

Feedback Form

Transmission Planning Bulk Study Updates – Feb 23, 2024

Feedback Provided by:

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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?	<p>Summary of forecast used as a basis for the Central-West Bulk Study. Provide assumptions and data sources, including linkages between procurements, APO and active Regional Planning studies.</p> <p>Communicate significant scope changes that have occurred between engagements and provide rationale, and system risks / impacts of changes.</p>

Topic	Feedback
Are there other methods of engagement that would support your participation in bulk system plans?	<p>Municipalities have limited time and resources to participate with the growing list of IESO initiatives requiring municipal engagement. It is recommended that the IESO take a more proactive role in its engagement activities. The current process relies heavily on the stakeholders to indicate their interest through signing up for automated communications from IESO (Bulletin) or periodically review IESO engagement webpages for updates.</p> <p>Recommend revamping engagement website as a landing page for all engagement notices, complete with a calendar. Provide links to project specific engagement webpages. It can be challenging for stakeholders participating in numerous initiatives to navigate the IESO website to find the correct page for stakeholder sessions. This will make it easier to find registration links without using the bulletin or project notices links.</p> <p>Extend feedback timelines to allow municipalities adequate time to obtain approval to provide feedback. Without a pre-existing delegation of authority, municipalities require approval to provide feedback and the approval process may not align with IESO timelines.</p> <p>Consider providing presentations at municipal Council meetings detailing projects and including local benefits and risks.</p>

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?	<p>Take a holistic system-based approach to bulk plans. The current Central-West bulk study has already been scaled back to focus discussion and recommendations on objective 1, leaving the wider-reaching objective #2 for a subsequent study.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to the current siloed approach to electricity planning in Ontario. Attempts should be made to increase interaction between planning departments and LDCs in the development of an overall system forecast which accepts/integrates forecasts, assumptions, and feedback from distribution, regional, and annual outlook planning processes.</p>

General Comments/Feedback

The IESO reduced the scope of the Central-West Bulk Study (see slide 18) and is no longer considering the wider area covered by the Windsor-Essex, Chatham-Lambton-Sarnia, Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph, and Burlington-Hamilton planning areas, and will focus on the London area. This is a significant change in project scope, from that presented in the August 2023 Engagement webinar. Why wasn't this change communicated previously? Recommend moving forward that IESO consult with the municipalities and stakeholders when significant changes to bulk study scopes arise that necessitate the removal or addition of one or more planning regions. It is imperative that the IESO share the rationale behind significant scope changes and obtain stakeholder consensus prior to moving forward to the next step in the Bulk study process, as it demonstrates IESO's commitment to transparency.

Engagement #1 which occurred August 16, 2023, focused on needs identification and ensuring growth and potential large loads were identified and accounted for. Engagement #2 which occurred February 23, 2024, focused on presenting a change in project scope (see slide 18) and suitable options (see slide 29). Feels like several steps were omitted in the engagement plan. At a minimum, the load forecast being used to underpin the Central West Bulk Study should have been shared prior to the presentation of recommended options.

Concerned that the scoping of the Southern and Central Bulk study may see a significant scope scale back like the Central-West bulk study and focus on a single objective (i.e. GTA, generation retirements, etc.) as the geographic area is extensive. Recommend IESO focus on the entire bulk plan area, and refrain from solving the most pressing issue first.

Ensure communication of new information related to other ongoing plans (i.e. regional planning) is consistent between engagement groups. Re: Slide 28 references the interdependencies between the Central-West bulk study and other plans.

Questions:

1. How does reducing the scope of the Central-West Bulk study to focus on the London area, not shift the focus/purpose of the study from a Bulk study to a Regional Planning study?
2. What steps are being considered/undertaken to ensure that the outcomes from the Central-West Bulk Study don't just move the system pinchpoint in London/St. Thomas elsewhere?
3. Interested in learning more about the BLIP/NBLIP interface and how changes at this point impacts the areas to the west. Slide 27 references an issue that arises on the NBLIP once 600MW of economic development is added to the system above the annual forecast. As NBLIP requires electricity to flow easterly from Sarnia and Windsor to meet demand, what is the impact to Transmission capacity in Windsor-Essex and Lambton-Sarnia-Chatham-Kent areas? The current Windsor-Essex Regional Planning IRRP is currently looking at solutions to meet the anticipated forecasted demands for the area between 2024 and 2044 and is likely to require supplies originating east of the BLIP/NBLIP interface.
 - a. What will be the priority if Windsor or Sarnia needs electricity to flow westerly at the same time London needs electricity to flow easterly?
 - b. How will demand be served?
 - c. Will the natural gas generators located in Windsor and Sarnia be called upon to shore up supply? Operational decision that could impact the GHG intensity of the Ontario Electricity grid. One of the reasons companies are attracted to Ontario is that Ontario's grid is 90% emissions free.