Reliability Outlook

An adequacy assessment of Ontario's electricity system

October 2023 to March 2025

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Executive Summary

Ontario's electricity grid is prepared for the next 18 months, with sufficient supply expected to be available to meet the needs of residents, businesses and communities.

Summer 2023 was a season of tight system conditions, featuring some of the highest demand peaks experienced over the past few years. It was, however, reliably managed through additional support from demand response, and imports, as well as close collaboration with market participants, demonstrating the importance of careful outage management.

Looking ahead, while the IESO is not currently identifying adequacy shortfalls, it will need to carefully monitor generator outage scheduling for the period between April and August 2024 to ensure Ontario remains within the Reserve Above Requirement level under both normal and extreme weather scenarios. Sufficient reserves should be available for winter 2023-24.

Overall, Ontario has entered a period when generation and transmission outages are becoming more challenging to accommodate, and the IESO has been actively co-ordinating and planning with market participants to maintain reliability. However, the sheer volume of outage requests and the limited time periods available to complete the work will make outage scheduling more challenging for the foreseeable future. Market participants are strongly encouraged to plan ahead and co-ordinate with the IESO to prepare the system and ensure planned outages can be appropriately scheduled.

Forecasted energy demand remains steady for this Reliability Outlook period, with a projected increase of 0.3 per cent for 2023, and 1.5 per cent for 2024. As energy demand is correlated with economic activity, these forecasts are based on expectations the cumulative impacts of interest rate increases have a lagged effect on economic growth.

The IESO's Resource Adequacy Framework efforts in 2022-23, namely the Capacity Auction and the Medium-Term RFP, will be coming online in this Reliability Outlook's time horizon to support these increased system needs. The December 2022 Capacity Auction cleared 1,160 MW for the 2023-24 winter obligation period – including generation, energy storage, demand response and imports – and will contribute to grid reliability this winter. The Medium-Term RFP announced last year secured supply from both existing gas and wind resources coming off contract; these resources are expected to continue supporting reliability as a few of the contracts take effect in May 2024.

In addition, in August 2023, Ontario and Quebec signed a memorandum of understanding for the swap of 600 MW of capacity for up to 10 years. Under the proposed electricity trade agreement, the IESO and Hydro-Québec will carry out an annual capacity swap of 600 MW that will help address their respective peak season demands. The agreement is expected to come into effect in winter 2024-25, when the IESO would deliver 600 MW of capacity to Hydro-Québec.

The refurbishment of nuclear units at Bruce and Darlington will continue during the outlook period while Ontario prepares for the retirement of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station. In July 2023, Unit 3 at Darlington Nuclear Generating Station was reconnected to the grid, paving the way for Unit 4 to be taken out of service for refurbishment. In September, Unit 6 at Bruce Nuclear Generating Station was also reconnected to the provincial grid. Other ongoing refurbishment outages during this period include Darlington Unit 1 and Bruce Unit 3.

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1. Introduction

This Outlook covers the 18 months from October 2023 to March 2025, and supersedes the Outlook released on June 23, 2023.

The purpose of the 18-month horizon in the *Reliability Outlook* is to:

- Advise market participants of the resource and transmission reliability of the Ontario electricity system
- Assess potentially adverse conditions that might be avoided by adjusting or coordinating maintenance plans for generation and transmission equipment
- Report on initiatives being implemented to improve reliability within this time frame

This Outlook assesses resource and transmission adequacy based on the stated assumptions, following the Methodology to Perform the Reliability Outlook. Due to uncertainties associated with various assumptions, readers are encouraged to use their judgment in considering possible future scenarios.

Additional supporting documents are located on the IESO website.

Security and adequacy assessments are published on the IESO website on a daily basis and progressively supersede information presented in this report.

For questions or comments on this Outlook, please contact us at 905-403-6900 (toll-free 1-888-448-7777) or customer.relations@ieso.ca.

2. Updates to this Outlook

2.1 Updates to the Demand Forecast

The demand forecast used in this Outlook is informed by actual demand, weather and economic data through to the end of June 2023, and has been updated to reflect the most recent economic projections. Actual weather and demand data for July and August 2023 are included in the tables.

2.2 Updates to Resources

This *Reliability Outlook* considers planned generator outages over the 18-month period, submitted by market participants to the IESO's outage management system as of September 5, 2023. Market participants are required annually to submit information to enable the IESO to conduct reliability assessments. This information, provided to the IESO through Form 1230, was submitted by April 1, 2023.

2.3 Updates to the Transmission Outlook

This Outlook also considers transmission outage plans that were submitted to the IESO's outage management system by August 29, 2023.

3. Demand Forecast

Electricity demand is expected to remain relatively flat at 137.1 TWh, a projected increase of 0.3% for 2023. This follows higher growth in each of the previous two years: 1.4% in 2021 (133.7 TWh) and 2.2% increase in 2022 (136.7 TWh). For 2024 demand is expected to increase to 139.2 TWh (1.5%). The IESO continues to monitor the evolving economic situation to assess the likely impacts to electricity demand over the 18-month horizon.

The IESO is responsible for forecasting electricity demand on the IESO-controlled grid. This demand forecast covers the period from October 2023 to March 2025 and supersedes the previous forecast released in June 2023. Tables of supporting information are contained in the 2023 Q3 Outlook Tables.

Electricity demand is very closely tied to economic activity. The Bank of Canada raised interest rates seven times in 2022, raising the overnight rate from 0.5% to 4.25%, in an effort to slow economic growth and reduce inflationary pressures. Although rate impacts have a lagged effect, the economic growth has remained strong, as has inflation. As a result, the Bank of Canada has raised rates three times throughout the first seven months of 2023, increasing the overnight rate to 5.0%. Pent-up demand and population growth will continue to drive economic growth over the forecast period, albeit at a slower rate due to higher interest costs. Inflation has receded from the 8.1% in the summer of 2022 to 3.4% this spring and the Bank of Canada is predicting inflation to hover around 3% in 2024 before dropping to 2.5% in 2025 as a result of their actions.

Energy demand is correlated to economic activity, particularly within the industrial sector due to its electrical intensity. With the aforementioned economic trajectory, energy demand is projected to increase by 0.3% in 2023 and increase a modest 1.5% in 2024 as building economic growth combines with the addition of large industrial loads and the beginning of increased electrification from fuel switching.

The demand forecast faces significant uncertainties. Interest rate impacts can lag significantly and carries a risk to economic growth. Geopolitical events contribute to uncertainty and instability should they spread to other countries.

Table 3-1 | Forecast Energy Demand Summary

Year	Normal Weather Energy (TWh)	% Growth in Energy
2023	137.1	0.3%
2024	139.2	1.5%

Table 3-2 | Forecast Seasonal Peaks

Season	Normal Weather Peak (MW)	Extreme Weather Peak (MW)
Winter 2023-24	21,402	22,640
Summer 2024	22,584	24,542
Winter 2024-25	21,895	22,770

Table 3-3 | Weekly Energy and Peak Demand Forecast

Week Ending	Normal Peak (MW)	Extreme Peak (MW)	Load Forecast Uncertainty (MW)	Normal Energy Demand (GWh)
01-Oct-23	18,577	20,959	420	2,421
08-Oct-23	17,668	19,406	554	2,396
15-Oct-23	17,381	18,519	786	2,344
22-Oct-23	17,305	17,903	507	2,397
29-Oct-23	17,565	18,923	392	2,429
05-Nov-23	17,768	19,345	318	2,456
12-Nov-23	18,330	19,716	416	2,494
19-Nov-23	18,876	19,441	601	2,560
26-Nov-23	19,547	20,033	342	2,630
03-Dec-23	19,742	20,611	607	2,683
10-Dec-23	20,212	21,158	409	2,735
17-Dec-23	20,346	21,615	555	2,764

