

# Feedback and IESO Responses

## Bulk Planning Update Webinar Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan

On December 12, 2025, the IESO hosted a public webinar to provide updates for Eastern Ontario and South and Central Bulk Plans. The following is a summary of the feedback the IESO received for the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan. The IESO received written submissions from:

- [Ontario Power Generation](#)
- [Ontario Rivers Alliance](#)
- [Power Workers' Union](#)

The presentation and recording of the webinar, along with the IESO's responses to feedback are available on the [Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan webpage](#).

### Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Responses

The IESO appreciates receiving feedback from participants about our work. The IESO responses to the feedback about the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan are organized by topic.

Topic	IESO Response to Feedback
<p><b>Demand Forecast and Planning Scenarios</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power Workers’ Union (PWU) indicated their preference for early planning that accommodates high growth scenarios expressing concerns that IESO demand forecasts underestimate future electricity needs, indicating that the IESO’s <i>High Growth</i> forecasts for Belleville (200 MW), and Ottawa (2,450 MW by 2043), may be insufficient. They advise that the IESO should plan, at a minimum, for its High Growth scenario for both Belleville and Ottawa and that continued reliance on conservative forecasts risks a capacity shortfall and reliability issues.</li> <li>Ontario Rivers Alliance believes that planning conclusions are presented with too much certainty and that there is a lack of disclosed uncertainty ranges or confidence intervals for load forecasts. They also felt that the IESO continues its reliance on historical baselines.</li> </ul>	<p>The IESO acknowledges stakeholder feedback regarding the demand forecasts used to inform the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan, including perspectives that future electricity demand may be higher than current reference projections.</p> <p>The Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan is informed by the Annual Planning Outlook (APO), which includes multiple demand scenarios reflecting a range of potential futures, including reference and high growth cases. These scenarios are used to assess system adequacy under uncertainty, rather than to predict a single outcome. We would like to clarify that the stated value of 2,450 MW by 2043 represents a need, whereas the corresponding demand forecast is approximately 4,400 MW in the winter.</p> <p>Bulk system planning is intentionally scenario-based and adaptive. By evaluating needs and options across a range of demand trajectories, the IESO seeks to identify solutions that remain robust under different future conditions. As the plan progresses toward recommendations, additional clarity will be provided on how planning assumptions, uncertainty, and demand growth scenarios are reflected in the identification and timing of transmission needs.</p>
<p><b>Scale and Timing of Transmission Investments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power Workers’ Union wants the IESO to clearly identify which transmission projects are required under specific demand scenarios and the timing of these projects and advise that the IESO should prioritize the development of more transmission capacity to alleviate potential future constraints should the high demand forecast materialize.</li> </ul>	<p>We understand the importance of clarity regarding the scale, timing, and sequencing of potential transmission reinforcements identified through the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan.</p> <p>The plan is currently in the options development and evaluation phase. At this stage, the IESO is assessing a range of potential solutions to address identified needs over the planning horizon, considering different demand growth scenarios and system conditions. Final recommendations, including the timing and sequencing of actions, will be</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ontario Rivers Alliance expressed concern that long-lead, capital intensive infrastructure is being advanced prematurely, warning against “locking in” major transmission before demand and climate uncertainties are resolved, expressing concerns about long-term financial risk being shifted to ratepayers.</li> </ul>	<p>informed by this analysis and shared through upcoming engagement milestones.</p> <p>The IESO recognizes the importance of balancing timely investment to maintain system reliability with the need to manage uncertainty and avoid premature commitment to long lead infrastructure. The recommended path forward will reflect this balance and will be refined as additional information becomes available.</p>
<p><b>Evaluation of Wires and Non-Wires Alternatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ontario Rivers Alliance strongly advocates for a non-wires-first approach and requests transparent comparison of conservation, demand response, distributed energy resources, and storage against wires solutions. They seek comparable evaluation of cost, timelines, reliability contribution, and climate resilience.</li> <li>Ontario Power Generation in general emphasized the need for transmission to enable large scale supply.</li> <li>Ontario Power Generation requests more information about the three transmission reinforcement paths to Ottawa and their benefits.</li> </ul>	<p>The IESO appreciates feedback highlighting the importance of considering both wires and non-wires alternatives when addressing future electricity system needs.</p> <p>As outlined in the December 2025 presentation, the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan is evaluating a broad range of potential solutions, including transmission reinforcements, demand side management, energy storage, and other non-wires options. These options are assessed based on technical feasibility, ability to address identified needs, cost-effectiveness, and timing.</p> <p>Bulk planning focuses on identifying system level deliverability limitations and potential solutions, while regional planning and procurement processes play a complementary role in assessing and implementing local non-wires alternatives. The IESO will continue to coordinate these planning activities to ensure that solutions are considered in an integrated and transparent manner.</p>
<p><b>Climate Resilience and System Robustness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ontario Rivers Alliance expressed that Planning does not adequately incorporate climate variables and requests stress testing for drought, flooding, extreme heat, and hydrologic variability, seeking</li> </ul>	<p>The IESO acknowledges stakeholder feedback regarding the importance of climate resilience and long-term system robustness in bulk system planning.</p> <p>Bulk planning assesses the electricity system’s ability to reliably meet forecast demand over a long-term horizon. The IESO continues to evolve its planning approaches over time, informed by updated</p>

