



EB-2017-0182
EB-2017-0194
EB-2017-0364

**Upper Canada Transmission Inc. (on behalf of
NextBridge Infrastructure)
Application for leave to construct an electricity
transmission line between Thunder Bay and Wawa, Ontario**

- and -

**Hydro One Networks Inc.
Application to upgrade existing transmission station facilities
in the Districts of Thunder Bay and Algoma, Ontario**

-and-

**Hydro One Networks Inc.
Application for leave to construct an electricity transmission line
between Thunder Bay and Wawa, Ontario**

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 2 on COMBINED HEARING

August 27, 2018

Upper Canada Transmission Inc. (NextBridge) and Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) filed applications with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on July 31, 2017 under section 92 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act).

NextBridge's application seeks an order granting leave to construct a new electricity transmission line between Wawa and Thunder Bay (NextBridge-EWT Application).¹ Hydro One's application seeks an order granting leave to construct the facilities necessary to upgrade existing transmission stations associated with the NextBridge project (Hydro One-Station Upgrades Application).²

¹ The NextBridge-EWT Application has been assigned OEB File No. EB-2017-0182.

² The Hydro One-Station Upgrades Application has been assigned OEB File No. EB-2017-0194.

On November 29, 2017, the OEB issued Procedural Order No. 1 in the NextBridge-EWT and Hydro One-Station Upgrades Applications. Among other things, this Procedural Order permitted OEB staff and intervenors to pose written interrogatories to Hydro One and NextBridge for any relevant information and material related to the two Applications. NextBridge and Hydro One filed answers to the written interrogatories of OEB staff and intervenors on January 25, 2018.

After reviewing evidence and responses to the interrogatories, the OEB determined that a more complete record was needed to assess the prudence of NextBridge's development costs and the reasonableness of its construction costs. As a result, the OEB directed NextBridge to file further evidence in these areas as part of Procedural Order No. 2 issued March 1, 2018. NextBridge filed further evidence addressing its costs on March 14, 2018.

On April 27, 2018, the OEB issued its Decision on Confidentiality and Procedural Order No. 3 in the NextBridge-EWT and Hydro One-Station Upgrades Applications. In addition to ruling on some of NextBridge's confidentiality claims, this Decision and Procedural Order (i) directed NextBridge to file a detailed Project Schedule on the public record and (ii) scheduled a technical conference to clarify the evidentiary record. NextBridge filed a detailed Project Schedule on May 3, 2018.

On May 7, 2018, the transcribed technical conference for the NextBridge-EWT Application took place. At the technical conference, OEB staff and intervenors asked questions to a panel of NextBridge representatives. At the technical conference, NextBridge provided a number of undertakings to file further evidence. NextBridge filed responses to those undertakings on June 1 and 20, 2018.

On August 13, 2018, the OEB issued Procedural Order No. 1 on Combined Hearing. This Procedural Order combined the NextBridge-EWT and Hydro One-Station Upgrades Applications with a third application that was filed by Hydro One in February 2018 (the Hydro One-LSL Application).³ The Hydro One-LSL Application requests an order granting Hydro One leave to construct a transmission line between the same two points as the NextBridge-EWT Application. The three applications were combined after the OEB dismissed a motion by NextBridge (the NextBridge Motion) asking that the Hydro One-LSL Application be dismissed, or in the alternative, not be processed because it is not complete or compliant with OEB Filing Requirements.⁴

In Procedural Order No. 1 on Combined Hearing, the OEB also set out the procedural steps for hearing the three Applications including a written interrogatory process for

³ The Hydro One-LSL Application has been assigned OEB File No. EB-2017-0364.

⁴ EB-2017-0364, Decision and Order, July 19, 2018.

questions relating to the Hydro One-LSL Application and an oral hearing. The OEB also determined, in accordance with section 21(6.1) of the OEB Act, that all evidence filed to date in the proceedings on the NextBridge-EWT Application, the Hydro One-Station Upgrades Application, and the Hydro One-LSL Application (including evidence filed in respect of the NextBridge Motion) forms part of the evidentiary record of the Combined Hearing.

On August 16, 2018, the School Energy Coalition (SEC), an intervenor in the Combined Hearing, wrote to the OEB requesting that Procedural Order No. 1 on Combined Hearing be amended to allow intervenors to ask questions to NextBridge regarding the NextBridge-EWT Application and Hydro One regarding the Hydro One-Station Upgrades Application. SEC indicated that it wants to ask some questions on issues raised in the NextBridge Motion as well as to ask some identical questions to both Hydro One and NextBridge on their respective competing applications. SEC also stated that it wishes to ask questions on Hydro One's June 29, 2018 letter to the OEB about the timing of the environmental assessment process for the Hydro One-Station Upgrades Application.

On August 23, 2018, Hydro One wrote to the OEB in support of SEC's request for additional interrogatories to NextBridge regarding its leave to construct application. Hydro One noted that additional questions and NextBridge's responses would allow for comparison of the Hydro One-LSL and NextBridge-EWT Applications.

Having considered SEC's request, the OEB will allow parties to ask additional written questions to NextBridge and Hydro One relating to the NextBridge-EWT and Hydro One-Station Upgrades Applications. However, given the existing evidentiary record, the scope of these additional questions should be limited. Additional questions should be focused on facilitating a comparison of the Hydro One-LSL and NextBridge-EWT Applications. Additionally, parties can pose questions to Hydro One about the timing of the environmental assessment process for the Hydro One-Station Upgrades Application. The OEB is prepared to consider not requiring the applicants to answer specific interrogatories that go beyond the intended scope outlined above.

The OEB reminds parties that the procedural steps set by the Procedural Order No. 1 on Combined Hearing remain in place.

It is necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. The OEB may issue further procedural orders from time to time.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. OEB staff and existing intervenors may pose questions to NextBridge that will facilitate comparison of the NextBridge-EWT Application and Hydro One-LSL Application, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **August 30, 2018**.
2. OEB staff and existing intervenors may pose questions to Hydro One that will facilitate comparison of the NextBridge-EWT Application and Hydro One-LSL Application or about the timing of the environmental assessment process for the Hydro One-Station Upgrades Application, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **August 30, 2018**.
3. New intervenors approved for the Combined Hearing may pose questions to NextBridge that will facilitate comparison of the NextBridge-EWT Application and Hydro One-LSL Application, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **September 12, 2018**.
4. New intervenors approved for the Combined Hearing may pose questions to Hydro One that will facilitate comparison of the NextBridge-EWT Application and Hydro One-LSL Application or about the timing of the environmental assessment process for the Hydro One-Station Upgrades Application, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **September 12, 2018**.
5. NextBridge and Hydro One shall file with the OEB complete written responses to their respective interrogatories and serve them on all parties by **September 24, 2018**.

All filings to the OEB must quote the file numbers **EB-2017-0182/EB-2017-0194/EB-2017-0364**, be made in searchable /unrestricted PDF format electronically through the OEB's web portal at <https://pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/>. Two paper copies must also be filed at the OEB's address provided below. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at <http://www.oeb.ca/Industry>. If the web portal is not available parties may email their documents to the address below. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit all filings on a CD in PDF format, along with two paper copies. Those who do not have computer access are required to file 7 paper copies.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Board Secretary at the address below, and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Zora Crnojacki at Zora.Crnojacki@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Lawren Murray at Lawren.Murray@oeb.ca.

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DATED at Toronto, August 27, 2018

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary