

Stakeholder Feedback and IESO Response

Central-West Bulk Planning – August 16, 2023

Following the August 16, 2023 Central-West Bulk Planning engagement webinar, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) invited stakeholders to provide feedback on the scope of the work and the development options.

The IESO received feedback from the following stakeholders:

- [Energy Storage Canada \(ESC\)](#)
- [London Hydro](#)
- [Power Workers Union \(PWU\)](#)

This feedback has been posted on the [engagement webpage](#).

Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Response

The IESO appreciates the feedback submitted. The table below responds to the feedback received and is organized by each topic. This document is provided for information purposes only. It does not constitute, nor should it be construed to constitute, legal advice or a guarantee, offer, representation or warranty on behalf of the IESO.

Proposed scope of work

Feedback	IESO Response
<p>The ESC highlighted the lack of integration between processes like the Long-Term 1 RFP (LT1) and the study scope, the absence of discussion on energy storage resource capabilities, and insufficient engagement with supply resource developers. Additionally, they suggested exploring energy storage solutions, coordinating resource procurement with bulk planning, and involving commercial entities in providing advice.</p>	<p>As with all bulk and regional plans, the outcomes and recommendations of the Central-West bulk plan will feed into subsequent resource procurement processes. An example of this integration was illustrated through the 2021 West of London bulk study. That study identified the need for 550 MW of local resources in Windsor-Essex/Chatham-Kent, 1,425MW of resources in the West Zone, and new transmission infrastructure. This was identified in the Annual Acquisition Report (AAR) and reflected in the locational requirements for E-LT1 RFP, resulting in the procurement of sufficient local resources to meet those requirements.</p> <p>At this time, the IESO is in the scoping phase of the Central-West study and welcomes feedback on the scope of work and assessment approach. Near-term options and long-term needs will be discussed at upcoming public engagement sessions throughout 2024, at which time both transmission and resource options will be considered, as appropriate. The IESO would welcome further industry information on the capabilities of resource types at that time, when we would have a better understanding of specific capacity and energy needs.</p>
<p>The PWU recommended that forecast energy needs consider implications of the province's Plan for a Clean Energy Future and the government's directives regarding the evaluation of transmission options for new nuclear developments.</p>	<p>The IESO agrees and will consider the actions outlined in the Powering Ontario's Growth report and other policy direction from the Government when developing this plan.</p>

Other potential growth to be considered

Feedback	IESO Response
<p>The ESC emphasizes considering distributed energy resources and demand side solutions for growth assessment and recommends integrating resource procurement processes.</p>	<p>The IESO will consider both wires and non-wires solutions, as appropriate. Any firm recommendations for generation or storage will be integrated in the AAR and resource procurement processes, similar to the resource requirements specified in previous bulk plans such as the West of London bulk plan.</p> <p>The focus of this study will be on bulk system flows and preparing the bulk system to enable growth in broad load pockets. This growth is driven by potential large-scale industrial projects seeking electricity supply from the grid. Demand side solutions like distributed energy resources may impact the magnitude and timing of demand associated with some projects depending on individual customer choices.</p> <p>Demand side solutions will also be considered in subsequent regional plans to determine local infrastructure and supply needs.</p>
<p>London Hydro outlined high-level points estimating prospective demand by 2050, including municipal growth, large business inquiries, expansions, Decarbonization, EV adoption, and weather considerations. These assumptions culminate in an estimated prospective demand of 800 MW in London Hydro’s distribution, acknowledging the uncertainties tied to energy policies.</p>	<p>The IESO welcomes the opportunity to discuss the demand drivers expressed by London Hydro in more detail to assess how it may influence the loads considered in the Central-West bulk study.</p>

Additional information to be considered

Feedback:

More planning data should be available to stakeholders in order for the engagement to be more meaningful. The PWU urges the publication of essential planning information and calls for adjustments to the IESO's process to address accelerating demand growth. They emphasize collaboration, job creation, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electricity, economic growth, and energy policy reform in Ontario.

IESO Response:

The IESO recognizes the importance of transparency and information sharing when developing a plan. This engagement webinar, the first of several planned webinars and engagements, was focused on the scoping of the Central-West study. Information regarding system needs and options under consideration will be provided in subsequent webinars as the study progresses. This information will also be provided in the final report and subsequent procurement mechanisms if required.