



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. 6 on COMBINED HEARING**

**September 21, 2018**

This Procedural Order addresses a combined oral hearing for three applications that have been filed with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) under section 92 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) scheduled to start October 2, 2018.

The first application, filed by Upper Canada Transmission Inc. (NextBridge), seeks an order granting leave to construct a new electricity transmission line between Wawa and Thunder Bay with a proposed in-service date of December 2020 (NextBridge-EWT Application).<sup>1</sup>

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

The other two applications, both filed by Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One), seek an order granting leave to construct (i) a transmission line between the same two points as the NextBridge-EWT Application, with an in service date of the end of 2021 (Hydro One-LSL Application)<sup>2</sup>; and (ii) the facilities necessary to upgrade existing transmission stations associated with the new transmission line (Hydro One-Station Upgrades Application).<sup>3</sup>

At the OEB's request, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has filed with the OEB evidence that speaks to the impacts of a delay to the in-service date for the proposed transmission line between Thunder Bay and Wawa.

On August 13, 2018, the OEB issued Procedural Order No.1 on Combined Hearing, through which the OEB combined the NextBridge-EWT Application, the Hydro One-Station Upgrades Application, and the Hydro One-LSL Application and set out procedural steps for hearing the three Applications as a Combined Hearing in October 2018. The OEB has issued four additional procedural orders on the Combined Hearing.<sup>4</sup>

### **Oral Hearing**

The evidentiary record for the Combined Hearing includes all evidence filed in the NextBridge-EWT Application, the Hydro One-Station Upgrades Application, and the Hydro One-LSL Application.<sup>5</sup> These Applications have already been subject to extensive discovery including a written interrogatory process (for all three applications) and technical conferences in the NextBridge-EWT Application and NextBridge's motion to dismiss the Hydro One-LSL Application. All evidence will be considered by the OEB as part of the proceeding.

The OEB has determined that oral testimony is required for the evidence of Hydro One, NextBridge and the IESO.<sup>6</sup> The OEB intends to first hear from Hydro One's witnesses (on both of its applications), followed by witnesses from NextBridge and the IESO. The OEB further intends to set aside time, at the end of the hearing, for the OEB Panel to ask questions to a joint panel of Hydro One and NextBridge, if necessary. This

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<sup>2</sup> The Hydro One-LSL Application has been assigned OEB File No. EB-2017-0364.

<sup>3</sup> The Hydro One-Station Upgrades Application has been assigned OEB File No. EB-2017-0194.

<sup>4</sup> Procedural Order No. 2 on Combined Hearing (August 27, 2018) set out further procedural steps including deadlines for posing written interrogatories to NextBridge. Procedural Order No. 3 on Combined Hearing (August 31, 2018) relates only to the OEB's review of NextBridge's development costs for the NextBridge-EWT Application. Procedural Order No. 4 on Combined Hearing (September 7, 2018) granted the intervenor status to three parties who had applied for intervention by September 4, 2018 deadline. Procedural Order No. 5 on Combined Hearing (September 19, 2018) granted the intervenor status to Michipicoten First Nation.

<sup>5</sup> This includes the records, evidence and transcripts from the NextBridge motion to dismiss the Hydro One-LSL Application.

<sup>6</sup> The OEB notes that no party has sought to test the evidence that has been filed by the Long Lake #58 First Nation through a technical conference (as provided for in Procedural Order No. 3 on Combined Hearing).

preliminary schedule is subject to change. A detailed hearing plan will be provided to parties in advance of October 2, 2018.

In order to complete the detailed hearing plan, the OEB requires further information from parties. In this Procedural Order, the OEB directs (i) Hydro One, NextBridge and the IESO to provide information on their proposed witnesses/witness panels; and (ii) each party to provide OEB staff with its time estimates for cross-examination of Hydro One's, NextBridge's and the IESO's witnesses.

In developing cross-examination time estimates, the OEB asks that intervenors with similar interests consult with each other to avoid duplicating lines of questioning. It is also important to remember the scope of the OEB's review. As stated in the OEB Act, the OEB shall **only** consider the following when, it considers whether the construction, expansion or reinforcement of the electricity transmission line or electricity distribution line, or the making of the interconnection, is in the public interest:

- The interests of consumers with respect to prices and the reliability and quality of electricity service.
- Where applicable and in a manner consistent with the policies of the Government of Ontario, the promotion of the use of renewable energy sources.

The OEB will also approve the form of agreement that Hydro One and NextBridge offer to landowners affected by the route or location of the transmission line and station facilities.

The October hearing does not include NextBridge's development costs which were subject to an earlier oral hearing in July 2018.

The OEB further reminds parties that it is required to accept that the construction of the transmission line is needed when it considers the three issues listed above and will not be considering alternatives to the construction of the transmission line between Wawa and Thunder Bay.<sup>7</sup> As a result, if parties have questions for the IESO, those questions should be limited to issues that are relevant to the OEB's mandate.

In Procedural Order No. 1 on Combined Hearing, the OEB had scheduled the oral hearing to start on October 2, 2018 and continue on October 4, 9, 11, and 12, 2018. Given the unavailability of a Hydro One witness on October 4, 2018, the OEB is adding an additional half day of hearing time that will take place on the afternoon of October 3, 2018.

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<sup>7</sup> The expansion or reinforcement of the electricity transmission network in the area between Wawa and Thunder Bay was declared by Order-in-Council 326/2016 to be needed as a priority project under section 96.1 of the OEB Act.

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. NextBridge, Hydro One and the IESO shall file with the OEB and copy all other parties by Monday, September 24, 2018 the following information:
  - a. Number of witness panels they intend to bring to the oral hearing
  - b. The names and expertise for each witness
2. Parties, including intervenors, OEB staff and applicants, shall send by Tuesday, September 25, 2018 estimated times to cross-examine each of Hydro One, NextBridge and the IESO. This information is to be sent directly to Zora Crnojacki, OEB staff's Case Manager for this proceeding at [zora.crnojacki@oeb.ca](mailto:zora.crnojacki@oeb.ca)
3. The combined oral hearing for the NextBridge-EWT, the Hydro One-Station Upgrades and the Hydro One-LSL Applications will:
  - a. begin on **October 2, 2018 at 11:00 am** in the OEB's hearing room at 2300 Yonge Street, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto will, if necessary, continue on
  - b. **October 3, 2018 at 12:30 pm.**
  - c. **October 4, 9, 11 and 12, 2018 starting at 9:30 am.**

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.Crnjacki@oeb.ca](mailto:Zora.Crnjacki@oeb.ca) and OEB Counsel, Lawren Murray at [Lawren.Murray@oeb.ca](mailto:Lawren.Murray@oeb.ca).

**ADDRESS**

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**DATED** at Toronto, September 21, 2018

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original signed by*

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary