

Feedback Received and IESO Responses

Bulk Study Updates (Eastern Ontario) – September 30, 2025

The IESO hosted a public webinar on September 30, 2025 for municipalities and on October 8, 2025 for Indigenous communities to provide updates for the North of Sudbury, Eastern Ontario and South and Central Bulk studies. The IESO received written feedback submissions on the Eastern Ontario Bulk plan from:

- [Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nations](#)
- [Ontario Rivers Alliance](#)

The presentation and the webinar recording, along with the IESO's responses to feedback (if requested) are available on the [Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan](#), the [North of Sudbury Bulk Plan](#), and the [South and Central Bulk Study](#) webpages.

Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Responses

The IESO appreciates receiving feedback from participants about our work. The responses to the feedback about this study are organized by topic.

Eastern Bulk Study

Topic	Feedback
<p>Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN) provided feedback on elements of the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan, with emphasis on transmission reinforcements, potential in-water or near-shore infrastructure, equity participation, and reconciliation.</p> <p>Impacts on Unceded Lands Under Lake Ontario: The MSIFN communicated that any underwater, near-shore, or shoreline-adjacent transmission routing traverses the bed of Lake Ontario, south of the Michi Saagiig Gunshot Treaty (Johnson-Butler Purchase, 1787–1788) triggers the Duty to Consult and Accommodate (DTCA) and requires consent for any disruption to the lakebed. Concerns include the potential disturbance of sensitive aquatic ecosystems, submerged archaeological resources, traditional harvesting areas.</p> <p>General Recommendations for Engagement and Implementation, MSIFN requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A government-to-government consultation framework • Integration of Michi Saagiig knowledge keepers in route selection, impact assessments, and monitoring • Early involvement in Q4 2025 updates and Q1 2026 final report 	<p>Thank you for your feedback. The IESO remains committed to ongoing, meaningful dialogue with communities to help shape long-term planning in regions across Ontario, as your input is appreciated in helping shape an inclusive and collaborative planning process. The IESO recognizes the critical importance of early and meaningful engagement and deeply values the insights and perspectives and cultural knowledge shared by Scugog Island First Nation. We are committed to maintaining ongoing, respectful engagement with your Nation, including dedicated one-on-one meetings to address any inquiries.</p> <p>The Duty to Consult is delegated to the proponent after a proponent is selected by the Ministry of Energy and Mines. Following the delegation letter, consultation will begin with the potentially impacted First Nations. The proponent is also responsible for conducting an Environmental Assessment as part of the project development process. If the project meets criteria under the Impact Assessment Act, a federal impact assessment may be triggered.</p>
<p>Advocacy for Indigenous Equity Participation - Extending Hydro One's 50-50 Model: MSIFN strongly supports authentic Indigenous economic partnerships in the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan, aligned with Ontario's reconciliation goals. Feedback included recommendations to:</p>	<p>The IESO believes that Indigenous engagement and economic participation is critical to the success of electricity infrastructure projects in Ontario.</p> <p>The IESO offers funding support through the Indigenous Energy Support Program (IESP). The IESP promotes broad equitable participation in Ontario's energy sector for Indigenous communities</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapt this model to any new transmission, transmission refurbishments, intertie reinforcements, new transmission stations or transmission sub-stations in Eastern Ontario. • Explore majority First Nation ownership with MSIFN and other Michi Saagiig Nations as priority partners. • Leverage federal funding programs to enhance ratepayer benefits 	<p>and organizations by supporting community capacity building, including energy planning and energy infrastructure development, as well as the building of energy knowledge and awareness, and skills related to energy projects. The IESO Indigenous Engagement Team encourages Indigenous communities to reach out with any questions that they may have regarding the IESP at iesp@ieso.ca.</p>
<p>Specific considerations that should be examined: Alignment with Low-Carbon Priorities - MSIFN is investing in battery storage, renewable natural gas, and renewable infrastructure, and recommended that the Eastern Ontario Bulk plan should prioritize decarbonization pathways.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. The IESO understands the importance of decarbonizing our electricity system and appreciates MSIFN expressing their interest in decarbonized solutions. These considerations will be integrated into the options evaluation process as we develop the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan. This approach will help ensure the plan addresses near-term reliability needs while supporting long-term decarbonization objectives.</p>
<p>Ontario Rivers Alliance expressed their support for transmission reinforcement over new hydro generation recommendations as a result of this study and provided alternate ideas to achieve the needs that the IESO has identified for the region, including renewables and other non-wires alternatives.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing your perspectives on the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan. We appreciate the input and insights, including the consideration of renewables and other non-wires alternatives.</p> <p>As part of the planning process, we will continue to evaluate a broad range of options to address the identified bulk system needs, ensuring a balanced approach that prioritizes reliability, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability.</p> <p>The province's long-term energy plan, <i>Energy for Generations</i>, identifies hydroelectric development and refurbishment as key actions to maintain system performance and meet future demand. Should you wish to raise your concerns with the government, you may contact them via email using MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca</p>

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<p>The Ontario Rivers Alliance indicated that solutions to reliability objectives can be met through expanded transmission, distributed energy resources and smart grid management, and requested that the IESO release its comparison analysis of non-wire and wires options, including GHG emissions, lifecycle costs, and resilience metrics.</p>	<p>The IESO agrees that reliability includes considering expanded transmission, distributed energy resources and smart grid management. The IESO's bulk planning process examines a range of options, including both wires and non-wires solutions, that would ensure a reliable and cost-effective electricity supply. The IESO provides webinars at key milestones throughout the planning process to present details and to seek feedback to help inform and shape our work. One of these milestones is to present options and includes sharing a comparison analysis of non-wires and wires options. We will note that emissions are considered at the provincial level and are not in scope for bulk studies. For more information, please refer to the Annual Planning Outlook report.</p> <p>The IESO's Save on Energy has several programs that prioritize reducing peak demand and energy efficiency retrofits for residential and commercial businesses. The value of energy efficiency to the system increases as a cost-effective, non-emitting resource that can respond to changing system needs and support broader economic development and decarbonization objectives. As Ontario seeks to decarbonize to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the demand on the electricity system will grow. Energy efficiency will play an important role in ensuring the reliability of the electricity grid as we head into this period of increasing system needs by mitigating the demand growth and helping to defer infrastructure investments. Visit the Save on Energy website to learn more about program offerings.</p>