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February 12, 2021

Via RESS & EMAIL

Christine Long
Registrar & Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319, 27th Floor
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Long:

**Re: Upper Canada Transmission, Inc.'s ("NextBridge"), EB-2020-0150,
Settlement Conference**

We are counsel for the Applicant in this matter.

This letter is in response to Hydro One's letter of today's date respecting its participation in the Settlement Conference notwithstanding the prohibition against same in the Practice Direction.

Hydro One has not provided a good reason why the Board should grant an exemption to its policy that utilities should not participate in settlement discussions involving other utilities.

Hydro One notes that the Board has approved its participation in this proceeding as an intervenor. That, however, is not a grounds for an exemption from the Practice Direction because the Practice Direction assumes that the participants are all either the applicant or intervenors.

NextBridge continues to oppose Hydro One's participation.

However, if the Board does decide to permit Hydro One an exception to the Practice Direction, NextBridge submits that the exception should be limited to permitting Hydro One to participate only on issues that impact its specific interests in this proceeding.

Hydro One identified the basis of its specific interest in the proceeding as follows in its Notice of Intervention:

"The East-West Tie line will connect to transmission assets and facilities owned and operated by Hydro One. Hydro One is upgrading associated transmission stations to

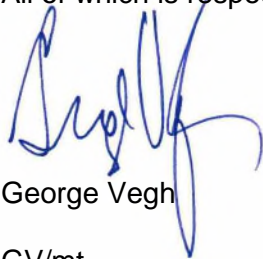
accommodate the line. Hydro One is also in negotiations to be a service provider to NextBridge.”

As a result, it is respectfully requested that if the Board grants Hydro One an exception to the prohibition against its participation in settlement negotiation, that the exception be restricted to issues related to:

- (i) the connection of the East-West Tie line to the transmission assets and facilities owned and operated by Hydro One;
- (ii) Hydro One’s upgrading of associated transmission stations to accommodate the line; and
- (iii) Hydro One’s role a service provider to NextBridge.

This approach both provides Hydro One the opportunity to participate on issues that affect its interests and at the same time respects the policy reflected in the Practice Direction that utilities should not participate in settlement discussions involving other utilities.

All of which is respectfully submitted.



George Vegh

GV/mt

cc. Reena Goyal, McCarthy Tetrault
Brian J. Murphy, NextBridge Infrastructure, LP
Jennifer Tidmarsh, NextBridge Infrastructure, LP
All Parties in EB-2020-0150