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<p>explicit alignment with Ontario’s Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment.</p>	<p>forecasts, technical studies, and provincial guidance, to ensure that infrastructure investments support a reliable and resilient electricity system.</p> <p>Environmental assessment, climate impact analysis, and community engagement are integral components of subsequent project development processes led by transmitters, should transmission reinforcements be recommended through the bulk planning process.</p>
<p><b>Enabling New Supply, Interties and System Integration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ontario Power Generation requests more information about joint studies with Hydro-Québec and New York, and how Eastern Bulk Planning considers export potential that should be evaluating new and larger export interties. They also request additional detail to understand how the supply from St Lawrence might affect the western Ottawa configuration ie. not a 500/230kV station.</li> <li>• Ontario Power Generation raised that they expect to submit a formal load connection request to support power requirements needed for site construction/co-located industry for the Wesleyville site to meet rising electricity demand.</li> <li>• Power Workers’ Union views new nuclear at Wesleyville as a logical option to meet Eastern Ontario demand and supports transmission expansion to enable future supply and reduce capacity risk.</li> <li>• Ontario Rivers Alliance expressed concern that transmission planning is being used to enable export-oriented supply expansion, hydropower development, and industrial growth pathways and that bulk planning</li> </ul>	<p>The IESO appreciates that stakeholders want more insight into the role of the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan in enabling new supply resources, interconnections with neighbouring jurisdictions, and broader system integration.</p> <p>The Eastern Ontario Bulk Planning Study is focused on assessing the capability of the bulk transmission system to reliably supply forecasted Ontario demand and to deliver resources under a range of future scenarios. While the study considers system capability and potential transmission pathways, decisions related to generation development, exports, and intertie expansion are addressed through separate policy, procurement, and planning processes.</p> <p>The IESO continues to coordinate bulk planning with other ongoing studies, including regional plans and interjurisdictional assessments, to ensure system-wide alignment and to identify potential future transmission needs.</p>

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<p>should not pre-determine generation or export outcomes.</p>	
<p><b>Transparency, Engagement, and Availability of Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ontario Rivers Alliance expressed that engagement materials are dispersed across multiple documents and technical tables, undermining public accessibility and ability to provide informed feedback. They request a clearer, consolidated presentation of assumptions and options.</li> </ul>	<p>The IESO appreciates feedback regarding the accessibility, clarity, and transparency of information shared through the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan engagement.</p> <p>Throughout the study, the IESO has provided planning materials, data sources, and engagement opportunities through the project webpage and quarterly webinars. Feedback received through these channels helps inform how information is presented and where additional clarity may be beneficial.</p> <p>As the study advances toward draft and final recommendations, the IESO will continue to share updated materials and provide opportunities for stakeholders and the public to review and comment on the analysis and proposed path forward.</p>