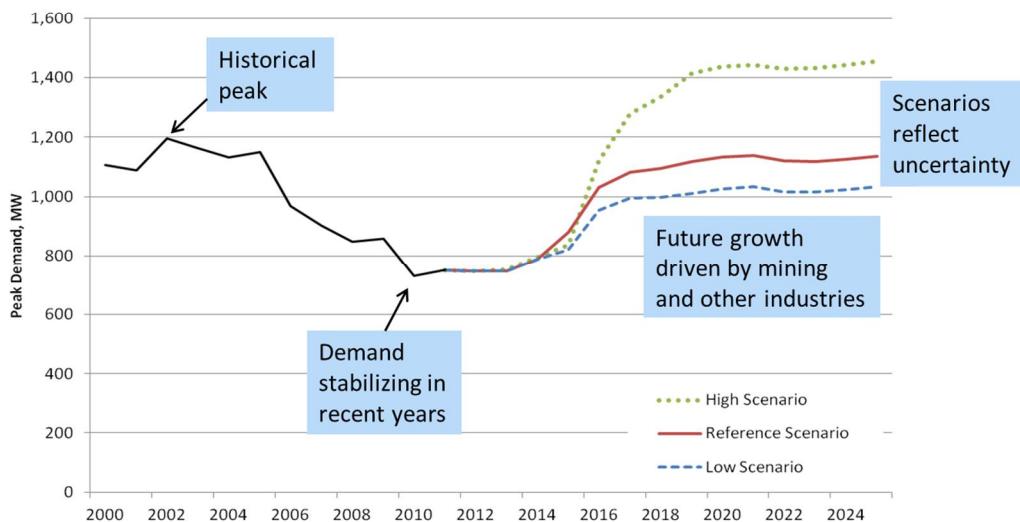
Stretching from Marathon to Manitoba, and from Minnesota to Hudson Bay, Northwestern Ontario is a vast area with unique characteristics.

Northwestern Ontario Outlook:

- Strong growth in the mining industry.
- Revitalization of pulp & paper, forestry, and other industrial sectors.
- Connection of remote communities.



Strong Demand Growth Forecast in the Northwest



At the same time, the region's electricity supply situation is changing.

Options to Meet the Northwest's Supply Need

	Transmission	Generation
Provides electricity supply for the Northwest	✓	✓
Provides supply to the rest of Ontario	✓	✓
Cost-effective	✓	
Improves system flexibility	✓	
Allows more efficient use of system	✓	

The Ontario Power Authority recommends proceeding with transmission: the East-West Tie expansion.

Additional resources can be committed in step with demand growth as it materializes, and can be utilized more effectively with the expanded East-West Tie.

How we got here

2010 – Government of Ontario identifies the new East-West Tie as a priority project.

2011 – Minister of Energy asks the Ontario Energy Board to undertake a designation process to select a transmitter to develop the project.

2011 – Ontario Energy Board requests a report from the Ontario Power Authority regarding the preliminary assessment of the need for the East-West Tie.

2011 – Ontario Power Authority need assessment recommends a new East-West Tie as the preferred alternative.

2011 – Independent Electricity System Operator feasibility study recommends the new double-circuit East-West Tie.

2012 – Ontario Energy Board directs bidders to the reference corridor and a proposed in-service date.

2013 – NextBridge Infrastructure selected as the designated transmitter to complete development work related to the project.

2013 – Ontario Power Authority updates the need assessment and continues to recommend the East-West Tie.

Keeping You Informed

Your input is very important to us, and there are many ways you can reach us. If you would like more information about this project and want to be included on the project mailing list, please contact:

