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**Commission de l'énergie
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BY E-MAIL

November 1, 2018

Annamaria Cross
Acting Director
Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Dear Ms. Cross:

Re: Leave to construct applications filed by NextBridge and Hydro One (EB-2017-0182/EB-2017-0194/EB-2017-0364)

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is in receipt of your October 31, 2018 letter regarding the Wawa Transformer Station Expansion Class Environmental Assessment (Wawa Class EA). Having reviewed the letter, the OEB writes to seek three points of clarification.

First, the letter states that the ministry anticipates that the Wawa Class EA requirements can be completed in less than six months. Can you please confirm as to when the six months commenced (or will commence)?

Second, based on the ministry's evidence during the oral hearing on October 12, 2018 (starting at page 124 of the Day 7 transcript), the OEB understands that the ministry has linked EA-approvals that relate to the transmission line project. Can the ministry please advise as to what impact the Wawa Class EA could have on any approval of NextBridge's EA for the East-West Tie line? For example, would approval for NextBridge's EA be postponed until the successful completion of the Wawa Class EA?

Third, in addition to EA approval, the OEB understands that various permits will be required before construction could begin on the new transmission line. Can the ministry please advise as to what impact the Wawa Class EA could have on the timing of any permits required for which the ministry is responsible?

The deadline for Hydro One and NextBridge to file their reply submissions with the OEB is November 7, 2018. As a result, the OEB would appreciate a response to these questions at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

Cc: All the parties in the OEB's Combined Proceeding EB-2017-0182/0194/0364