

EB-2011-0140

April 7, 2015

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street 27th Floor  
PO Box 2319  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

RECEIVED  
APR 15 2015  
ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

**RE: Proposed NextBridge Infrastructure New East-West Tie Transmission Project – Project Update**

Dear Kirsten Walli:

I am pleased to provide you with the following Project update.

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) (formerly the Ontario Power Authority), the provincial agency responsible for long-term electricity planning in Ontario, has proposed that the development schedule for the East-West Tie Project be extended to work toward a 2020 in service date. The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) directed NextBridge to work with the IESO to produce a revised development schedule for the Project. NextBridge consulted with the IESO and revised the development schedule and submitted it to the OEB for approval on December 19, 2014. The revised schedule proposes filing of the Leave to Construct application with the OEB in December 2017 to meet an in-service date of December 2020. The OEB has since indicated it is not prepared at this time to approve the revised development schedule proposed given the current uncertainty surrounding routing and access within Pukaskwa National Park. Their response can be found at the link below.

[http://www.rds.ontarioenergyboard.ca/webdrawer/webdrawer.dll/webdrawer/rec/463441/view/Dec\\_Order\\_EWT\\_20150122.PDF](http://www.rds.ontarioenergyboard.ca/webdrawer/webdrawer.dll/webdrawer/rec/463441/view/Dec_Order_EWT_20150122.PDF)

NextBridge has resumed pursuit of permission to study a route that would cross Pukaskwa National Park adjacent to the existing transmission corridor as one potential means of reducing overall project cost through a shortening of overall line length. During this time, we will engage with stakeholders and Aboriginal communities in relation to such a route. NextBridge has requested a prompt decision from Parks Canada with respect to Pukaskwa National Park access. Once a decision is made regarding access to the Park for study purposes, we will be in a better position to reasonably estimate Project development costs for the extended development period and confirm the development schedule. Assuming a timely decision related to Park access, the revised budget will be submitted to the OEB by May 15, 2015. In the event that

authorization to study in the Park is not obtained, the Project budget and schedule will be refined reflecting a Project that goes around the Park.

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that I, John Deese, have taken on the position of NextBridge's Project Director for the East-West Tie Project effective immediately. I was previously Executive Director of Transmission Development at NextEra Energy Transmission Inc. and in that role participated in East-West Tie Project development work beginning in 2014. I am looking forward to meeting with you to discuss the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JAD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Deese  
Project Director – East-West Tie Transmission Project  
NextBridge Infrastructure

**Si vous désirez ces informations en français, s'il vous plaît contactez NextBridge au 1-888-767-3006 ou [info@nextbridge.ca](mailto:info@nextbridge.ca).**