

Feedback Received and IESO Response

Bulk Study Updates (South and Central Ontario) – June 19, 2024

The IESO hosted a public webinar on June 19, 2024, to provide participants with information on the South and Central Bulk Study and Northern Ontario Bulk Study including its scope, objectives and timeline. Following the webinar, the IESO invited Indigenous communities and stakeholders to provide feedback on the topics discussed during the webinar.

The IESO received written feedback submissions on the South and Central Bulk Study from:

- [Greater Sudbury Utilities](#)
- [TC Energy](#)

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

- [Greater Sudbury Utilities](#)
- [TC Energy](#)

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

Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Response

The IESO appreciates the feedback received from stakeholders. The tables set out below respond to the feedback received and are organized by bulk study and then topic.

South and Central Bulk Study

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
TC Energy indicated support for scope of work to examine the transmission expansion required to enable both Bruce C and the Ontario Pumped Storage project, and the coordinated approach for the bulk studies.	Thank you for taking the time to submit your feedback.
TC Energy recommended the following additional considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A scenario to consider how the Ontario Pumped Storage project at Meaford contributes capacity and energy to the system.• High level of growth is considered as part of the assessment, including industrial load and data centres.• Planning must consider the accelerated timeline that customers are looking to connect to the grid and ensure infrastructure development keeps pace.	<p>The South and Central Bulk Study objectives were refined through the Ministry of Energy and electrification's Powering Ontario's Growth (POG) plan. The study's objectives consider the potential for future pumped storage at Meaford and Marmora.</p> <p>A large portion of the study's scope is focused on enabling the connection of new generation through identifying the transmission reinforcements needed to deliver these new resources to new supply customers seeking connections and growing load and data centres.</p> <p>In the November 20th Bulk Webinar, the IESO proposed recommending two sets of Early Actions to accelerate the pace at which future upgrades can be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new double-circuit 500 kV transmission line from Bowmanville to Toronto.• Continuation of several corridor studies in and around the GTA. <p>These Early Actions look to reduce development lead time for new infrastructure projects when there is sufficient confidence in its need and/or risks associated with delaying implementation. Updates will be shared in future bulk engagements.</p>

Northern Ontario Bulk Study

Feedback / Common Themes

Greater Sudbury Utilities emphasizes the need for hundreds of MW of additional load and generation within Sudbury by 2050, requiring careful planning to address system constraints, support anticipated load growth, and secure new supply through procurement. They highlight the importance of ensuring the bulk study fully considers Sudbury's load and generation capacity.

IESO Response

The IESO expects demand across Northern Ontario to grow. The purpose of the Northern Ontario Bulk study is to support economic development in Northern Ontario by assessing the capability of the transmission system to reliably supply demand and enable new generation resources.

Recent bulk transmission recommendations, such as the [Northeast Bulk Plan](#), have strengthened the transmission system West of Sudbury and added additional autotransformer connections between the 230 kV and 500 kV network in the area. The Northern Ontario Bulk Study builds on this work by focusing on the next link in the transmission system: the collection of circuits that connect Northern Ontario and Southern Ontario (known as the Flow North / Flow South Interface).

In parallel to this bulk study, the city of Sudbury is part of the Sudbury – Algoma planning region which is expected to start the next cycle of regional planning in 2025.

The IESO will continue to provide engagement updates related to this bulk study and welcomes the opportunity to discuss in more detail the demand drivers expressed by Greater Sudbury Utilities.