



# RED SKY MÉTIS

## Independent Nation™

406 East Victoria Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7C 1A5  
Phone: (807) 623-4635 Fax: (807) 623-9331  
Consultation@RSMIN.ca www.RSMIN.ca

*October 1, 2018*

*Ms. Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M4P 1E4*

*Dear Ms. Walli:*

*Re: Upper Canada Transmission, Inc. ("NextBridge") and  
Hydro One Networks Inc. ("HONI")  
East-West Tie Line Project and Lake Superior Link Project  
Combined Hearing  
EB-2017-0182/EB-2017-0194/EB-2017-0364*

Please accept the following document as comment on behalf of the Red Sky Métis Independent Nation Council and representative government to be used in the above noted hearing.

Thank you,

Dean Whellan  
Community Consultant  
Red Sky Métis Independent Nation



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### Introduction

Red Sky Métis Independent Nation™ (RSMIN) represents the descendents of the 84 “half-breeds” who were recognized by the Crown as beneficiaries and annuitants under the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850, in concurrence with the First Nation peoples. RSMIN is distinct from the First Nation peoples, by ways of our traditional lands, traditions, customs, and practices. As Métis, we are among the Aboriginal peoples of Canada with Aboriginal and Treaty Rights that are protected by s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, and pursued to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

### Project

Red Sky Métis Independent Nation™ (RSMIN) has been engaged in reviewing the both the Lake Superior Link Project and the East West Tie project through environmental assessment process. RSMIN would like to communicate the following concerns to ensure the OEB is aware of our community’s concerns related to the project.

### Competition

The RSMIN has received numerous concerns regarding the high price of electricity in North Western Ontario. Due to the remoteness of the area, transmission / Delivery costs are already elevated. Expenditures realized by the expansion of the Transmission line will translate to consumers overall electricity costs.

Competition of large-scale projects is required to ensure ratepayers are not penalized as a result of overspending. Hydro One is proposing efficiencies that reduce the cost of the project, which translates to consumer savings long term.

- **Capital Savings of (estimated) 120 Million Dollars**
- **Annual OM&A Savings of 3.2 Million Dollars**
- **Average annual revenue requirement savings of 13 million dollars**
- **Network Pool rate savings of 6 cents/kw/month**

## **Environment**

The length of the proposed Hydro One LSL project alternative route has a significantly smaller footprint than that East West Tie project. The existing transmission line is currently being maintained and operated by Hydro One and requires less disturbance of the environment to develop the project. There is a direct correlation between the project size and maintenance accessibility to the environmental impacts related to RSMIN's community. Below are some highlights that outline this point.

### **EWT Project**

- **Estimated 450 KM Length**
- **64 M Right of Way**
- **New access Roads for Maintenance**
- **Additional Water crossings Required for Roads**

### **LSL Project**

- **Estimated 400 KM Length**
- **37 M Right of Way On existing routes**
- **46 M Right of Way on New Routes**
- **Existing Access roads for Maintenance**