# Feedback and IESO Responses

## Bulk Planning Update Webinar
## South and Central 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 South and Central Bulk Plan. The IESO received written submissions from:

- Hydrostor
- Ontario Power Generation
- Power Workers' Union

The presentation and recording of the webinar, along with the IESO's responses to feedback are available on the South and Central 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 South and Central Bulk Plan are organized by topic.

| Topic | IESO Response to Feedback |
|---|---|
| **Demand Forecast and Scenarios**<br>• Power Workers' Union (PWU) expressed concern that the plan is not based on sufficiently high-growth demand scenarios.<br>• PWU requested an assessment of how plans would change if 2026 APO High Demand scenario were met or exceeded. | The IESO acknowledges feedback regarding the demand forecasts and growth scenarios informing the South and Central Ontario Bulk Plan, including perspectives that future electricity demand may exceed current reference and high growth projections.<br><br>The bulk planning study uses multiple demand scenarios from the Annual Planning Outlook to assess system needs under a range of potential futures. These scenarios are intended to test system robustness rather than predict a single outcome. The approach is designed to allow for interdependencies across a large part of Ontario to be considered in creating a strategic transmission expansion plan that addresses significant changes in demand patterns and the generation supply mix. As portfolio development and energy modelling continue, the IESO is assessing how different growth trajectories influence the scale and timing of required transmission investments. |
| **Planning Objectives, Methods and Modelling Assumptions**<br>• Hydrostor requested clarification on how this bulk plan will determine transmission required to enable reliable supply under various long-term high growth/ economic development/ electrification scenarios within key growth areas.<br>• PWU requested clarity on how objectives are being met, how feedback (e.g., reducing development time) is reflected and clearer linkages between scenarios, portfolios, and timing.<br>• Ontario Power Generation requested clearer explanation of modelling inputs and assumptions, particularly around generation and how portfolio assumptions are constructed. | The IESO appreciates feedback regarding the clarity and accessibility of information shared through the South and Central Bulk Plan engagement.<br><br>The December 2025 update reflects efforts to provide greater transparency on portfolio development, modelling assumptions, and proposed transmission investments. The IESO will continue to refine how information is presented.<br><br>The IESO appreciates the request for greater transparency regarding energy modelling assumptions, portfolio inputs, and the representation of resources across zones. To support engagement, the IESO has shared data tables and modelling inputs associated with the draft portfolios. In addition, the final bulk plan will outline detailed information about modelling, assumptions, and options analysis, recognizing the importance of |

| Topic | IESO Response to Feedback |
|---|---|
| • Hydrostor requested greater transparency on how new resources are represented in models, operational constraints, and how flexibility benefits are captured; they encouraged clearer zonal representation of long duration storage.<br>• Hydrostor encouraged continued assessment of transmission portfolios and energy modelling assumptions in a manner that reflects both the timing of emerging system needs and the availability of mature, bulk-connected long-duration storage projects<br>• Ontario Power Generation requests additional detail about existing generation assumptions by zone, and how different generation types are selected in each modelling case. | understanding how different scenarios and portfolios were evaluated. |
| **Options Analysis**<br>• Hydrostor requested explicit recognition of long duration energy storage (LDES) as a distinct resource class, and clearer differentiation between short duration storage, long duration storage, and other flexible resources.<br>• Hydrostor encouraged evaluating transmission investments in combination with bulk connected non-wires solutions, noting they do not, by themselves, address multi-hour adequacy, operational flexibility, or emissions reduction during extended peak or contingency events.<br>• PWU cautioned against premature retirement of emitting resources and emphasized maintaining reliability and flexibility during capacity constrained periods. | The IESO appreciates feedback highlighting the value of assessing transmission investments in conjunction with complementary resources, including energy storage.<br>The South and Central Bulk Plan evaluates transmission as part of a broader system that includes generation, storage, and demand-side resources. Energy modelling and portfolio analysis for this plan are representative models to consider how different resource types interact with transmission infrastructure to support adequacy, flexibility, and reliability. The IESO will continue to refine how resource characteristics are represented in modelling in subsequent plans. |

| Topic | IESO Response to Feedback |
|---|---|
| **Backbone Projects**<br>• PWU requested project lists for all portfolios, an explanation of how portfolios meet stated study objectives, and clarity on how modelling timelines would change under higher demand scenarios.<br>• PWU indicated support for proactive, large-scale investments (e.g., Bowmanville–GTA, submarine HVDC) and encouraged accelerating backbone projects to reduce development time.<br>• PWU expressed concern that backbone projects and portfolios are not adequately tested against higher growth scenarios.<br>• Hydrostor supported the overall direction of major backbone reinforcements, emphasizing east of GTA transfer capability as strategically important.<br>• Hydrostor emphasized the importance of aligning transmission investment timing with when system needs materialize and noted the risk of mismatches between demand emergence and availability of flexible, non emitting resources. | We appreciate the feedback about the importance of clarity regarding portfolio design, backbone projects, and the timing of major transmission investments.<br>The IESO has developed multiple portfolios to evaluate different approaches to meeting long-term system needs under uncertainty. The list of projects for each portfolio has been made available in the posted South and Central Bulk Data Tables. While each portfolio shares common strategic elements, differences reflect alternative pathways for supporting growth, reliability, and resource integration. More details on the options analysis will be shared during an upcoming engagement session for feedback. |
| **Engagement**<br>• Hydrostor appreciates improved clarity in presentation materials and encouraged continued engagement and refinement of assumptions.<br>• Hydrostor encourages consideration of additional information related to resource integration, timing, and system interactions, particularly for non-emitting flexible resources be provided.<br>• PWU requested clarity on how feedback regarding development time reduction is being incorporated | The IESO appreciates feedback regarding the accessibility, clarity, and transparency of information shared through the South and Central Bulk Plan engagement.<br>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.<br>As the study advances toward draft and final recommendations, the IESO will continue to share updated materials and provide opportunities for |

| Topic | IESO Response to Feedback |
| --- | --- |
| | stakeholders and the public to review and comment on the analysis and proposed path forward. |
| **Other Considerations**<br>• PWU recommends building sufficient transmission capacity to meet high-growth demand.<br>• PWU suggests that the IESO consider how the bulk plan would change if the Bruce C in-service date were to be advanced.<br>• PWU expressed the IESO should prioritize the development of greater transmission assets capacity as soon as possible to alleviate potential future constraints under a higher demand growth forecast. | The bulk planning study uses multiple demand scenarios from the Annual Planning Outlook to assess system needs under a range of potential futures. These scenarios are intended to test system robustness rather than predict a single outcome. As portfolio development and energy modelling continue, the IESO is assessing how different growth trajectories influence the scale and timing of required transmission investments. The final recommendations will look to ensure flexibility to accommodate a range of futures, with consideration for actions that can be taken to preserve the option to advance elements of the plan, if required, as load and resources evolve. Electricity planning is a continuous process, with a subsequent phase of bulk planning in Southern and Central Ontario scheduled to occur in 2027, with a longer term focus of potential transmission needs beyond 2040. |