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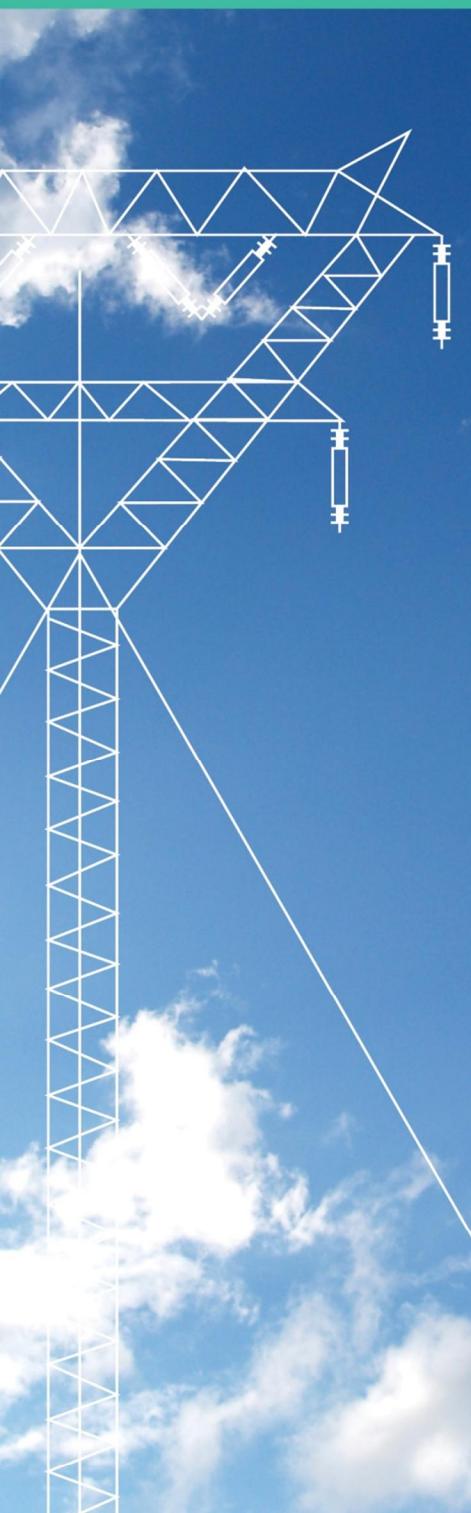
Visit our project website at:
www.nextbridge.ca

Call the project hotline at:
1-888-767-3006

Transmission Line Safety Fact Sheet

EAST-WEST TIE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Connecting Ontario's Northwest



Transmission Line Safety

The new East-West Tie Transmission project is proposed to consist of a high-voltage 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line supported by guyed and self-supporting steel lattice structures. The structures will be placed in a cleared right-of-way on private and public lands, and across bays, rivers and creeks. NextBridge Infrastructure (NextBridge) will take precautions to provide a safe environment within the right-of-way, such as managing vegetation growth to prevent contact with conductors (the power lines). Landowners and users of the right-of-way must also take precautions to ensure their personal safety and the safety of loved ones.

Electricity Basics

Transmission lines are common in our communities and are designed and constructed with public safety in mind. Common sense and awareness can prevent accidents from happening.

Electricity seeks the easiest and shortest path to the ground – when people or objects come too close to or touch an electrical wire, they can become a part of an electrical circuit that can result in an instant flow of electricity through them to the ground.

The flow of electricity through the human body can kill – less than one ampere of electricity can burn, severely injure or cause death.

Conductors allow electricity to easily flow in large amounts. All metals, waters, humans and even non-metallic materials (such as trees and ropes) can conduct electricity depending on moisture content and surface contamination, so caution needs to be applied whenever working, living or playing near power lines.

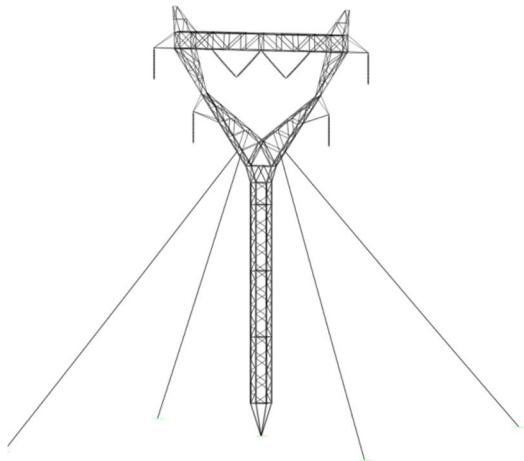
Why don't birds get hurt when they land on Transmission Lines?

If a bird is sitting happily on a line, it doesn't mean electricity is not flowing through the line. Birds can rest on energized lines because they are not in contact with the ground. When people come in contact with lines, they are also usually in contact with the ground. This contact provides another path for the electricity, through your body, to the ground. Injury, and possibly death, can be the result.

Be Electricity Smart

Electricity can jump and often does when a potential conductor like a metal ladder comes within a certain distance of a power line. For high-voltage lines, such as a 230 kV transmission line, electricity can jump, or arc, up to 4.5 metres. To be safe, keep equipment at least 7 metres away from transmission lines and stay at least 10 metres away from downed lines.

