



DORION TOWNSHIP  
Canyon Country



**RED ROCK  
INDIAN BAND**  
Strength. Tradition. Empowerment.

September 25, 2018

Rosemarie T. Leclair  
Chair & Chief Executive Officer

Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street, 27th floor  
P.O. Box 2319  
Toronto, ON  
M4P 1E4

***Re: Northern Support for the NextBridge East West Tie Transmission Project***

Dear Ms. LeClair and Members of the Ontario Energy Board,

We are writing on behalf of the Quad Council; a Northern Ontario political alliance that represents the municipalities of Red Rock, Nipigon, Dorion and the Red Rock Indian Band to provide a collective voice on issues impacting our regional communities.

**This letter is to formally express our disappointment in the delay of allowing Hydro One to disrupt the positive status of the East West Tie transmission project.**

We are also indicating our unanimous support for moving ahead with the project at this time based on the NextBridge proposal and its Supercom partners including the six First Nations of Fort William First Nation, Red Rock Indian Band, Pays Plat First Nation, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, Pic Mobert First Nation and Michipicoten First Nation.

The decision to allow the hearing potentially puts the entire transmission project in jeopardy, as well as the connected employment and business opportunities that our communities have spent significant time and resources preparing for. The people, communities and socio-economic health of Northwestern Ontario are relying on this project to meet its scheduled construction and in-service commitments. This is a priority project for Ontario but it is of even greater significance to our regionally impacted communities.

The merits of moving this project forward with the NextBridge proposal are clear. The company and its partners have undertaken comprehensive consultation and engagement processes with our communities to develop the required trust and relationships to ensure the project is successfully delivered.


Moreover, we believe the NextBridge proposal respects and accommodates the individual and collective needs of the impacted municipalities and First Nations. Specifically, the NextBridge proposal will bypass certain municipalities in order to minimize town centre intrusion and any threats to existing economic plans. The company has agreed to make these project accommodations despite the resulting planning and cost increases because they understand that constricting the future growth of our municipalities would have a much more significant cost to Northwestern Ontario and the province over the longer-term.

We urge you to dismiss the Hydro One application and to set dates for the LTC hearing to expedite this project, not only as a commitment to fair process in Ontario but so that the economic impact of the project can be promptly realized.

Sincerely,



Gary Nelson  
Mayor of Red Rock



Richard Harvey  
Mayor of Nipigon



Ed Chambers  
Reeve of Dorion



Chief Matt Dupuis  
Chief, Red Rock Indian Band

Copy to:

- Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
- Lieutenant Governor in Council, Elizabeth Dowdeswell
- Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, and Minister of Indigenous Affairs
- Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Finance and Chair of Cabinet
- Hon. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
- Hon. Monte McNaughton, Minister of Infrastructure
- Hon. Laurie Scott, Minister of Labour
- Hon. Jim Wilson, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education
- The Honourable Patricia A. Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development & Labour
- Michael Gravelle, Member of Provincial Parliament. Thunder Bay Superior North.