



NextBridge Infrastructure  
390 Bay Street, Suite 1720  
Toronto, ON  
M5H 2Y2

Via Email – [info@nextbridge.ca](mailto:info@nextbridge.ca)

January 5, 2017

Dear Sir / Madam:

**Re: Draft Environmental Assessment – East-West Tie Project**

We are in possession of your letter of December 5, 2016, the Notice of Submission, your email of December 19, 2016, a hardcopy of the Draft EA and two laptop computers issued by NextBridge.

We certainly appreciate the updates as this is an important project for both our community and for the Province as a whole. The laptops will be put to good use in an attempt to keep our ratepayers informed.

We are however, concerned about the amount of time between the date of issuance of the Draft EA (December 19, 2016) and the date targeted for comments (February 28, 2017) allowed for responses to the contents of the Draft EA.

The middle of December usually sees many municipal organizations trying to balance the workloads for year-end accounting activities, the annual budgeting process and the holiday season. This would tend to eliminate three (3) weeks of potential review time. Moving into the New Year, communities are still engaged in the above noted activities which limits any time period that might be available to review a Draft EA that exceeds 6,000 pages. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, many communities like Wawa lack the necessary capacity to comment on a document of this size. While we understand and appreciate that NextBridge may have exceeded the expectations in the current Code of Practice, the size of the document and the lack of capacity places all of us in a difficult position.



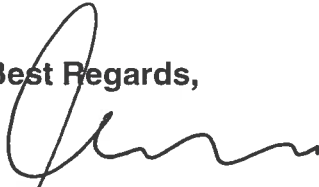
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Unfortunately, the volume of material, short timeline and lack of capacity will force us to make decisions on what we do and do not review. To that end, our comments may be made without a complete understanding of the Draft EA and its contents.

If you have questions, please call.

**Best Regards,**



**Chris Wray, AMCT  
CAO / Clerk-Treasurer**

Cc: Mayor and Council (via email)  
EDC of Wawa (via email)  
Ontario Energy Board (via email)  
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (via email)  
Ontario Growth Secretariat (via email)