

**Ontario Energy
Board**

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**Commission de l'énergie
de l'Ontario**

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BY EMAIL

May 3, 2018

Robert B. Warren
Counsel to Hydro One Networks Inc.
WeirFoulds LLP
Toronto, ON M5K 1B7

Dear Mr. Warren:

Re: EB-2017-0182 and EB-2017-0194 (NextBridge East-West Tie Line and Hydro One Station applications)

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) acknowledges receipt of the letter filed by Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) on May 1, 2018. In that letter, Hydro One requests that the transcribed technical conference scheduled for May 7, 2018 be rescheduled to a later date that is no earlier than May 28, 2018. In support of this request, Hydro One states that its staff are currently focused on the preparation of evidence for an upcoming motion on the Lake Superior Link application (LSL Motion).¹ Hydro One says that the burden of being required to file evidence in the LSL Motion on the same day as the technical conference in this proceeding, for which further preparation is required, is “unreasonable, unfair, and unnecessary”. The OEB has also received a responding letter from NextBridge, which opposes the rescheduling of the technical conference.

Having considered Hydro One’s request, the OEB confirms that the technical conference will proceed on May 7, 2018 as scheduled. However, Hydro One’s witnesses will no longer be required to attend the technical conference. Parties with questions for Hydro One can ask those questions during the oral hearing of this proceeding.

The nature of Hydro One’s role in this proceeding is two-fold. First, it is an intervenor in NextBridge’s application seeking an order granting leave to construct a new transmission line in northwestern Ontario (East-West Tie Line Application).² There is no requirement that Hydro One or any other intervenor attend or ask questions at the

¹ EB-2017-0364

² EB-2017-0182

technical conference for the East-West Tie Line Application. The technical conference is a process employed by the OEB in certain proceedings to enable parties to follow up on questions arising from interrogatory responses or additional evidence that is filed after the interrogatory process. The technical conference can streamline the hearing process but does not prevent parties from asking any relevant questions at the oral hearing.

Hydro One's second role is as the applicant seeking an order granting leave to construct certain facilities associated with the East-West Tie Line Application (the East-West Tie Stations Application).³ The OEB notes that only OEB Staff and the School Energy Coalition posed questions to Hydro One during the interrogatory process. The OEB's Case Administrator has contacted all parties to determine a schedule for the upcoming technical conference, including whether parties have questions for Hydro One, NextBridge or both companies. Based on the responses to date, there do not appear to be many, if any, questions for Hydro One on the East-West Tie Stations Application. As a result, the OEB is removing Hydro One's interrogatory responses for the East-West Tie Stations Application from the scope of the technical conference that will proceed on May 7, 2018. Any questions that parties may have of Hydro One can be asked during the oral hearing of this proceeding.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

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

³ EB-2017-0194