

Stakeholder Feedback and IESO Response

Bulk Transmission Plan Updates – February 23, 2024

Following the February 23, 2024 Bulk Transmission Plan Updates engagement webinar, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) invited stakeholders to provide feedback on the topics discussed during the webinar.

The IESO received written feedback submissions from:

APPrO

Capital Power

City of Windsor

Power Workers' Union

TC Energy

Township of Southwold

The presentation materials and stakeholder feedback submissions have been posted on the IESO stakeholder [engagement webpage](#) for this engagement. Please reference the material for specific feedback as the below information provides excerpts and/or a summary only.

Topics of Engagements

In discussions concerning bulk transmission planning, stakeholders emphasized the significance of integrating bulk and regional plans, as well as collaborating and coordinating with local stakeholders, to ensure a comprehensive approach to transmission planning. APPrO highlighted the importance of understanding the evaluation of alternatives and timelines associated with the bulk studies and resulting recommendations. The Corporation of the City of Windsor, Capital Power and Power Workers Union indicated the importance of providing assumptions and data sources. The City of Windsor also emphasized the need for transparency in communicating changes to study scopes.

IESO Response:

The IESO agrees with the feedback received and many of these topics have been identified in the Formalized Bulk Planning Process [High-level Design Overview](#) as items that will be documented and made public. The exception being for some types of information that may be confidential due to commercial terms or security risks if it reveals critical system vulnerabilities or that may rest with asset owners. The IESO believes that with regular engagement sessions, updates can be provided in a timely and transparent manner.

Methods of Engagement:

Overall, stakeholders were supportive of the proposed quarterly engagements and targeted engagement with a variety of stakeholders, including generators, affected municipalities and communities, underlining the importance of direct stakeholder involvement to inform bulk transmission assessments effectively. TC Energy stressed the importance of broad collaboration across stakeholders to navigate a changing energy landscape effectively. The City of Windsor also advocated for a single landing page for all engagements as well as extended feedback timelines.

IESO Response:

The IESO thanks all respondents for their submissions. The IESO will use quarterly and targeted engagements to provide stakeholders with opportunities to understand the bulk planning activities and provide feedback on various planning studies prior to their finalization, while ensuring timely completion of studies and plans. In addition to Bulletin notifications for upcoming engagements, the IESO [Engagement site](#) has a list of all active engagements, the ability to filter by category, and direction on next steps or action where applicable. The IESO will review the structure and content of the bulk and regional planning webpage and make improvements such as a landing page linking to all active bulk planning engagements.

Integration of Findings:

Regarding the integration of study findings, stakeholders underscored the necessity of coordination between studies and transparency in communication, particularly where transmission infrastructure intersects regions. Meanwhile, the City of Windsor highlighted the importance of integrating studies

and assumptions across planning activities from distribution, regional and the Annual Planning Outlook ("APO").

The City of Windsor expressed concern about the impact the Central-West Bulk study scope change would have on the broader system and bulk approach. The City was also interested to understand the impact of BLIP/NBLIP on supply to Windsor-Essex.

The Township of Southwold expressed concern that the timelines for transmission development are misaligned with potential growth, and suggested that private investment could be used to expedite development.

IESO Response:

The IESO agrees that coordination between bulk, regional, and other provincial plans and procurements is fundamental to the success of all IESO planning products. For this reason, it was determined that the second part of the Central-West bulk plan would be best assessed in conjunction with the broader Powering Ontario's Growth actions through the South and Central bulk study. The IESO will endeavor to position and sequence bulk plans to address near term needs, while allowing the subsequent phases of the studies to focus on longer-term changes and policy drivers, as well as feed into regional plans so that the reliability of the system as a whole is maintained.

The IESO welcomes the opportunity to discuss the details of the Central-West bulk plan with the City of Windsor further.

More broadly, bulk planning activities and their outcomes are integrated into the APO report and subsequent procurements, as applicable. To the extent possible, the IESO will look to leverage the same assumptions as other planning products, such as the APO.