

Engagement Plan

Northern Ontario Voltage Study

Introduction

Northern Ontario stands at the cusp of transformative changes in its energy landscape, prompting a strategic and comprehensive examination known as the Northern Ontario Voltage Study. As we navigate the complexities of the next decade, our objective is to confirm and address pressing needs, recognizing that the region is poised for significant advancements and challenges.

The existing electricity infrastructure in northern Ontario grapples with end-of-life issues and operational challenges associated with managing high voltages. The Northern Voltage Study is our response to these challenges, seeking not only to rectify current limitations but also to anticipate and accommodate the imminent changes set to unfold.

An important aspect of this study is the integration of the Waasigan and Northeast Bulk transmission lines. While these projects promise to augment the region's energy capabilities, they also introduce a set of intricacies, particularly in terms of capacitive injection to the bulk transmission system during light load conditions. The IESO is assessing and making recommendations to mitigate the potential impacts.

Additionally, the study addresses the reactive power requirements essential to support the Northeast Bulk Plan. This involves examination of the infrastructure needed to facilitate the planned transmission developments, acknowledging the broader implications for the region's energy reliability.

Stakeholder and Communities

The IESO encourages all interested parties to participate in this engagement through the public engagement activities described in the Approach section below. Our stakeholders include all those with an interest in the Northern Ontario electricity landscape.

Engagement Objectives

The engagement objectives align closely with the overall purpose of our initiative, which is to inform stakeholders about the recently concluded voltage study undertaken by the IESO in northern Ontario.

We seek to highlight the significance of ongoing and planned transmission reinforcement projects in the region, providing a contextual backdrop for the study’s focus.

Approach

Our engagement approach centers on a concise and informative public webinar session where we will present the findings of the Northern Ontario Voltage Study. This session aims to provide stakeholders with a clear understanding of the study’s conclusions. Following this webinar, we are committed to publishing a detailed report, ensuring transparency and accessibility for all stakeholders.

Proposed Engagement Schedule

Timing	Engagement Activity
November – December 2023	Public Engagement Session to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="704 701 1495 779">• public webinar session where we will present the findings of the Northern Ontario Voltage Study.
December 2023	Publish Study report