

June 29, 2018

**Robert B. Warren**  
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File 18867.00001

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
Suite 2701  
2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: EB-2017-0182 and EB-2017-0194**

We are counsel to Hydro One Networks Inc. in these matters.

Attached hereto is a copy of a letter dated June 27, 2018 from our client to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

Yours truly,

**WeirFoulds LLP**



Robert B. Warren

RBW/sn

Encl.

c: Stephanie Allman, Upper Canada Transmission Inc.  
Kevin Culbert, NextBridge Infrastructure  
David Stevens, Aird & Berlis  
Michael Engelberg  
All Parties

11915892.1

**Hydro One Networks Inc.**  
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**Elise Croll**

Director, Environmental Services Department

June 27, 2018

Ms. Mira Majerovich  
Environmental Planner and Environmental Assessment Co-ordinator  
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change  
Suite 331, 435 James Street South  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7

Via e-mail

**Re: Proposed Marathon Transformer Station Expansion connection with East-West Tie transmission line**

Dear Ms. Majerovich:

Thank you for your recent e-mail regarding the Marathon TS Expansion Class Environmental Assessment (EA). In that correspondence you stated the following:

*"Please note any Class Environmental Assessment work undertaken with respect to the NextBridge individual environmental assessment can be undertaken; however, any subsequent permits and approvals that are required for the project cannot be obtained until the undertaking has approval under the Environmental Assessment Act.*

*Because these two projects are connected, we cannot move forward with Class EA permits and approvals before the IEA decision is complete. We ask that Hydro One Inc. please refrain from submitting any permit and approval applications to MNRF and/or MOECC for the interim."*

We were surprised to learn that further permits and approvals related to the Marathon TS EA approval are dependent on the NextBridge East-West Tie (EWT) EA approval, as this had never been previously mentioned. The transformer station works at Marathon are not part of the EWT undertaking, nor were they included in the terms of reference for that undertaking. There is no link between the station EA work and the EWT in that, regardless of whether the EWT is approved in its current form or in some other form, or whether a different tie-line project is approved by the Ontario Energy Board, the station work is necessary and must proceed to support the tie line. The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has determined that a tie line is needed to maintain a reliable and cost-effective long-term supply of electricity to northwestern Ontario.

The station work requires lead time prior to construction of the tie line but, without the ability to obtain further permits and approvals, the station work will not be completed in time to support the EWT's proposed 2020 in-service date.

We are asking that the MOECC consider the above and advise us of its position by the end of next week if possible, because we need to evaluate the extent of the effect on the in-service date of the EWT line, of linking the further permits and approvals for the station EA work with the EWT individual EA.

Hydro One has already notified NextBridge of our understanding of your e-mail referred to above and what we understand to be the effect on the station EA work, but more detailed discussion and evaluation will be required. Also, discussion of possible schedule implications with the the Ontario Energy Board may be required.

In the interim, should you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elise Croll".

Elise Croll  
Director, Environmental Services

cc Annamaria Cross, Manager, Environmental Assessment Services, MOECC  
Antonia Testa, Special Project Officer, MOECC  
Patricia Staite, Manager Environmental Assessments, Hydro One Networks Inc.  
Jennifer Tidmarsh, President, NextEra Energy Transmission - Canada