

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.

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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.

Other Approvals

In advance of construction, the project will also require:

- Leave to Construct approval from the Ontario Energy Board.
- Permits from provincial agencies, conservation authorities and municipalities.
- Federal review and/or permits may be required in some areas where federal lands may be impacted.

The Environmental Assessment Process

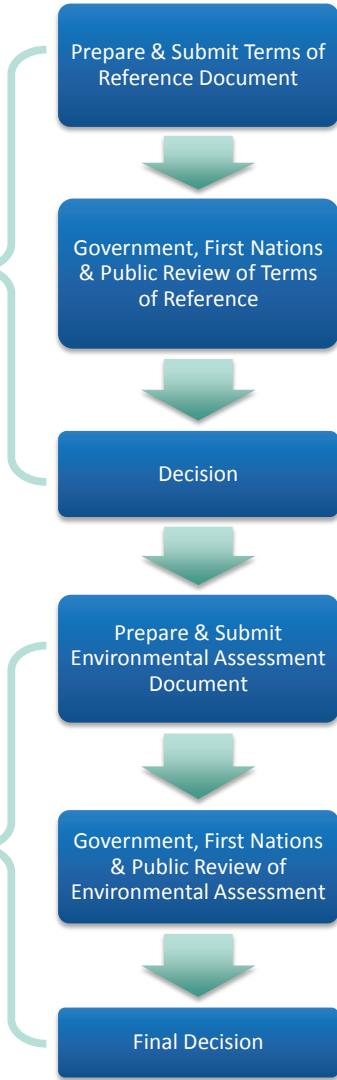
NextBridge has initiated the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with Ontario’s *Environmental Assessment Act*. During the EA, NextBridge will conduct environmental studies, and meet with agencies, community representatives, First Nations and Métis communities, 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.

STEP 1
Terms of Reference

STEP 2
Environmental Assessment Study

Overview of Environmental Assessment Process



In order to properly assess potential impacts of the project, our team will need to conduct surveys and studies, and access to individual properties may be required. Access to land will be discussed with landowners along the potential routes to conduct these studies. If access to your property is required for study purposes, we will be contacting you. Please note that no property will be accessed without prior notice.

We would be pleased to discuss the project with any interested stakeholders and encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

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

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:

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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.