Feedback Form

Bulk Study Updates (Northern Ontario) – September 24, 2024

Feedback Provided by:

Name: Charles Conrad

Title: Senior Manager, Origination and Development

Organization: TC Energy

Email: [redacted]

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Following the September 24, 2024 engagement webinar, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the items discussed during the webinar. The webinar presentation and recording can be accessed from the engagement web page.

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by **October 15, 2024**. If you wish to provide confidential feedback, please submit as a separate document, marked "Confidential". Otherwise, to promote transparency, feedback that is not marked "Confidential" will be posted on the engagement webpage.

Topic	Feedback
Are there any additional considerations we should be aware of in developing the Northern Ontario Bulk Study?	See below
What feedback do you have regarding the content delivered today?	See below
Are there specific areas of urgency that should drive the studies to prioritize one need or area above others?	See below

General Comments/Feedback

We commend IESO for the fulsome study plan encompassing the Bulk Studies for South & Central Ontario, Eastern Ontario and Northern Ontario.

We continue to support the inclusion of a Bruce Zone module for study of transmission expansion to enable incremental generation in the Bruce Zone (including Bruce C NGS), including the consideration of the Ontario Pumped Storage Project (OPS) near Meaford, Ontario, as incremental non-emitting baseload generation and long-duration storage are synergistic resources and the transmission should be considered accordingly.

We also support the view (as per slide 12 of the South and Central Ontario Bulk Study Updates presentation and as clarified by the webinar) that all the flow weighting scenarios will be studied in the context of linkage with the North Bulk Study.

In the context of linkage between the South & Central Study with the North Bulk Study, we note that you have discussed the increasing energy needs in Northern Ontario as well as the increasing focus on siting renewable energy (for example via the LT2 energy procurement) in Northern Ontario, and that in order to serve these needs the most satisfactory of the wires solutions in your Preliminary Wire Options Analysis (slide 23 of the Northern Ontario Bulk Study Updates presentation) is the reinforcement of the existing 500 kV system between Essa TS (Barrie) and Hanmer TS (Sudbury). We note that the proposed OPS would connect electrically at Essa TS, and as such we would suggest that the OPS could provide incremental reliability value to the North in times of energy need in the context of this reinforcement, and that this reinforcement could also synergistically augment both the value of new intermittent renewable generation in the North as well as the efficacy and value of OPS in integrating this new generation into the Ontario grid including in serving this energy to load centres in Southern Ontario / GTA and points south.

It bears repeating that Essa TS is also adjacent (20km) to the announced multi-billion investment by Honda in an electric vehicle assembly / battery plant in Alliston, which could be served by clean electricity projects in the Southern and Central study area.

We recognize that Essa is a key hub for potential new northern renewables development under the LT2 procurement, and a key path for power from the North and Bruce zones into the GTA load centre. There may be important system synergies to be had in terms of system reliability and transmission utilization in accommodating new clean generation and storage west and north of Essa, along with reinforcements down to the growing GTA load, especially in conjunction with the large (12,000MWh+) utility-scale energy storage that OPS can provide.

We thank IESO for their thorough engagement on these important studies, and also thank IESO for the opportunity to provide feedback.