

**BY EMAIL AND RESS**

July 23, 2021

Ms. Christine E. Long  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
Suite 2700, 2300 Yonge Street  
P.O. Box 2319  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

**Re: Notice of Suspension of Construction Activities – East-West Tie Transmission Project**

Dear Ms. Long:

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has issued an Emergency Area Order (EAO) in place covering the Northwest Region of Ontario (Restricted Fire Zones 1-13 – see map attached) due to extreme fire hazard and significant fire activity in the northwestern part of the province. Upon the declaration of the above-mentioned EAO, a subsequent Implementation Order (IO) was made under that EAO within the identified emergency area. See Attached IO. The IO prohibits construction activities associated with the East-West Tie Line Project as a result of the extreme fire events the province is experiencing this year.

Therefore, pursuant to the IO, NextBridge has temporarily suspended construction activities in Workfronts 1 through 7 (the Project has a total of 11 Workfronts) of the East-West Tie Transmission Project. The MNRF has indicated that the IO will be lifted when the fires are under control, the timing of which is uncertain but is anticipated to be multiple weeks from now. At this point in time NextBridge does not know what the impacts will be to the project costs and schedule. NextBridge will provide an update to the OEB and Independent Electricity System Operator when the IO suspensions are lifted and construction re-commences.

Sincerely,

 Digitally signed by  
Jennifer Tidmarsh  
Date: 2021.07.23  
09:53:06 -04'00'

Jennifer Tidmarsh  
Project Director, NextBridge

CC:

Nancy Marconi, Manager - Generation & Transmission Applications, OEB  
Ahmed Maria, Director - Transmission Planning, IESO





# Emergency Area Order 2021-13 Northwest Region



## Legend

- Priority Fires
- Railway
- Road
- Geographic Township
- Fire Perimeters
- Emergency Area Order

Emergency Area Order  
is comprised of  
Restricted Fire Zones  
1 to 13

## Notes / Notes

North American Datum 1983, UTM 15.

This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation.

This map may contain cartographic errors or omissions.

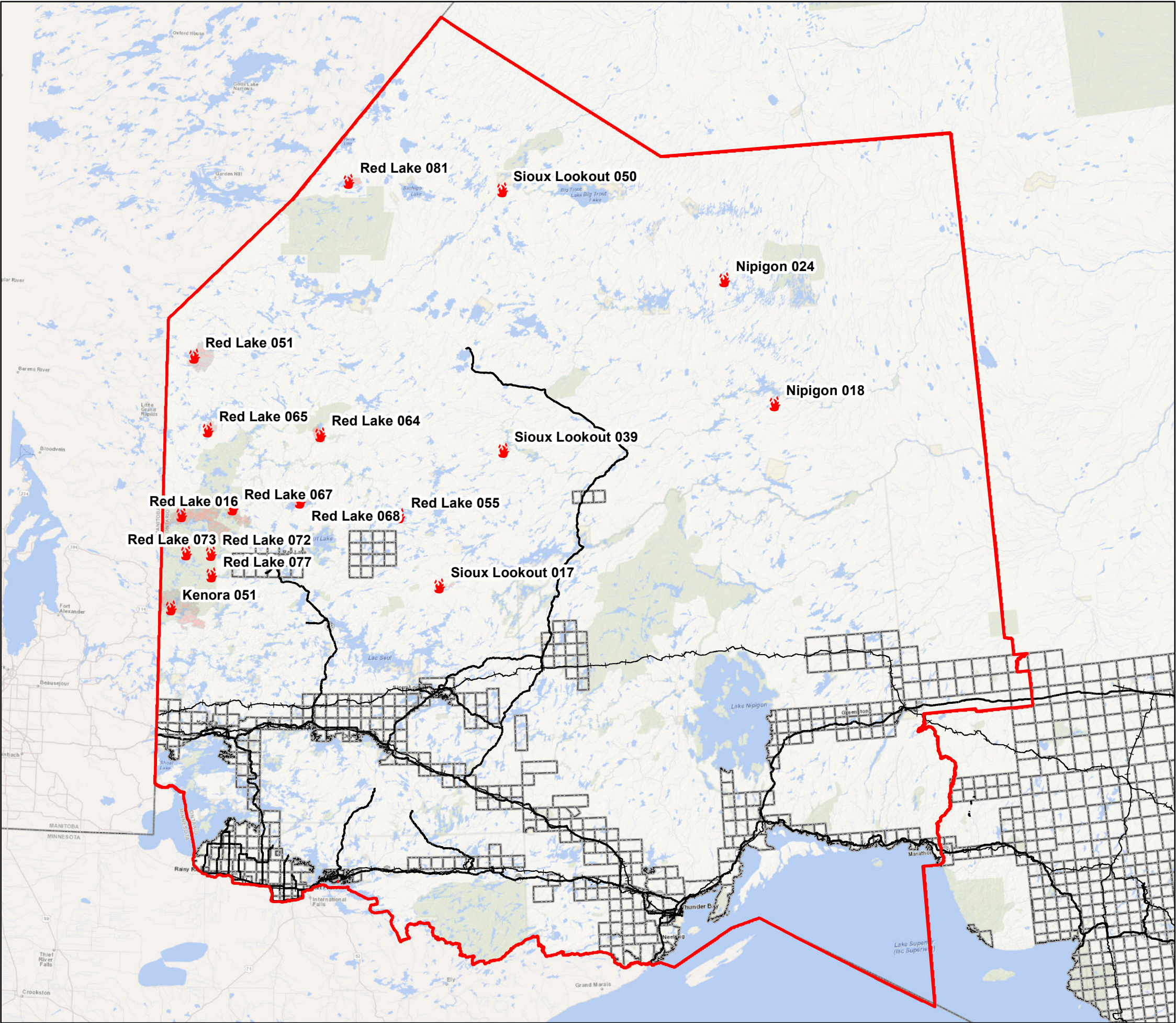
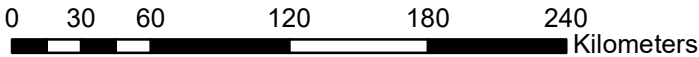
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## IMPLEMENTATION ORDER

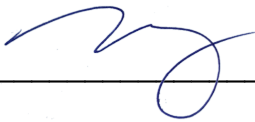
The actions and orders described below are made pursuant to the Emergency Area Order declared under the authority of Section 23(1) of *the Forest Fires Prevention Act* and described below.

