North & East of Sudbury Regional Electricity Planning Public Webinar #3 – March 15, 2023

Response to feedback received

The IESO hosted a public webinar for the North & East of Sudbury region long-term electricity plan – Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) – on March 15, 2023 to seek input on the options analysis and draft recommendations. The presentation material and recorded webinar are available on the engagement webpage.

Input was received from Lake Shore Gold and Peter Drury related to recommended solutions to address identified electricity needs, information that should be considered in plan recommendations and future engagement. This document summarizes the feedback received and the IESO's responses. Full submissions can be viewed on the engagement webpage.

Recommended Solutions

Feedback: IESO should put urgency into D501P load security. Including D501P in the next bulk planning system may not meet timelines required considering Hydro One back-up circuits to supply sites when D501P is receiving maintenance are A4H or H6T.

IESO response:

The North & East of Sudbury IRRP acknowledges that load security during D501P outages is an issue that remains unresolved. As the circuit D501P is part of the Bulk Power System, the Technical Working Group[1] recommends that the next bulk system plan in Northeast Ontario address the load security concerns following an outage on D501P. This bulk plan will be triggered if substantial load increases/new resources are expected in the Kapuskasing and northern Cochrane areas.

Feedback: The replacement of circuits D2H & D3H (Pinard TS to Hunta SS) and circuits A4H & A5H (Ansonville TS to Hunta SS) with like-for-like 115kV facilities will only perpetuate issues with the security of the system in north-eastern Ontario.

[1] The North & East of Sudbury Technical Working Group consists of the IESO, Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc., Hearst Power Distribution Company Limited, North Bay Hydro Distribution Ltd., Northern Ontario Wires Inc. and Hydro One Networks Inc. (Transmission and Distribution)

There is a unique opportunity to replace one circuit of each of these pairs of circuits with new circuits rated at 230kV to allow the existing 230kV facilities at Ansonville TS to be interconnected directly with the existing 230kV system at Pinard TS that would:

- Provide a direct 230kV link between Porcupine TS and Pinard TS and address the majority of the concerns related to load supply during outages to the 500kV circuit D501P; and,
- Further enhance the supply capability of the 115kV system north of Pinard TS by allowing critical voltage support to be provided to this system from the 230kV-connected units at Abitibi Canyon GS and at the Mattagami River plants.

IESO response:

Based on the information gathered in the load forecast, no other regional needs were identified in the IRRP that could be addressed by right-sizing the end-of-life replacement of the A4H/A5H and D2H/D3H circuits. Nonetheless, future system developments (e.g., additional demand growth or resource development in the area) could drive a need for reinforcement in this area in the future. Therefore, the Working Group recommends continued monitoring of developments in the area between regional planning cycles, and that Hydro One touch base with the Working Group before the like-for-standard replacement project is committed, to determine if this recommendation should be revisited.

Feedback: It would appear that the 38km 230kV line that Canada Nickel Company Inc. is planning to build from Porcupine TS to supply their Crawford Mine, directly north of Timmins, should be an integral part of any review of the future development of the system in the north-east. Extending this line through to Hunta SS, to interconnect with the proposed 230kV connection between Ansonville TS and Pinard TS, would not only secure the supply to the Crawford Mine, but would further enhance the system north of Timmins. Installing additional 230/115kV transformation facilities at Hunta SS, would also allow the issues presented by the low-rated circuits H6T & H7T (between Hunta SS & Timmins TS) to be addressed.

IESO response: Thank you for this suggestion.

Other Information/Considerations

Feedback: In September 2022, Hydro One completed an outage at Porcupine TS to repair a broken strain insulator in the 500kV yard with no impact expected. Voltage issues were experienced and Lake Shore had its SAG Mill trip out which resulted in production losses of over 12 hours. In addition, Lake Shore also had to offload one of its return-air-raise fans which in turn reduced our underground production capability. Having less air underground causes our operation to reduce the quality of production equipment in service.

IESO response: The IESO requires additional information to respond to this matter and will be reaching out.

Future Engagement and Implementation of Recommendations

Feedback: Regional Planning is an excellent way for IESO to continue to engage with stakeholders in addition to having Account Representatives share upcoming events.

IESO response: The IESO remains committed to driving and guiding the future of Ontario's electricity sector by strengthening relationships with stakeholders and Indigenous communities, working to understand local priorities and initiatives and ensuring informed and balanced decisions are made. Updates will continue to be shared broadly through the IESO's regular communications channels (Bulletins, webpages and emails), one-on-one outreach with communities and stakeholders in the region and participation in events in the region such as the annual Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) conference. The IESO values ongoing dialogue to stay in touch with key developments in the region and welcomes opportunities for future meetings and discussions. All interested parties can connect with the IESO at communityengagement@ieso.ca.

Feedback: IESO and Hydro One should coordinate their maintenance with each other and shareholders (e.g. annual shutdowns on the same day between the IESO and Hydro One).

IESO response: The IESO coordinates outage management for facilities and equipment connected to the IESO-controlled grid, or which may affect the operation of the IESO-controlled grid, with Hydro One and other market participants, to ensure that the system maintains a high level of reliability. Individual market participants are encouraged to coordinate with each other to minimise the impact of their outages, however the responsibility for outage planning rests with those market participants. More information about our outage management procedures can be found in Part 7.3 of Market Manual 7.