Take extra care when working near overhead power lines and be careful with ladders, cranes, or diggers.



Be Guy-Wire Smart

Guyed structures are anticipated to be used for much of the new transmission line. Users of the right-of-way, particularly for recreational purposes, should be aware of the presence of guy wires and take necessary precautions for any activity. Guy wires will be marked for visibility to a suitable height above anticipated snow levels, but users of the rights-of-way must use caution in the event markers have been damaged, vandalized, or obstructed due to drifting snow or low-visibility conditions.

Safety Checklist

- Take extra care when working near overhead power lines.
- Obey all signage and don't trespass.
- Don't climb transmission towers.
- Don't climb trees or vegetation near power lines.
- Don't fly kites or other toys in the right-of-way or allow them to come close to power lines.
- Don't construct or raise any structures or poles within the right-of-way.
- Stay away and report any unsafe conditions such as downed lines, trees that have fallen on lines, or damaged structures as soon as possible.

References

Electrical Safety Authority

www.esasafe.com

Manitoba Hydro

www.hydro.mb.ca

Keeping You Informed

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Call the project hotline at:
1-888-767-3006

Environmental Assessment Fact Sheet

EAST-WEST TIE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Connecting Ontario's Northwest



The ***Environmental Assessment Act***

An Environmental Assessment is a decision-making process used to promote good environmental planning by assessing the potential effects of certain activities on the environment. In Ontario, this process is defined in the *Environmental Assessment Act* (the *Act*) and its associated regulations. The *Act* ensures that environmental issues are considered, and their effects are planned for, before development or building takes place. Under the *Act*, the definition of "environment" is not limited to the natural environment but includes social, cultural, and economic considerations.

Electricity Projects and the *Environmental Assessment Act*

Electricity projects in Ontario are subject to Ontario Regulation 116/01 under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. This regulation states that a transmission line that will transmit 115 kilovolt (kV) or more of electricity, and is greater than 2 km long is subject to the requirements of the *Act*. The East-West Tie Transmission Project proposes the construction of a 230 kV double-circuit line approximately 400 km long and is therefore subject to an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA).

Individual EA Process

An Individual EA requires that the proponent develop an EA Terms of Reference (ToR) and submit it to the Ministry of Environment (MOE) for approval. Once approved, the second phase of the EA process, the EA Study, can begin. Once submitted, the third phase, Review, commences. The final phase is the Minister's Decision.

According to the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*, "environment" means:

- Air, land or water,
- Plant and animal life, including human life,
- The social, economic and cultural conditions that influence the life of humans or a community,
- Any building, structure, machine or other device or thing made by humans,
- Any solid, liquid, gas, odour, heat, sound, vibration or radiation resulting directly or indirectly from human activities, or
- Any part or combination of the foregoing and the interrelationships between any two or more of them in or of Ontario.

Step 1 – Terms of Reference

A Terms of Reference (ToR) establishes the framework for the preparation and review of the EA. It outlines how the study will be conducted and helps ensure that the public, First Nations and Métis, and government agencies know what will be considered in the EA. The EA Act and associated regulations and guidelines specify the contents of the ToR and EA. NextBridge intends to prepare and submit a ToR which focuses on the Reference Route and identified alternatives.

Public consultation can assist in identification of potential issues and solutions early in the planning process. Input from interested stakeholders ensures that all pertinent information is considered in the decision making process (the EA).

