

Feedback Received and IESO Response

Bulk Study Updates (North of Sudbury) – May 29, 2025

The IESO hosted a public webinar on May 29, 2025, to provide updates on the South and Central Bulk Study, the Northern Ontario Bulk Plan, the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan and the Ontario-Manitoba Intertie Joint Study, and to introduce the North of Sudbury Bulk Plan.

The IESO received written feedback submissions on the North of Sudbury Bulk Plan from:

- [NRStor Incorporated](#)
- [Ontario Power Generation](#)
- [Ontario Rivers Alliance](#)

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

Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Response

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

North of Sudbury Bulk Study

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
<p>NRStor Incorporated recommended to expand the study scope to include the 115kV transmission line into the Township of Chapleau and the 7MW Chapleau Co-Gen facility.</p> <p>NRStor Incorporated also shared the frequency and duration of outages in Chapleau is a challenge, and they recommended a 20 MW battery storage project.</p>	<p>Thank you for this feedback. Please note that the transmission line and its location is within scope of the East Lake Superior Regional Planning process and will be considered as part of that IRRP. The primary objective of the Bulk Study is to enhance the bulk infrastructure, ensuring it meets industry standards while also facilitating the allocation of additional resources, such as the Co-Generation facility. As the IRRP progresses, and the East Lake Superior's infrastructure needs are understood, the Technical Working Group will screen and evaluate wire and non-wire options, including storage, to meet the needs. Both the screening outcome and detailed evaluation will be in shared in future public engagement webinars. The IESO encourages you to subscribe to receive updates.</p> <p>Lastly, the owners of this facility can engage in upcoming procurement processes where the IESO invites proposals for new or upgraded facilities which can contribute to the electricity grid.</p>
<p>NRStor Incorporated shared new demands for consideration: expansions and new mining projects in the Chapleau area.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing this information. The IESO actively engages in continuous dialogue and collaboration with a range of organizations throughout the province, such as the Ontario Mining Association (OMA). The IESO is aware of numerous mining developments in Northern Ontario, and we invite you to share specific information regarding any new or existing projects or expansions.</p> <p>However, it is essential to recognize that specific local issues may exist in Chapleau that fall beyond the scope of this study and are instead to be managed by the East Lake Superior regional plan. More information can</p>

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	<p>be found on the East Lake Superior Electrical Region engagement page.</p>
<p>During upcoming engagements, participants recommended to the IESO to share the following additional information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRStor Incorporated indicated more information about local power conditions in the Chapleau area to better size and plan their battery project. • Ontario Power Generation expressed interest in understanding if the IESO is looking at increasing exports to Quebec from this region. 	<p>The IESO appreciates the desire for more data that would support NRStor Incorporated's proposed battery project. Please note this battery project is not located within the study scope. Bulk planning assesses electricity needs across broader zones and is led by the IESO, while local distribution company (LDC) planning focuses on community-level infrastructure and is managed independently by each LDC. For more granular data related to local power conditions, the IESO recommends reaching out to the local distribution company, Hydro One, for that information.</p> <p>The IESO is undertaking joint studies with Hydro Quebec, and, as part of the Eastern Ontario bulk study, the scope includes exploring opportunities to expand the interties with neighbouring Quebec and New York. Additional studies to explore increasing capacity to support exports, would require government policy direction in order to address this recommendation. The IESO will share more information when available.</p>
<p>Participants shared opportunities for new or expanded generation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRStor Incorporated recommended their proposed 20MW battery storage project. • Ontario Power Generation included information about their plans to explore potential hydroelectric and pumped storage projects in the Moose River Basin and surrounding areas. They also indicated that the existing system connecting Lower Notch GS to Widdifield SS and on to Hanmer TS is currently at 	<p>Thank you for the information and the IESO has included the plans for potential hydroelectric and pumped storage projects in the Moose River Basin and surrounding area in the study, and options to connect these resources is being explored.</p> <p>As part of the government's "Energy for Generations" integrated energy plan, the government directed the IESO to ensure Ontario is ready to unlock new export opportunities as they arise. The IESO will continue to look at these types of projects and we look forward to working with our</p>

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<p>or near capacity. Further, they indicated that 3rd parties have expressed interest in siting multiple wind farms in the general area as the Lower Notch pump storage facility. They recommended that transmission planning consider what is required to connect and/or expand these stations, along with further reinforcements to the bulk system to accommodate these potential builds.</p>	<p>industry partners to turn the opportunities into long-term economic benefits for Ontarians.</p> <p>The IESO appreciates that NRStor Incorporated is interested in building a battery storage project in the Chapleau area. The Bulk study aims to enhance the capacity of the Northeast Ontario network for the allocation of additional local resources, which will support the integration of the NRStor Incorporated's battery. To meet the growing electricity needs, the IESO launched the LT2 RFP to competitively procure new resources. Learn more by visiting the IESO's website.</p>

General Comments/Feedback

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<p>Ontario Rivers Alliance provided the following information to the IESO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expressed opposition to new hydroelectric development due to environmental, climate, and economic concerns. requested for cost-benefit analyses of hydro projects, including GHG emissions, ecological impacts, and long-term viability. Recommended halting new hydro procurement and instead invest in dam removals and river restoration. 	<p>Thank you for this feedback. Hydroelectric power will not be considered as non-wire option to meet electricity needs for the North of Sudbury Bulk Study. Hydroelectric potential may be considered in future planning initiatives in the region if the option aligns with the identified system needs and planning criteria.</p> <p>It is important to note that any new infrastructure recommended by the IESO, whether transmission or supply resources, is subject to a range of downstream approvals, permitting processes, and regulatory oversight. These include but are not limited to Environmental Assessments and Leave to Construct. The regulatory and environmental review processes during the siting, development, and implementation phases of these options are carried out by project proponents to ensure that impacts are appropriately assessed and mitigated.</p>

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	<p>Proceeding with new hydroelectric development is a policy direction from the Ministry of Energy and Mines, and should you wish to raise these concerns with the government, you may contact them via email at MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca.</p>