Week Ending	Normal Peak (MW)	Extreme Peak (MW)	Load Forecast Uncertainty (MW)	Normal Energy Demand (GWh)
24-Dec-23	20,240	21,593	690	2,787
31-Dec-23	19,407	20,717	362	2,641
07-Jan-24	20,575	21,589	528	2,811
14-Jan-24	21,047	22,125	570	2,912
21-Jan-24	21,151	22,214	547	2,935
28-Jan-24	21,402	22,640	483	2,953
04-Feb-24	21,320	22,426	404	2,930
11-Feb-24	20,977	21,839	734	2,892
18-Feb-24	20,543	21,665	635	2,891
25-Feb-24	20,341	21,795	581	2,843
03-Mar-24	20,255	21,746	501	2,832
10-Mar-24	19,618	21,133	531	2,766
17-Mar-24	19,127	20,620	649	2,722
24-Mar-24	18,572	20,019	611	2,654
31-Mar-24	18,109	19,262	569	2,556
07-Apr-24	17,846	18,709	567	2,529
14-Apr-24	17,710	18,259	471	2,514
21-Apr-24	17,631	18,244	496	2,480
28-Apr-24	17,410	17,731	531	2,420
05-May-24	17,332	18,912	721	2,409
12-May-24	17,325	19,535	849	2,390
19-May-24	17,457	20,964	845	2,412
26-May-24	17,527	20,928	1,175	2,356
02-Jun-24	19,106	21,349	1,330	2,436
09-Jun-24	19,460	21,809	1,292	2,465
16-Jun-24	21,046	22,208	1,055	2,535
23-Jun-24	21,780	23,029	835	2,596

Week Ending	Normal Peak (MW)	Extreme Peak (MW)	Load Forecast Uncertainty (MW)	Normal Energy Demand (GWh)
30-Jun-24	22,379	23,944	754	2,660
07-Jul-24	22,338	24,084	1,016	2,658
14-Jul-24	22,529	24,283	814	2,739
21-Jul-24	22,584	24,458	838	2,794
28-Jul-24	22,542	24,542	1,035	2,814
04-Aug-24	22,422	24,469	841	2,836
11-Aug-24	22,365	24,388	958	2,777
18-Aug-24	22,387	24,517	985	2,803
25-Aug-24	22,361	24,415	1,362	2,774
01-Sep-24	22,259	24,165	1,413	2,749
08-Sep-24	21,740	23,530	1,370	2,631
15-Sep-24	21,750	22,841	680	2,609
22-Sep-24	20,282	21,765	781	2,524
29-Sep-24	18,760	21,067	420	2,494
06-Oct-24	17,828	19,483	554	2,466
13-Oct-24	17,536	18,598	786	2,459
20-Oct-24	17,461	17,984	507	2,429
27-Oct-24	17,733	19,013	392	2,504
03-Nov-24	17,870	19,342	318	2,533
10-Nov-24	18,447	19,756	416	2,568
17-Nov-24	19,014	19,498	601	2,630
24-Nov-24	19,701	20,112	342	2,710
01-Dec-24	19,920	20,714	607	2,760
08-Dec-24	20,387	21,259	409	2,817
15-Dec-24	20,525	21,721	555	2,844
22-Dec-24	20,639	21,767	690	2,880
29-Dec-24	18,528	20,096	362	2,689

Week Ending	Normal Peak (MW)	Extreme Peak (MW)	Load Forecast Uncertainty (MW)	Normal Energy Demand (GWh)
05-Jan-25	19,885	20,786	528	2,808
12-Jan-25	21,051	21,704	570	2,913
19-Jan-25	21,345	22,770	547	2,937
26-Jan-25	21,582	22,727	483	3,011
02-Feb-25	21,895	22,558	404	2,938
09-Feb-25	20,990	21,779	734	2,902
16-Feb-25	20,770	21,862	635	2,911
23-Feb-25	20,261	21,694	581	2,851
02-Mar-25	20,347	22,138	501	2,843
09-Mar-25	20,142	21,326	531	2,790
16-Mar-25	19,067	20,622	649	2,728
23-Mar-25	18,728	20,278	611	2,671
30-Mar-25	18,528	19,549	569	2,588
06-Apr-25	17,653	18,335	567	2,525

4. Resource Adequacy

Ontario's power system continues to operate in a period during which generation and transmission outages will be difficult to accommodate. The IESO expects these conditions to persist for the foreseeable future. Market participants are strongly encouraged to plan ahead and coordinate with the IESO to prepare the system and ensure planned outages can be appropriately scheduled.

