



**BIIGTIGONG
NISHNAABEG**

November 26, 2018
VIA EMAIL

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Via email: Registrar@oeb.ca

Attention: Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary

Re: EB-2017-0182/0194/0364 - Hydro One's Proposed Lake Superior Link Project – Declaration Order Under Seeking Exemption Under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act

Dear Ms. Goulais,

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg - Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation (PRFN) is in receipt of your letter dated November 21, 2018 in which you notify our First Nation that if Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) is granted leave to construct its proposed Lake Superior Link Project (the Project) by the Ontario Energy Board, Hydro One intends to apply to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks for a Declaration Order under Section 3.2 of the Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act) to receive an exemption from having to proceed with an Individual EA approval process.

PRFN understands that under the EA Act, Individual EAs are prepared for large-scale, complex projects with the potential for significant environmental effects, and they require MECP approval. PRFN also understands that through Individual EAs, the MECP is to carry out a detailed scrutinizing process which includes: consulting with the public, Indigenous communities and government agencies; coordinating technical reviews with government experts; reviewing all comments and the proponent's responses to comments; and assessing whether the proponent has met the requirements of the EA Act. Individual EAs are precisely for projects like the Lake Superior Link.

Hydro One suggests that if granted an exemption from the EA Act, it would be able to proceed with the proposed Project in a more timely manner, and would "adopt" the East-West Tie Environmental Assessment documentation, make use of pre-existing environmental studies completed by others, make use of studies Hydro One has undertaken to date, and make use of studies Hydro One is committed to undertaking before beginning construction (not identified in the November 21, 2018 letter).

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In respect of Hydro One seeking a Declaration Order for Exemption Under the EA Act, PRFN is of the firm position that nothing should be allowed to affect the substance, purpose or effectiveness of the EA, or PRFN's rights to meaningful consultation and accommodation, and PRFN would be opposed to anything that had that effect.

Miigwetch,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duncan M. Michano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Duncan" being the most prominent part.

Chief Duncan Michano
Biigtigong Nishnaabeg

Cc. Christine Goulais, Senior Manager - Indigenous Relations, Hydro One Networks Inc
Kate Kempton – Legal Counsel, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg
Juanita Starr – Director, Sustainable Development, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg