

Bulk Planning Webinar – *Feedback Form*

Webinar Date: February 26th, 2019

Date Submitted: <i>2019/03/19</i>	Feedback Provided By: Company Name: TransAlta Corporation Contact Name: Chris Codd Contact Email:
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Following the February 26th public webinar on Formalizing the Integrated Bulk System Planning Process, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback from participants on questions posed during the presentation.

The presentation can be found here:

<link>

Please provide feedback by March 19, 2018 to engagement@ieso.ca. Please use subject header: *2018 Bulk Planning Webinar Feedback*. To promote transparency, this feedback will be posted on the [Bulk Planning engagement page](#) unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Feedback received will help inform IESO’s planning processes and further discussions at future engagement meetings. The Project Team will work to consider and incorporate comments as appropriate and post responses on the engagement webpage ----.

Thank you for your time.

Topic	Question	Feedback
<p>Under the high level design described in the webinar deck, the 3 yr cycle would not produce a standalone report. Instead, regular reporting would mostly take place during the annual planning outlook, while individual studies would produce reports upon completion.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What types of status updates on the 3 yr Bulk Planning cycle would you like to see included in the annual planning outlook? 2. Are there other longer term or detailed topics which you are concerned would be missed in this reporting schedule? 	<p>1. At a high level, each of the annual reports should provide an update on the three key outputs of planning assessments, even if the assessment has not yet been completed: (1) the identified need, (2) the alternatives developed and screened out to meet that need, and (3) the choice of alternative and changes that would require reviewing that choice. Each of these steps should produce a report as well that would be published outside the annual reporting.</p> <p>Reporting on the identified need should clearly state the nature of the need. For example, a thermal constraint on element X during Y system state, including the assumed dispatches of resources and availability of resources. This type of information will inform participants about the potential bulk planning benefits of siting resources in certain areas.</p> <p>The alternatives developed and screened should always include a non-wires alternative because this sends a signal to developers that there are potential benefits to build</p>

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		<p>resources in a specific area. Non-wires alternatives should state the required amount of a resource to meet the need.</p> <p>2. It is unclear how the IESO will conduct its other acquisitions for non-capacity needs (slide 6). The development of the other acquisitions process and other such processes that would support the bulk planning process should be conducted through ongoing stakeholder engagement rather than at the annual meetings (such as the transmission procurement discussion).</p>
<p>Most comments from the first webinar indicated that stakeholders would like engagement throughout the process and more data used in analysis to be publicly available. We would like more information to help us prioritise those components which are of most value.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is it more useful to carry out engagement near the beginning of the process (to focus on data assumptions to be used in analysis), in the middle (how assumptions and criteria have been applied to identify needs), or near the end (solutions under consideration, and how they will be compared)? 2. Because the needs associated with Bulk Planning are often spread over a large area, but the solution is typically constrained to a smaller area, engagement with communities often takes place later in the Bulk planning process, once the potentially impacted communities have been identified. If engagement 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is important to carry out engagement at all steps. Transparency is critical at all steps to make stakeholders aware of these bulk planning decisions. Interested parties, including market participants and developers, can provide valuable information to the IESO’s planning processes. It will not be possible to provide this information if engagement is only carried out during part of the process.

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	<p>were to take place earlier in the process, what would be the appropriate level of detail, and how would we identify the stakeholders to include?</p> <p>3. To date, most comments on data needs were related to potential participants in the ICA process. Does your organization currently rely on data needs which are outside the scope of competitive procurement?</p>	<p>2. Participants and developers would be most interested in these earlier stages where a need is being identified and alternatives are being developed and assessed. It would be sufficient to hold a webinar or post a report to the IESO’s bulletin to announce upcoming bulk planning assessments. A webinar or in person meeting should be held to discuss a determination of need, the development of alternatives and the choice of a preferred alternative.</p> <p>3. See general comments about transparency.</p> <p>In addition, the scope of bulk planning relative to the ICA is unclear and therefore it is difficult to determine whether a specific data need relates to bulk planning or the ICA.</p> <p>Stakeholders will not be able to meaningfully participate in bulk planning processes without transparency about the assumptions used and how alternatives were developed. The data provided should include, at a minimum, assumptions about loads as well as resource dispatch and availability.</p>

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		<p>Additional information is also needed about the transmission system. For example, it would be helpful to have system-wide diagrams made publicly available to allow participants to understand bulk system needs that arise and how their facilities relate to those needs.</p>

General Comments/Feedback:

TransAlta appreciates the IESO’s ongoing engagement regarding its planning processes. TransAlta supports the IESO’s commitment to transparency in its bulk planning process.

It would be helpful for the IESO to determine what information from its bulk planning processes cannot be provided publicly due to confidentiality or security concerns and disclose these limitations to stakeholders as part of this process.

The information available to the IESO may be valuable to stakeholders but stakeholders cannot comment on whether information would be useful without knowing what information would be available. Could the IESO’s commitment to transparency start with a goal of disclosing all information in the bulk planning process and then the IESO could exclude information from disclosure based on its assessment of what it is confidential or a security concern?