Feedback Form

Bulk Planning Update Webinar (South and Central Ontario Bulk Plan) – December 12, 2025

Feedback Provided by:

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To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on this engagement webpage unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the Bulk Planning Update Webinar held on December 12, 2025, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback. A copy of the presentations as well as recordings of the sessions can be accessed from the engagement web page.

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by January 23 2026.

Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan

Topic	Feedback
What additional information would you need to understand the value and approach of the energy studies?	As the IESO continues developing the portfolio of options leading up to final recommendations, we encourage consideration of additional information related to resource integration, timing, and system interactions, particularly for non-emitting flexible resources. Specifically, the portfolio development would benefit from: • Clearer differentiation of resource roles and capabilities, including explicit recognition of long-duration energy storage as a distinct category from short-duration storage and other flexible resources, given its ability to provide multi-hour adequacy, resilience, and sustained system support. • Improved visibility on resource timing and availability, including whether and how mature, bulk-connected resources could be integrated earlier in the planning horizon relative to those dependent on future procurement processes. • Enhanced assessment of interactions between transmission investments and complementary resources, including how long duration storage solutions may benefit utilization, operational flexibility, and system performance as major transmission assets enter service. • Greater transparency on modelling assumptions that influence portfolio outcomes, such as how new resources are represented in system studies, how operational constraints are applied, and how flexibility benefits are captured over different system conditions. Incorporating this information would support a more comprehensive evaluation of portfolio options and help ensure that final recommendations reflect both the physical transmission requirements and the full range of resource solutions available to meet emerging system needs.
What feedback do you have regarding the proposed transmission recommendations	Hydrostor supports the overall direction of the transmission investment options presented in the December update,

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at Milton TS, Kleinburg TS, and the Bowmanville to Cherrywood upgrade, required to enable load growth in the GTA and new generation in eastern Ontario?	particularly the emphasis on advancing major backbone reinforcements to address long-term demand growth, improve resilience, and enable future non-emitting supply across the South and Central region. The proposed investments that strengthen east-of-GTA transfer capability are especially important, as they reinforce the role of Eastern Ontario as a key supply and flexibility region for the province. These reinforcements provide a critical foundation for integrating new resources and improving system performance under a range of operating conditions. At the same time, we encourage the IESO to continue assessing transmission investments in combination with complementary bulk-connected non-wires solutions, rather than as stand-alone responses to system needs. While transmission reinforcements improve deliverability and reliability, they do not by themselves address multi-hour adequacy, operational flexibility, or emissions reduction during extended peak or contingency events. Hydrostor is advancing the Quinte Energy Storage Centre (Quinte ESC), a proposed 500 MW, 8-hour long-duration energy storage facility located near Lennox Switching Station, which is well positioned to complement the transmission investments under consideration. By providing sustained, non-emitting flexibility, projects such as Quinte ESC can: • Enhance the utilization of major transmission assets; • Reduce reliance on gas-fired generation during periods of system stress; and • Improve overall system resilience as new transmission enters service. Consistent with earlier engagement, we recommend that the IESO continue to evaluate transmission portfolios alongside the potential contribution of long-duration storage, particularly in corridors where significant transmission investment is being advanced. This integrated approach will help ensure that recommended transmission

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	options deliver maximum system value over the planning horizon.
What additional information should we consider as we continue developing the portfolio of options leading up to the final recommendations?	The zonal breakdown of resource type potential provides a helpful high-level view of how different technologies are expected to contribute across the South and Central region. We appreciate the IESO's effort to differentiate resource potential by geography and to reflect regional system characteristics in the generation scenarios. That said, we encourage the IESO to more clearly distinguish long-duration energy storage from other storage and flexible resource types in the zonal assessments. Long-duration storage provides system benefits that are materially different from short-duration storage, particularly in terms of multi-hour adequacy, resilience during prolonged system stress events, and the ability to complement major transmission investments. In particular, the generation scenarios would benefit from: • Explicit recognition of 8-hour (and longer) storage as a distinct resource category; • Clear assumptions regarding the siting of bulk-connected storage at strategic nodes; and • Differentiation between storage resources intended primarily for short-term balancing versus those capable of providing sustained output over extended periods. Hydrostor is advancing the Quinte ESC long-duration storage facility located near Lennox Switching Station. Explicitly reflecting resources of this nature in the zonal generation scenarios would improve the representation of non-emitting flexibility available to support the system as transmission reinforcements are introduced. Clarifying these distinctions would strengthen the generation scenarios and support a more accurate comparison of portfolio outcomes.

General Comments/Feedback

Hydrostor appreciates the opportunity to provide additional feedback as part of the ongoing South and Central Bulk Plan engagement. We have participated in earlier phases of this process and welcome the release of the December 2025 update, which provides greater clarity on the direction of proposed transmission investments, portfolio development, and modelling assumptions.

We support the IESO's continued focus on advancing major backbone transmission reinforcements to address long-term demand growth, improve system resilience, and enable future non-emitting supply. In particular, the emphasis on strengthening east-of-GTA transfer capability reinforces the strategic importance of Eastern Ontario as a supply and flexibility region for the province.

At the same time, the updated materials further highlight the importance of considering how and when complementary resources are integrated alongside transmission investments. As identified in earlier engagements, transmission alone does not fully address system needs related to multi-hour adequacy, operational flexibility, and emissions reduction, especially during the period when new transmission assets begin entering service in the late 2020s and early 2030s.

Hydrostor is advancing the Quinte ESC and the project is well positioned to complement the transmission investments under consideration by providing sustained, non-emitting flexibility, improving utilization of bulk system infrastructure, and reducing reliance on gas-fired generation during periods of system stress.

Consistent with our earlier feedback, we encourage the IESO to continue assessing 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. While long lead-time procurement will play a critical role later in the planning horizon, there remains an opportunity to advance near-term solutions through direct integration pathways to address system needs as they first materialize.

Hydrostor welcomes continued engagement with the IESO as the South and Central Bulk Plan progresses and looks forward to supporting the development of a balanced set of solutions.