



September 16, 2014

Chris Wray, AMCT CAO/Clerk-Treasurer Municipality of Wawa P.O. Box 500 40 Broadway Avenue Wawa, ON POS 1K0

Dear Mr. Wray:

Sent via email and mail

**RE: East-West Tie Line** 

Thank you for the letter and for informing us of your concerns regarding consultation and engagement activities in support of the new East-West Tie Transmission Project. Please be assured that we hold the interests and concerns of the Municipality of Wawa and all communities in the Project area in the highest regard. We've committed to regular and open communication and to seeking and respecting input. We would be pleased to further discuss the concerns you raised in your August 25, 2014 letter and accept your offer to meet with Council and Staff of the Municipality of Wawa. We will be in Chapleau on October 6<sup>th</sup> to attend the next Northeastern Superior Mayors' Group Meeting. We would be pleased to schedule a separate meeting with Wawa on October 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Brent Bullough at 647-260-3931 or brent.bullough@nexteraenergy.com to confirm specific timing for the meeting.

Our preliminary responses to some of the issues you raise in your August 25 letter follow.

When we first set up meetings with municipalities in November of 2013, our intention was to meet with municipalities individually. It was through the cooperative effort of the Township of White River and the Municipality of Wawa that we met with the Northeastern Superior Mayors' Group Meeting on November 18, 2013. The Municipality of Wawa, the host municipality, approved a scheduling change for the Mayor's Group meeting to coincide with our meeting schedule. We appreciated this gesture and interpreted this action as confirmation that the Mayors' Group was an appropriate forum for our meeting, but we also recognized a need to hear Wawa-specific concerns and arranged a meeting with the Municipality of Wawa Management Team on the same day, before the Mayors' Group meeting. Mayor Nowicki and Councillor Besner were in attendance at this Wawa-specific meeting along with key Wawa staff including the Director and Assistant Director of Infrastructure Services, Director of IT and Innovation, Director of the Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre, Chief Building Official, and the Deputy Treasurer. We considered these the first opportunities of many to discuss the project with the Municipality of Wawa and other communities along the route. We regret if the impression was given that our commitment to consult was completed after the November 18, 2013 meetings. This was not and is not our intention.

Regarding the May 6, 2014 meeting with the Economic Development Corporation of Wawa, this meeting was arranged by our consultant to collect data for the Environmental Assessment's socio-economic studies. It was not intended to be an update meeting involving the Project team.

We were pleased that Mayor Nowicki was able to attend the August 23, 2014 Open House and speak with Project staff. It was unfortunate that the Open Houses coincided with the annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario



(AMO) conference. As you can appreciate, scheduling a week of Open Houses around long weekends during the summer, while meeting regulatory requirements and avoiding other activities such as conferences and community events can be difficult. All municipalities faced the same challenges with respect to the AMO conference, but we did recognize the residents of Wawa were faced with the added challenge of being asked to attend a Saturday Open House. To encourage attendance in Wawa, we engaged the services of a local caterer to provide a meal to all attendees and advertised this offer in the Notice that was published in local and regional papers. Meals were not offered at the other Open Houses.

With respect to notification and the publication dates of the Notice of Open Houses, the Notice was published locally in French and English in the Algoma News on August 6, 2014 and Ontario News North on August 8, 2014. Advertising was also purchased from <a href="https://www.wawa-news.com">www.wawa-news.com</a> and <a href="https://www.wawa-news.com">www.ontarionewsnorth.com</a> and <a href="https://www.ontarionewsnorth.com">began</a> appearing online on August 8, 2014. Radio stations along the route, including CBC (Project area-wide), CFNO (Marathon) and JJAM (Wawa), broadcast stories about the Project and the Open House locations the week leading up to the events. Also, potentially affected landowner and others on the mailing list (including those who attended the first round of Open Houses) received a hard copy mailing of the Notice the week of August 3, 2014.

We are aware of the concerns you raised during your presentation on behalf of the Algoma Coalition to the Ontario Energy Board in May 2013 and your written submission. Many of these concerns were raised at our meeting the Northeastern Superior Mayors' Group and the Municipality of Wawa on November 18, 2013. Some of the concerns you raised cannot be answered by NextBridge. At the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, NextBridge was accompanied by a representative of the Ontario Power Authority, who was able to respond to questions related to project rationale and Provincial Policy more directly. We will be pleased to further discuss the concerns you raised that are within our control and project scope at our upcoming meeting.

Our public communications materials generally list me, the Project Director, or Oliver Romaniuk, the Project Manager, as the contacts for the Project. We would be pleased to work with you, but we do have a dedicated Stakeholders Relations Project team member, Chris Lupaschuk. Chris will be able to provide you with timely responses and direct you to other team members that may assist in your inquiries. Chris can be reached at <a href="mailto:chris.lupaschuk@enbridge.com">chris.lupaschuk@enbridge.com</a> or 519-339-0524.

Thank you again for your letter and we look forward to continued discussions.

Sincerely,

Michael Power, P.Eng

Project Director - East-West Tie Transmission Project

More

NextBridge Infrastructure

Cc: Municipality of Wawa Mayor and Council

Northeastern Superior Mayors' Group

Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary - Ontario Energy Board

The Honourable Brad Duguid - Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure

The Honourable Michael Gravelle - Minister of Northern Development and Mines

Alan Spacek, President – Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

Kristen Oliver, Executive Director – Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association