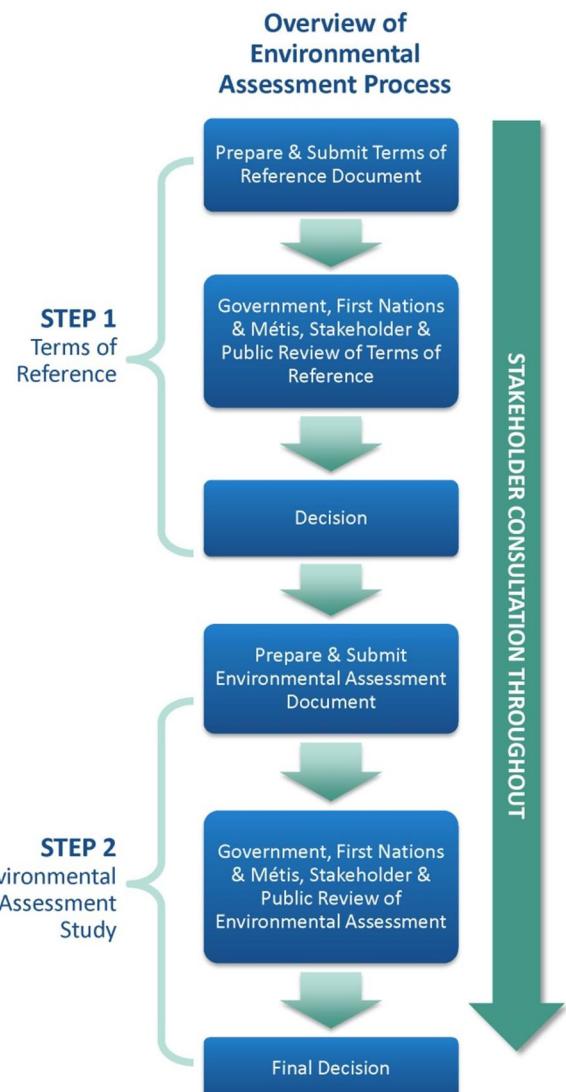
The proponent, NextBridge Infrastructure (NextBridge), must give public notice at the commencement of the ToR. The proponent also must consult with the public and document the results of the consultation during the development of the ToR. Upon submission of the ToR, public notice must once again be given. After submission, the MOE begins its own 30-day consultation process, during which time the public and other interested stakeholders may review and comment on the submitted ToR. Once the ToR is approved, the EA process will proceed in accordance with the ToR.

Step 2 – Environmental Assessment Study

The EA Study will focus on identifying potential effects, potential net effects, and potential mitigation along the route, including, but not limited to line span length; tower height; diversion around sensitive features; alignment of access roads (temporary and permanent); timing of construction; and final route configuration.

The proponent is again responsible for consulting with the public, stakeholders and First Nations and Métis people during the EA Study. Public notice must be given at the commencement of the EA Study. During the EA study, NextBridge may seek public input on the preferred design and mitigation, and other concerns.

Upon completion of the EA Study, NextBridge will issue a Notice of EA Submission and submit the document to the MOE. The Environmental Approvals Branch then coordinates a review of the EA document and solicits comments from potentially affected stakeholders over a seven-week comment period. The MOE reviews the EA and identifies any shortcomings, whether the EA fulfills the requirements of the EA Act and whether the EA was conducted in accordance with the approved ToR. The public, other stakeholders and First Nations and Métis people may again comment on the proposed undertaking, the EA, and MOE's review of the EA.



Final Decision

At the end of the final comment period, the Minister of the Environment may decide to:

- Refer all or part of the matter to the Environmental Review Tribunal for a hearing, or to another tribunal for a decision;
- Refer the EA or a particular issue to mediation;
- Approve the proposed undertaking with appropriate conditions; or
- Refuse to give approval to proceed with the proposed undertaking.

Visit our project website at:
www.nextbridge.ca

Call the project hotline at:
1-888-767-3006

Keeping You Informed

Your input is very important to us, and there are many ways you can reach us. If you would like more information about this project and want to be included on the project mailing list, please contact:

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Frequently Asked Questions

EAST-WEST TIE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Connecting Ontario's Northwest



What's Inside? Answers to Frequently Asked Questions On:

- 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
- How you can have your say

NextBridge Infrastructure and the East-West Tie Project

[Who is NextBridge Infrastructure?](#)

NextBridge Infrastructure (NextBridge) brings together the extensive resources of its three corporate partners – NextEra Energy, Enbridge Inc. and Borealis Infrastructure – in our plan for development, financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of the project, together with a well - aligned interest in owning and operating the new East-West Tie over the course of its useful life.

NextBridge was chosen to develop this project through a competitive bid process. We are committed to increasing the competitiveness and cost effectiveness of providing transmission service to the ratepayers of Ontario.

NextBridge is committed to timely and meaningful dialogue with governments, First Nations and Métis, regulators, stakeholders, and landowners, and believe that this input will be critical to a successful project that seeks to address the needs of those involved.

[What is being proposed?](#)

The project will consist of a double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line generally paralleling the existing double-circuit 230 kV transmission corridor connecting the Wawa Transformer Station (TS) to the Lakehead TS near Thunder Bay. The length of the line is approximately 400 km. For some sections of the corridor, route alternatives are being considered. The final length of the line will depend on which route alternatives, if any, are selected. The targeted in-service date is the first half of 2018.

Electricity in Northern Ontario

Why do we need a new transmission 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 (OPA) forecasts a need for new supply to meet demand in northwestern Ontario.

Why this project?

The OPA, the agency responsible for long-term electricity planning in the province, has recommended the new East-West Tie to ensure the long-term reliability of the electricity supply in northwestern Ontario, and has specified the timing and scope of this project. 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 OPA forecasts a need for new supply to meet demand in northwestern Ontario. The identified supply needs 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.

What are the benefits to northern Ontario?

The key benefits include:

- Providing needed electricity to ensure that future economic development in northwest Ontario can proceed;
- Creating employment opportunities during construction; and
- Enhancing the power system in northwest Ontario by improving efficiency, flexibility and reliability.

Land Questions

How wide is the right-of-way?

The proposed right-of-way for the new line is approximately 52 to 56 m (approx. 170 to 184 ft.).

The 52 to 56 m may not include additional space required where there are corners in the line, general construction access and where the general landscape requires additional lands for access. 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.

Will access to private lands be needed?

Access to private lands will be required for environmental studies, surveying, geotechnical work, clearing, road work, construction, inspection, and maintenance. NextBridge will discuss access to private lands with directly affected landowners and tenants.

Will land rights be required? How will I be compensated?

NextBridge will seek land rights 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. Compensation will vary depending on the use of the land.

How do you assess the value of land?

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.

What if my land is damaged?

During all project phases, best management practices will be used at all times to minimize potential damage to affected and adjacent lands. Once construction is complete, the right of way will be cleaned up and lands no longer needed (e.g. temporary work areas) will be restored. Mitigation and resolution of damages will be negotiated directly with affected parties.

Routing

What is meant by “Reference Route” and “Reference Route Alternatives”?

The Reference Route generally parallels an existing Hydro One transmission line corridor. The Reference Route Alternatives include a number of possible route alternatives that may avoid potentially sensitive features along the Reference Route. Paralleling an existing right of way generally results in fewer impacts and allows for efficiencies such as the use of existing access roads and bridges for construction and maintenance.

How were the Reference Route and Alternative Routes selected?

The Reference Route generally parallels the existing Hydro One corridor. Possible Alternative Routes to avoid potentially sensitive features have also been identified.

Alternatives to the Reference Route have been identified to avoid crossing two First Nations, (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.

NextBridge will endeavour to select the route that will result in the least overall impacts. To identify the final route, we will be considering the valuable feedback from those potentially affected along proposed routes. During the route evaluation process, we 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.

Are you going through Pukaskwa National Park?

The Reference Route parallels the existing transmission line, which runs through Pukaskwa National Park and near the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area. Alternative Routes which avoid Pukaskwa and other sensitive features are also being considered. We have initiated discussions with Parks Canada and other stakeholders. These discussions will continue during the Terms of Reference and the Environmental Assessment and will assist us in the determination of a preferred route for the new transmission line.

Are you going through provincial parks?

The Reference Route does pass through provincial parks. We have initiated discussions with Ontario Parks (Ministry of Natural Resources) and other stakeholders related to these lands. These discussions will continue during the Terms of Reference and the Environmental Assessment and will assist us in the determination of a preferred route for the new transmission line. Additional mitigation measures such as notice of construction signs and public consultations will be undertaken to ensure if there is conflict between the construction of the transmission line and recreational activities, it is well managed and minimized.

Are any potential routes within close proximity to a school or a daycare centre?

Routing of the transmission line will be sensitive to school locations, parks and playgrounds.

Project Approval Process

What approval process will be followed?

This project is subject to the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* and an Individual Environmental Assessment will be completed. The Environmental Assessment 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 Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference which outlines the scope of work to be undertaken and the preparation of the Environmental Assessment.

What is an Environmental Assessment?

An Environmental Assessment is a process to identify, assess and address through impact management measures, potential effects of a project on the natural (plants and animals), social (people and places) and economic (business and the economy) environments. An Environmental Assessment is required for the East-west Tie project under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. The new East-west Tie project is being conducted as an Individual Environmental Assessment. The project is not a designated project pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* regulations, and therefore does not require the completion of a federal environmental assessment. Certain federal agencies may be required to assess the environmental effects of the project in relation to specific federal lands.