Under the Emergency Area Order EAO 2021-13 declared on July 14, 2021 and the authority delegated to me by the Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural resources and Forestry, I Michael Gluck, Regional Director for the Northwest Region, order the following actions to be taken, which I deem necessary for the purposes of public safety and/or effectual fire suppression:

1. The following activities governed by an approved Forest Management Plan and associated Annual Work Schedule under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* are prohibited:
  - a) Road Construction including:
    - Stripping with bulldozer
    - Blasting without mats
    - Building, spreading and shaping sub-grade with back hoe/excavator
  - b) Harvesting using the following equipment:
    - Tracked equipment such as feller-bunchers, or machines with rotary cutting heads
    - Vehicles with tire chains (i.e., forwarders, skidders)
    - Mechanized equipment with rubber tires (no chains) (i.e., forwarders, skidders)
    - Power Saw /Chainsaw
  - c) Processing:
    - Delimbing, slashing, portable saw mills
    - Portable chipping
    - Power Saw / Chainsaw
  - d) Silviculture:
    - Mechanized site preparation
    - Mechanical tending with chain flails and mowers; hydro-axe; slash piling
    - Brush saw/chainsaw thinning
  - e) Other:
    - Hot work: welding, torch cutting and grinding

2. The following activities carried out in a forest area as part of an industrial operation as defined under Ontario Regulation 207/96 are prohibited unless carried out as part of emergency maintenance or repairs and all mitigation measures under subsection 19(2) of O. Reg. 207/96 are implemented:
- a) Operation that uses heavy machinery equipped with metal parts that may come into contact with rocks or similar material in the normal course of operation and cause a spark.
  - b) Stripping of the surface vegetation and forest floor with heavy machinery.
  - c) Hot work.
  - d) Rail production grinding.
  - e) Blasting of rock or soil without use of blasting mats.
  - f) Switch crossing grinding.
  - g) Operations using a channel saw where the surface vegetation and forest floor have not been removed up to a distance of at least three metres from the place where the channel saw is being operated on the worksite.
  - h) Delimbing or slashing felled trees with heavy machinery.
  - i) Using a portable saw mill.
  - j) Slash piling.
  - k) Building, spreading or shaping the sub-grade with a back hoe or excavator.
  - l) Operation using three or more brush saws.
  - m) Operation using heavy machinery with rubber tires and no chains.
  - n) Drilling operation that does not use water as a coolant or flushing agent and that is carried out in an area that has not been cleared of the surface vegetation and forest floor.
  - o) Induced polarization surveys using a power generator.

This Order is in effect at 12:01 Eastern Standard Time on July 21, 2021 until such time as the order is revoked.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of delegated authority

2021/07/20  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Cc: ADM, Regional Operations

## APPENDIX A

For reference, “industrial operations” is defined as follows under Ontario Regulation 207/96: Outdoor Fires:

**15. (1)** In this Part,

“industrial operations” means any of the following operations that are carried out in a forest area as part of an industrial activity described in subsection (2) and not for personal purposes:

1. Harvesting trees and processing them into log lengths, chips, biofuel or lumber.
2. Clearing land of trees or other vegetation.
3. Operation or use, in a forest area, of machinery with metal parts that, in the normal course of operations, may come into contact with rocks or similar material resulting in the creation of a spark or fire.
4. Hot work.
5. Trenching in areas of forest fuels.
6. The use of explosives in or adjacent to forest fuels.
7. Road construction;

(2) The following are the industrial activities referred to in the definition of “industrial operations” in subsection (1):

1. Timber harvesting and timber processing, unless the harvesting or processing is governed by a Forest Management Plan approved under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994*.
2. Mechanical site preparations and other silvicultural treatments, other than those that are governed by a Forest Management Plan approved under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994*.
3. Construction and maintenance of electrical power generation facilities.
4. Construction and maintenance of utility corridors, including any infrastructure that is part of the corridors.
5. Construction and maintenance on railway rights of way, including any infrastructure on the rights of way.
6. Peat harvesting.
7. Mining and mineral exploration.

## **APPENDIX B**

Measures under subsection 19(2) of O. Reg. 207/96:

1. The worksite must be soaked with water or with a fire suppression foam mixture before the operations begin and after the operations are completed for the day and must be kept in a wet condition during operations.
2. At least one worker must be assigned to monitor the worksite while the industrial operations are being carried out to watch for sparks or other signs that a fire has been ignited and to take immediate actions to halt the spread of fire if it is safe to do so.
3. At least one worker must be employed to actively patrol the worksite for at least one hour after the operations are completed for the day and to extinguish any fires he or she may find if it is safe to do so.
4. Workers engaged in monitoring or patrolling a worksite under paragraph 2 or 3 must be equipped with telephones or other devices capable of immediate two-way communication with the local fire management headquarters and ensure that any fire that may occur and is not kept under control is immediately reported to the Ministry.
5. Workers conducting hot work operations must put in place non-combustible screens designed and able to catch any and all material capable of producing fire ignitions.