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November 6, 2018

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319  
27<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto ON, M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli

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

Thank you for your letter of November 1, 2018 requesting clarification of our letter of October 31, 2018. Please see the ministry's responses to your questions below.

**1. 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)?**

Based on discussions with Hydro One, it is the ministry's understanding that Hydro One has completed much of the outstanding work, but has not documented it in the required Environmental Study Report. The ministry estimates that it would take less than six months, starting now, for Hydro One to meet any outstanding requirements including consultation and the preparation of an Environmental Study Report.

Our estimate of the period of time assumes that Hydro One starts the additional work immediately. As this is a proponent-driven process, Hydro One is ultimately responsible for determining when it will commence this additional work.

**2. 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?**

The completion of the Wawa transformer station class EA is not a pre-condition for the approval of NextBridge's EA for the transmission line. Therefore, a decision on the transmission line EA could proceed prior to Hydro One completing the Class EA for the Wawa transformer station upgrades project.

**3. 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?**

Sub-section 12.2(2) of *Environmental Assessment Act* prohibits the issuance of any "authorizations required at law to proceed with the undertaking" before the environmental assessment for the undertaking receives approval. As we discussed in our letter of October 31, 2018, the Wawa transformer station expansion is part of the larger East West Tie Transmission project. Therefore, any subsequent permits or approvals required for construction of the Wawa transformer station expansion can only be issued after approval of the environmental assessment for the transmission line.

However, the timing for the Wawa transformer station Class EA does not impact the timing for permits or approvals required to construct the transmission line project. The permits and approvals required for construction of the transmission line project can be issued as soon as the environmental assessment for the transmission line is approved.

I hope the responses above clarify your questions. Please contact me at [annamaria.cross@ontario.ca](mailto:annamaria.cross@ontario.ca) or 416-314-7967 if you have further questions.

Regards,



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Annamaria Cross

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