As part of the Environmental Assessment, NextBridge will conduct studies and meet with stakeholders to determine the existing conditions in the study area and obtain feedback on the proposed project. This information will be used as input to the determination of a preferred route for the new line as well as the identification of potential positive and negative effects of the project on the environment (the social, economic and natural environment) and measures that can be put in place to minimize potential negative impacts. Members of the community, public, landowners, stakeholder groups, First Nations and Métis, government agencies, and other interested persons are encouraged to participate in the planning process.

What is a Terms of Reference?

A Terms of Reference guides how an Individual Environmental Assessment will be conducted. Every project that is going through an Individual Environmental Assessment must first develop a Terms of Reference with the input and review of the public and other stakeholders. Once the Terms of Reference for the new East-West Tie is approved by the Minister of the Environment, NextBridge will be required to follow the terms when completing the Environmental Assessment. Because it sets the framework for the Environmental Assessment, it is important that communities provide input on the Terms of Reference and we strongly encourage you to participate in the process.

What is a Leave to Construct Application?

In order to build the new East-West Tie, NextBridge must file a “Leave to Construct” application with the Ontario Energy Board. When the Ontario Energy Board receives a Leave to Construct application, it reviews the material, makes the information public and provides an opportunity for interested parties, including First Nations and Métis, to provide input. The Ontario Energy Board will grant a Leave to Construct if it believes the project is in the public interest.

What studies will be conducted as part of the Environmental Assessment?

Biological background work will consist of a background review and field work. The field work program will be confirmed with the Ministry of Natural Resources and may consist of:

- Aquatic habitat characterization
- Incidental wildlife sightings
- Forest Ecosystem Classification
- Botanical Assessment
- Breeding Bird Surveys
- Species at Risk Studies

Socio-economic, archaeological and cultural studies will also be conducted.

Will you consult with the community?

Consultation is an important part of the environmental assessment process. We have started distributing project information, meeting with municipalities, Aboriginal groups, agencies, landowners and tenants in November. Also, a round of Open Houses in six communities along the Reference and Alternative Routes is being held in December to obtain input for the development of the Terms of Reference.

Consultation with the public, municipalities, First Nations and Métis, interested individuals and groups and government agencies will continue through the Environmental Assessment. The proposed consultation plan for the Environmental Assessment is one of the elements we will be seeking input on during the Terms of Reference consultation.

How will NextBridge work with First Nations and Métis peoples?

First Nations and Métis participation is an essential component of successful transmission projects in Northern Ontario. We are committed to working with First Nations and Métis in Ontario to provide sustainable benefits to those communities.

When can I have my say?

Your input is important to us. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you require further information please send an email or call the hot line any time.

Email: info@nextbridge.ca

Project Hotline: 1-888-767-3006

You can also reach us via mail at:

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For more information, visit www.nextbridge.ca.

What is the schedule for the Project process?

The following key steps are anticipated:

- November 2013 - Notice of commencement of Terms of Reference
- December 2013 – Open Houses Round One
- February 2014 – Submission of Terms of Reference to the Minister of the Environment
- July 2014 – Anticipated Terms of Reference Approval and Environmental Assessment Commencement
- July 2014 – Open Houses Round Two
- October 2014 – Open Houses Round Three
- January 2015 – Environmental Assessment Submission to the Ministry of the Environment
- December 2015 – Decision on the Environmental Assessment

Health and Safety

What are Electric and Magnetic/ Electromagnetic Fields? Are they harmful?

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.

There is no compelling scientific evidence that EMFs in living and school environments, regardless of distance from transmission lines, cause ill health.

Health Canada (2012) states:

"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".

Based on the available weight of evidence, Health Canada "does not consider that any precautionary measures are needed regarding daily exposures to EMFs at ELFs. 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".

Will the structures be able to handle the weather and ice of northwestern Ontario? What is the emergency response plan in case an extreme weather event, an ice storm, for example, brings down the lines?

The safety of communities and others near the line is a top priority for NextBridge. The EWT project will be designed and constructed to meet all regulations, standards, and codes, which have been developed with a view to ensuring public safety. In recognition of the project location, NextBridge will commission an independent ice study.

As part of the development of the East-West Tie project, NextBridge will develop Emergency Response Plans to respond to events such as extreme weather situations and other emergency scenarios. These plans will be coordinated with local municipal authorities including fire and police departments.

Environment

What kind of environmental impacts might be associated with this project, and how will they be addressed?

Before the East-West Tie Project can be constructed, the proposal will undergo a rigorous environmental assessment process. The process will require NextBridge to include, among other things, proposed measures to appropriately mitigate the potential impacts on the environment while constructing, operating and maintaining the transmission line. These mitigation measures will incorporate input from consultation with affected community members, First Nations and Métis, landowners, tenants, and stakeholders along proposed routes.

NextBridge will endeavour to select the route with the least overall potential impacts. We will consider factors such as hunting, trap lines, gathering activities, bird nesting sites, waterways, tourism, agricultural operations, environmental features, recreational uses, and impacts to residents and businesses.

Building and Operating a Transmission Line

How many jobs will be created locally?

The number of jobs can't be estimated until we confirm the route and hire a construction contractor. NextBridge is committed to engaging qualified local individuals and contractors.

What do the towers look like?

Towers are anticipated to be guyed "Y" lattice structures and non-guyed lattice towers. These types of structures are preferred based on foundation size, minimal surface disturbance and cost. Guy wires will be large in diameter, and will be marked with high visibility plastic markers near the ground. Towers are planned to be typically 43 m (approx. 140 ft.) tall.

Will other uses such as trails be permitted in the new transmission corridor?

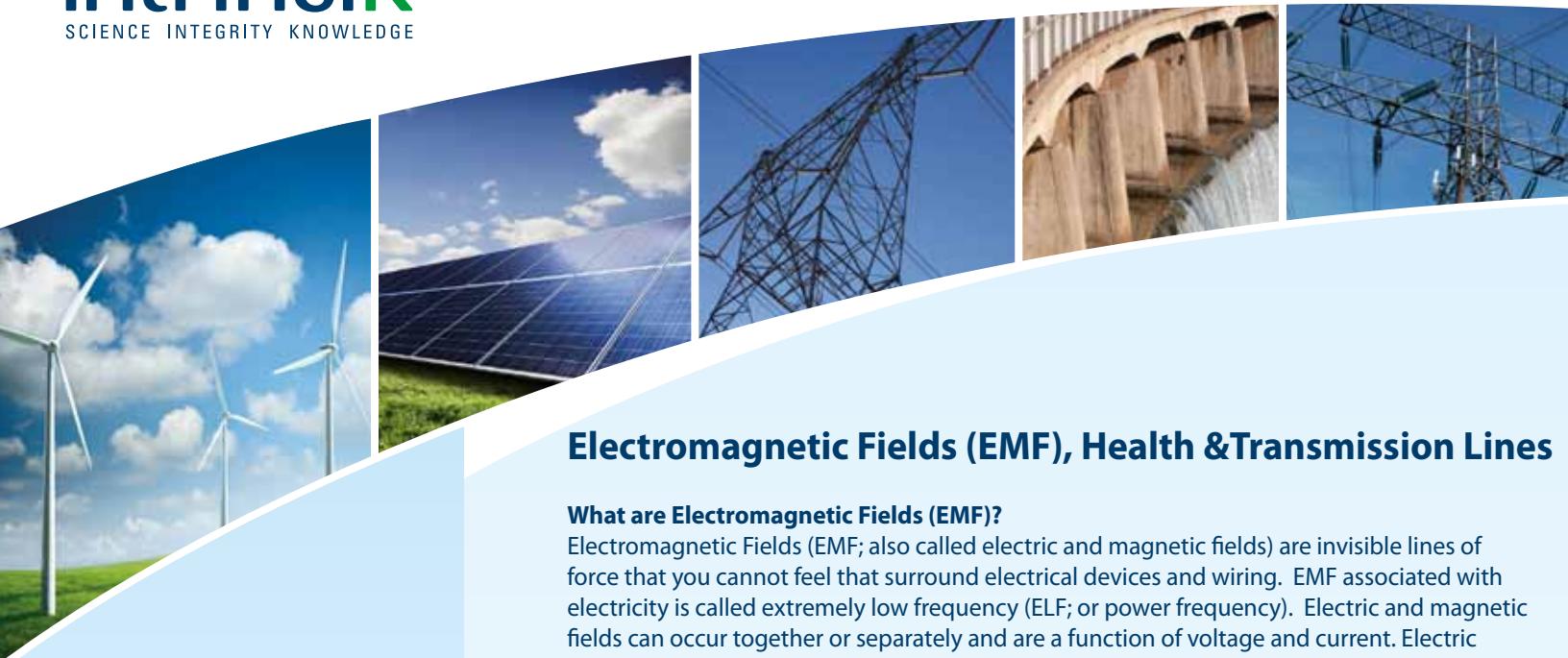
Compatible uses may be permitted within the transmission corridor right of way on public lands. Specific permitted uses will be identified and documented during the Environmental Assessment.

Why can't they just build the transmission line underground?

Underground cabling for this length and voltage of a transmission line would be cost prohibitive and nearly impossible to engineer in some locations. Generally speaking, transmission lines such as these are rarely ever placed underground due to their complexity and considerably higher cost, as well as security and reliability considerations. Costs are usually 10 times greater than building an overhead line but would likely be more for this project given the topography and substrate (ground) the line crosses.

What can we expect during construction?

Safety is our number one priority. During the construction phase, we will mitigate construction impacts wherever practicable. This will include various measures to minimize the impacts of noise and traffic disruptions as appropriate and practicable. We 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.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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Electromagnetic Fields (EMF), Health & Transmission Lines

What are Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)?

Electromagnetic Fields (EMF; also called electric and magnetic fields) are invisible lines of force that you cannot feel that surround electrical devices and wiring. EMF associated with electricity is called extremely low frequency (ELF; or power frequency). Electric and magnetic fields can occur together or separately and are a function of voltage and current. Electric fields come from electric pressure (for example, when something is plugged into an outlet but not turned on) and are commonly represented in units of volts per metre (V/m). Magnetic fields come from the movement of electric charges (when something is plugged into an outlet and turned on) and are represented by two common units: microtesla (μ T) and milligauss (mG). Levels of EMF drop off rapidly with distance from the source.

EMF in Everyday Life

On a daily basis people around the world are exposed to ELF EMF as a result of using electricity in their homes, offices and schools. EMF exists around all common household electronic devices (for example: refrigerator, stove, alarm clock, lamps, household wiring). For some Canadians this also includes exposure to EMF from high voltage power lines and transformer boxes. Health Canada (2012) states:

"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".

State of Knowledge on Health Effects and EMF

Concerns about the ever-present nature of ELF EMF and possible health concerns have been raised by some in the global community. The science around EMF and possible health concerns has been extensively researched over the last 30 years. Government and medical agencies including Health Canada, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the US National Institute of Health (NIH) and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) have all thoroughly reviewed the available information.

Short term exposure to EMF: At high levels EMF is known to cause stimulation in the central nervous system. The ICNIRP, a group recognized by the WHO as the international independent advisory body for non-ionizing radiation protection, established a guideline of 2000 mG for the general public (ICNIRP 2010). To put this level into context, the average magnetic field 60 m from a 230kV transmission line can be expected to be around 2 mG (NIEHS 2002).



Long term exposure to EMF: Based on the available weight of evidence, Health Canada:

"Does not consider that any precautionary measures are needed regarding daily exposures to EMFs at ELFs. 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".

It needs to be acknowledged that based on a weak association of childhood leukemia and chronic exposure to magnetic field strength above 3-4mG, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and WHO have categorized EMF as a Class 2B possible human carcinogen. Coffee is also a 2B carcinogen.

What does this mean? This means there is limited evidence of carcinogenicity in humans and less than sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals. For EMF there are no globally accepted mechanisms that would suggest that low-level exposures are involved in cancer development and animal studies have been largely negative (WHO 2007). **Thus, on balance, the WHO has stated (based on approximately 25,000 articles published over the past 30 years) that the evidence related to childhood leukemia is not strong enough to be considered causal (WHO 2012).**

In addition to childhood cancer, some people have concerns about EMF and a range of other health concerns. The WHO (2007) has stated:

"A number of other adverse health effects have been studied for possible association with ELF magnetic field exposure. These include other childhood cancers, cancers in adults, depression, suicide, cardiovascular disorders, reproductive dysfunction, developmental disorders, immunological modifications, neurobehavioural effects and neurodegenerative disease. The WHO Task Group concluded that scientific evidence supporting an association between ELF [extremely low frequency] magnetic field exposure and all of these health effects is much weaker than for childhood leukaemia. In some instances (i.e. for cardiovascular disease or breast cancer) the evidence suggests that these fields do not cause them".

Based on the available weight of evidence, Health Canada "does not consider that any precautionary measures are needed regarding daily exposures to EMFs at ELFs. 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".

SUGGESTED READING

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