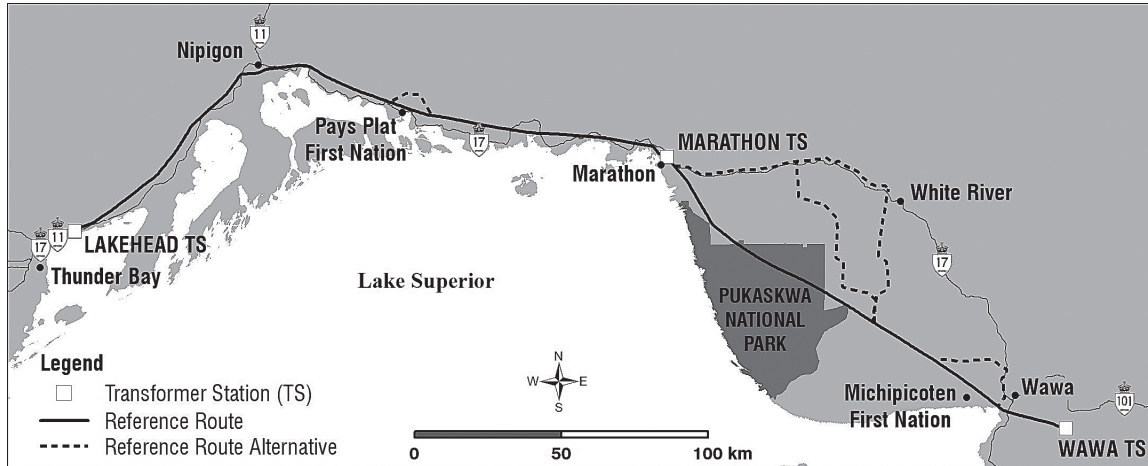


# Notice of Commencement of Terms of Reference and Open Houses New East West Tie Transmission Project

## NextBridge Infrastructure

NextBridge Infrastructure (NextBridge) – a partnership between NextEra Energy Canada, Enbridge Inc., and Borealis Infrastructure – has initiated the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Assessment under the *Environmental Assessment Act* to construct an approximately 400 km long, double-circuit 230 kilovolt electric power transmission line from the Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) near Thunder Bay to the Wawa TS near Wawa, Ontario. The line is anticipated to generally parallel the existing double-circuit 230 kV transmission line between these two points with possible alternatives to avoid potentially sensitive features.



The Ontario Power Authority (OPA), the provincial agency responsible for long-term electricity planning, identified the expansion of the transmission system between Wawa and Thunder Bay in order to maintain a reliable, long-term supply of electricity to northwestern Ontario. The new East West Tie was recommended based on forecasted electricity demand and changes to the electricity supply in the area, as well as technical, economic, and other considerations. The new East West Tie was included as a priority project in the Government of Ontario's 2010 Long Term Energy Plan.

NextBridge will require easement interests to accommodate the approximately 56 metre (184 foot) permanent right-of-way required for the installation of the new line and will endeavour to select the route with the least overall impacts. The majority of activity will be contained within the permanent right-of-way, however, in some instances, additional work space and access may be required for construction. To identify the final route, NextBridge will be considering the valuable feedback from potentially affected stakeholders along the proposed routes. During the route selection process, factors such as hunting, trap lines, gathering activities, bird nesting sites, waterways, tourism, agricultural operations, environmental features, and impacts to residents and businesses will be considered. It is important to note that all routes are considered viable alternatives at this time; however, only one transmission line will be built.

### The Process

This study will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The first step in the process is the preparation of a Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR outlines the work plan NextBridge will follow to address the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. If approved by the Minister of the Environment, the TOR will provide the framework for the second step of the process, the preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA). Submission of the TOR is anticipated in early 2014 and the EA in early 2015. The target in-service date is the first half of 2018.

### Consultation

Members of the community, public, agencies, First Nations and Métis communities, and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the planning process by contacting project staff with questions, comments and by attending Open Houses for the project. Consultation opportunities, such as Open Houses, will be held throughout the planning process and will be advertised through mailings, newspaper notices, and through postings at [www.nextbridge.ca](http://www.nextbridge.ca).

The first round of Open Houses will provide an opportunity to learn about and provide input on the proposed project, EA process, development of the TOR, studies to be undertaken and route options. A NextBridge project team will be available to discuss the project and answer questions. Additional rounds of Open Houses will be held as the project moves forward.

The first round of Open Houses will be held as follows:

<b>New Dates Added</b>					
<p><b>December 2</b> Thunder Bay Current River Community Centre 450 Dewe Avenue 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.</p>	<p><b>December 3</b> Nipigon Nipigon Legion Branch #32 102 Fifth Street 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.</p>	<p><b>December 4</b> Marathon Marathon High School 14 Hemlo Drive 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.</p>	<p><b>December 5</b> Wawa Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre 3 Chris Simon Drive 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.</p>	<p><b>December 10</b> White River Royal Canadian Legion Branch #169 108 Winnipeg Street 4pm to 8pm</p>	<p><b>December 11</b> Terrace Bay Terrace Bay Cultural Centre 13 Selkirk Avenue 4pm to 8pm</p>

Information presented at the Open Houses will be made available at [www.nextbridge.ca](http://www.nextbridge.ca) for review and comment.

For further information on the proposed project please contact:

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**[www.nextbridge.ca](http://www.nextbridge.ca)**

All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s.37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)*. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at (416) 327-1434.

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