

Feedback Form

Transmission Planning Bulk Study Updates – Feb 23, 2024

Feedback Provided by:

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Date: March 8, 2024

Following the February 23, 2024 engagement webinar, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback from stakeholders on the items discussed during the webinar. The webinar presentation and recording can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by March 8, 2024. If you wish to provide confidential feedback, please submit as a separate document, marked "Confidential". Otherwise, to promote transparency, feedback that is not marked "Confidential" will be posted on the engagement webpage.

Insert Title for Topic 1

Topic	Feedback
What topics would you find most useful to include as part of the Bulk Transmission planning engagements?	The overall schedule of studies is very helpful. Understanding the timing impact to short term needs may be equally important. An important topic to address would be: if something is needed now or soon, how do we make the bulk study useful for faster decisions / decisions that need to be made prior to the end of studies in 2025.

Topic	Feedback
Are there other methods of engagement that would support your participation in bulk system plans?	You have provided an excellent engagement format. Agree that targeted engagement may be needed in certain situations, with affected municipalities and communities as indicated, as well as with certain generators and loads.

Insert Title for Topic 2

Topic	Feedback
As we integrate the findings of the Central-West bulk study into upcoming broader bulk plans, are there any additional considerations we should be aware of?	Local interfaces between zones are critical. For example, how would Sarnia local plans for generation impact decisions in the Bruce zone? Depending on the assumptions used, one could come to different conclusions in terms of required generation and transmission. We recommend sensitivity analysis/review in light of potential increase in generation in the Bruce zone in terms of potential needs / impact re the South Central area.

General Comments/Feedback

We would like to commend IESO for carrying out the bulk transmission planning studies as outlined in the presentation, and for laying out the schedule of planning activities for interested parties. The effort to fulfill the ambitious goals of Powering Ontario's Growth and its substantial economic benefits will benefit from broad collaboration and coordination across the sector, including developers of generation, transmission, and industrial load / significant industrial projects.

While it is logical and likely necessary to break up studies regionally, we would like to point out that some projects cross project study areas and may need particular attention – key areas that fall into the seams between regions should remain in focus.

For example, one component of the POG focus on new nuclear (transmission needed to enable expansion of the Bruce NGS) falls within the Southern and Central Ontario Bulk Study, while one of

the logical transmission paths passes in close proximity to one of the pumped storage projects (Ontario Pumped Storage) being assessed under POG on its way to the Essa Transformer Station – however Essa TS itself is being studied within the Northern Ontario System Bulk Study.

Essa TS is also adjacent (20km) to a potential ~\$18 billion investment by Honda in an electric vehicle assembly / battery plant in Alliston, which could be served by the clean electricity projects in the Southern and Central study area.

We recognize that Essa is also a key hub for potential new northern renewables development under the LT2 procurement, and a key path for power from the North and Bruce zones into the GTA load centre. As such it may be that Essa requires a special focus between these two studies. There may be important system synergies to be had in accommodating new clean generation and storage west and north of Essa, along with reinforcements down to the growing GTA load.

Essa TS and areas connected to it via major transmission paths likely form a zone where targeted engagement with generators and industrial loads would be beneficial (for example to ensure assumptions are aligned so that developers of generation and load can inform these studies early), and it may be that there are similar situations elsewhere.

We also suggest that given the importance of these studies it may be essential to have greater granularity on expected start and end dates. For example, Ontario Pumped Storage and other projects may benefit from certainty on transmission in advance of the anticipated completion of the Southern and Central and Northern Ontario studies and it would benefit all parties to be able to flag potential misalignments in timing.

We look forward to supporting the continued engagement and appreciate IESO's efforts.