Feedback Received and IESO Response

Bulk Study Updates (Northern Ontario Bulk Study) November 20, 2024

The IESO hosted a public webinar on November 20, 2024, to provide updates for the South and Central Bulk Study, and Northern Ontario Bulk Study. Following the webinar, the IESO invited stakeholders to provide feedback on the topics discussed during the webinar.

The IESO received written feedback submissions on the Northern Ontario Bulk Study from:

- Canadian Renewable Energy Association
- Energy Storage Canada
- Red Sky Métis Independent Nation

Each presentation and recording of the webinar, along with the IESO's responses to feedback are available on South & Central Bulk Study, and Northern Ontario Bulk Study engagement webpages pages.

Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Response

The IESO appreciates feedback about our work from stakeholders. The responses to the feedback about these studies are organized by bulk study and then topic.

Northern Ontario Bulk Study

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
Canadian Renewable Energy Association supports the IESO's recommendations to build a new single circuit 500 kV transmission line between Hanmer TS and Essa TS, initiate early development work on a second single circuit, and explore new supply resources in northern Ontario.	Thank you for taking the time to submit your feedback.
Canadian Renewable Energy Association recommends expediting forward-looking plans to connect new supply and load.	A key mandate of the IESO is to ensure the electricity system can meet growing electricity demand. To maintain reliability, mitigate demand forecast risks, and preserve options to increase system capability in the future, the IESO recommends initiating early development work on a second single circuit 500 kV transmission line between Hanmer TS in Sudbury to Essa TS near Barrie. The IESO also recommends continuing to assess the transmission supply in the areas north of Sudbury and south of Barrie.
Energy Storage Canada requested more information to justify the exclusion of Non-Wires Alternatives ability to meet electricity needs.	The IESO's Northern Ontario Bulk Study focuses on supporting economic growth and enabling more generation in Northern Ontario by ensuring the bulk transmission lines from Barrie to Sudbury have adequate capacity and address existing bottlenecks. Forecasts show electricity demand growing across the province, and specifically in Northern Ontario, due to the development of mineral deposits (which supplies electric vehicle manufacturing) and the adoption of electrification in existing mines. The IESO evaluated wire and non-wire options by considering technical feasibility, ability to address needs, cost and lead time. To meet the anticipated demand, a combination of wind, solar and battery storage was deemed to be required, however this option was found to be

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
	not technically feasible. More details can be found on the bulk engagement page.
Energy Storage Canada strongly encouraged and recommended the need for and importance of accessible data and consolidated information to be shared, specifically: • Sub-regional or locational demand forecasts • Future generation resource mix • Existing transmission system capabilities (i.e., thermal transfer capability) • Planning objective changes under the new Market Renewal Program **Pattern Energy inquired on the role that cost modelling has on the IESO's Northern Bulk Study and if additional information on this process can be shared in advance of the recommendations.**	The IESO makes our publicly available data through the Annual Planning Outlook, Data Directory, and the bulk study webpages: • Demand projections are available as part of the IESO's Annual Planning Outlook. Data Directory webpage contains public reports, including generation forecasting date. The APO provides a long-term view of Ontario's electricity system, forecasting system needs, including identifying bulk studies, and exploring the province's ability to meet them. More information about the drivers of the transmission system expansion, methodologies and supplementary data is available on the IESO's website. The IESO offers engagement opportunities regarding the APO to facilitate questions and seek clarifications from stakeholders. More information about upcoming engagements can be found on this page. Cost is one of several factors in evaluating options and is considered along with other factors such as technical feasibility, ability to address needs, and lead time. The IESO will consider if it is possible to share this process in advance of the recommendations.

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
Energy Storage Canada recommends working with a broader group of stakeholders and market participants to inform the Bulk Study, beyond the Technical Working Group.	At this time, a technical working group is not being considered for the bulk studies. Public engagements are the current method to share information with all interested stakeholders, including utilities, while being mindful of potential implications of a future competitive transmission procurement process.
Red Sky Métis Independent Nation inquired about household energy use and costs, specifically: • Confirmation that the shift of a significant percentage of households from natural gas to electricity for heating been accounted for in the planning or analysis. • Potential for costs to decrease as electricity usage increases.	Working closely with local distributors, the IESO uses the Regional Planning Process and associated electricity forecasts to build scenarios that include assumptions around increased residential electricity use, as per the IESO annual planning outlook. Rate setting guidelines are not in the IESO's mandate.
Red Sky Métis Independent Nation appreciates that the webinars are recorded.	The IESO is committed to making our webinar recordings accessible to anyone who wishes to watch or review this information.