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BY EMAIL AND RESS

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re. EB-2017-0182 and EB-2017-0194 (NextBridge East-West Tie (EWT) Line Leave to Construct and related Hydro One station facilities application) and EB-2017-0364 (Hydro One Lake Superior Link (LSL) Leave to Construct)

On behalf of NextBridge, we write in response to Mr. Warren's letter of today's date. In that letter, Hydro One requests a delay in the technical conference in EB-2017-0182 and EB-2017-0194 (the NextBridge Leave to Construct and related Hydro One station facilities application) until after the May 24, 2018 motion is heard in EB-2017-0364 (the Hydro One Leave to Construct).

NextBridge does not agree that a delay in the technical conference in the NextBridge Leave to construct proceeding is appropriate. The oral hearing of the NextBridge Leave to Construct proceeding is scheduled to begin on June 4, 2018. A delay in the technical conference will jeopardize the start date for the oral hearing, particularly where there are undertakings or follow-up matters arising out of the technical conference. There is an urgency to having the NextBridge Leave to Construct hearing proceed as scheduled, given that NextBridge requires a decision approving its Leave to Construct from the OEB by the end of July 2018 in order to achieve an in-service date by the end of 2020.

While NextBridge appreciates that there are several deliverables and activities happening at the same time in the NextBridge EWT Line and Hydro One LSL Leave to Construct proceedings, it is not out of the ordinary for a large transmission utility to have multiple proceedings occurring at one time. NextBridge respectfully submits that Hydro One, which is the party that has chosen to submit the competing LSL Leave to Construct Application for the EWT project, should be able to address the competing demands.

Yours truly,

AIRD & BERLIS LLP

(Original Signed)

David Stevens

cc. all parties in EB-2017-0182 and EB-2017-0194