The IESO expects to have sufficient reserves for the winters of 2023/24 and 2024/25. However, reserve shortages have the potential to appear in summer 2024, primarily as a result of coincident generator outages. The IESO will work closely with market participants to schedule outages during this period, otherwise Ontario may have to rely on more than 2,000 MW of supply from other jurisdictions and/or additional operating actions to ensure reliability under extreme weather conditions.

This section assesses the adequacy of resources to meet the forecast demand. Resource adequacy is one of the reliability considerations used for approving generation and transmission outages. When reserves are below required levels, with potentially adverse effects on the reliability of the grid, the IESO will reject outage requests based on their order of precedence. Conversely, when reserves are above required levels, additional outages can be contemplated, provided other factors – such as local considerations, operability or transmission security – do not pose a reliability concern. In those cases, the IESO may place an outage at risk, signaling to the facility owner to consider rescheduling the outage.

Ontario's existing installed generation capacity is summarized in Table 4-1. The forecast capability at the Outlook peak is based on the firm resource scenario, which includes resources currently in commercial operation, and takes into account deratings, planned outages and an allowance for capability levels below rated installed capacity.

Table 4-1 | Existing Grid-Connected Resource Capacity

Fuel Type	Total Installed Capacity (MW)	Forecast Capability at 2024 Summer Peak Normal Weather (MW)	Forecast Capability at 2024 Summer Peak Extreme Weather (MW)	Number of Stations	Change in Number of Stations	Change in Installed Capacity
Nuclear	13,144	10,476	10,476	5	0	0
Hydroelectric	8,922	5,078	4,742	76	0	0
Gas/Oil	10,470	9,256	8,842	33	0	0
Wind	4,883	720	720	41	0	0
Biofuel	296	246	246	7	0	0
Solar	478	66	66	10	0	0
Demand Measures	-	1,099	1,022	-	-	-
Firm Imports (+) / Exports (-) (MW)	-	0	0	-	-	-
Total	**38,193**	**26,940**	**26,113**	**172**	**0**	**0**

4.1 Assessment Assumptions

4.1.1 Generation Resources

All generation resources scheduled to come into service, be upgraded or be shut down within the Outlook period are summarized in Table 4-2. This includes generation projects in the IESO's connection assessment and approval (CAA) process, those under construction, and contracted resources. Details regarding the IESO's CAA process and the status of these projects can be found on the Application Status section of the IESO website.

The estimated effective date column in Table 4-2 indicates when the market registration process is expected to be complete for each generation resource, based on information available to the IESO as of September 5, 2023. Two scenarios are used to describe project risks:

- The **planned scenario** assumes that all resources scheduled to come into service are available over the assessment period.
- The **firm scenario** assumes that only resources that have reached commercial operation status and completed commissioning at the time this assessment was completed are available.

Planned shutdowns or permanent[1] retirements of generators that have a high likelihood of occurring are considered for both scenarios.

Table 4-2 | Committed Generation Resources Status

Project Name	Zone	Fuel Type	Estimated Effective Date	Project Status	Firm (MW)	Planned (MW)
Romney Wind Energy Center	West	Wind	2023-Q4	Commercial Operation	0	60
Total						**60**

Notes on Table 4-2:

The total may not add up due to rounding and does not include in-service facilities. Project status provides an indication of the project progress, using the following terminology:

- Under Development – projects in approvals and permitting stages (e.g., environmental assessment, municipal approvals, IESO connection assessment approvals) and projects under construction
- Commissioning – projects undergoing commissioning tests with the IESO
- Commercial Operation – projects that have achieved commercial operation status under the contract criteria, but have not met all of the IESO's market registration requirements
- Expiring Contract – contracts that will expire during the Outlook period are included in both scenarios only up to their contract expiry date. Generators (including non-utility generators) that continue to provide forecast output data are also included in the planned scenario for the rest of the 18-month period.

[1] Given the evolving nature of resource acquisitions and commitments in Ontario, Table 4-2 will be listing new resources as they commission and existing resources that are expected to permanently retire or mothball at the end of their current commitments.

4.1.2 Generation Capability

Hydroelectric

A monthly forecast of hydroelectric generation output is calculated based on median historical values of hydroelectric production and contribution to operating reserve during weekday peak demand hours. Through this method, routine maintenance and actual forced outages of the generating units are implicitly accounted for in the historical data (see the first row in Table 4-3).

To reflect the impact of hydroelectric outages on the reserve above requirement (RAR) and allow the assessment of hydroelectric outages as per the outage approval criteria, the hydroelectric capability is also calculated, without accounting for historical outages (see the second row of Table 4-3). Table 4-3 uses data from May 2002 to March 2023, which are updated annually to coincide with the release of the Q2 Outlook.

Table 4-3 | Monthly Historical Hydroelectric Median Values for Normal Weather Conditions

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Historical Hydroelectric Median Contribution (MW)	6,167	6,090	5,910	5,927	5,958	5,769	5,604	5,306	5,087	5,453	5,708	6,162
Historical Hydroelectric Median Contribution without Outages (MW)	6,670	6,673	6,434	6,444	6,404	6,274	6,142	5,894	5,945	6,266	6,488	6,679

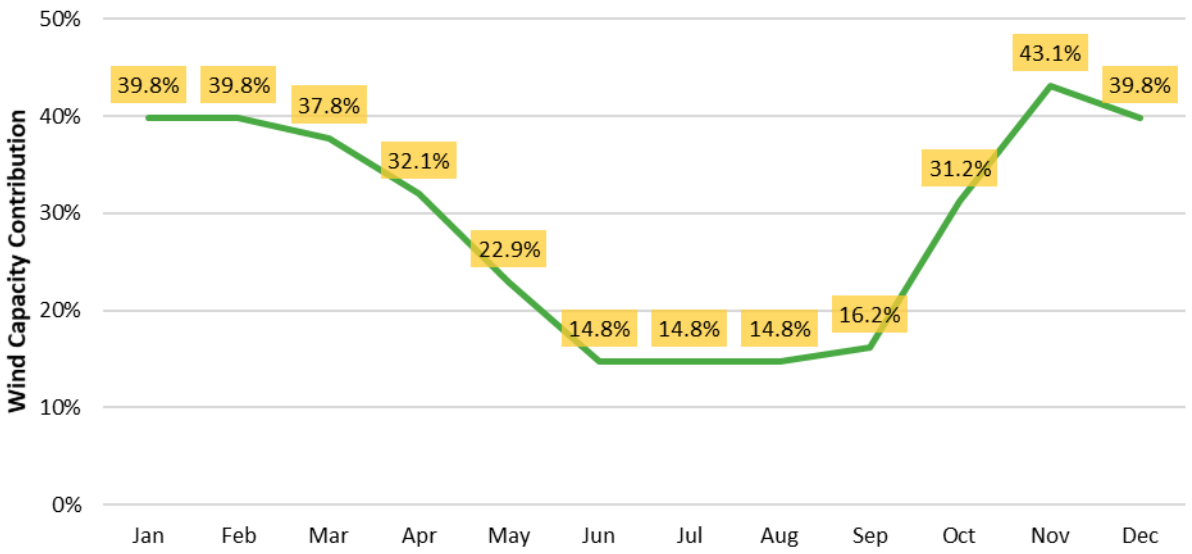
Thermal Generators

Thermal generators' capacity, planned outages and deratings are based on market participant submissions. Forced outage rates on demand are calculated by the IESO based on actual operational data. The IESO will continue to rely on market participant-submitted forced outage rates for comparison purposes.

Wind

For wind generation, monthly wind capacity contribution (WCC) values from the weekday peak hour are used. The process for determining wind contribution can be found in the Methodology to Perform the Reliability Outlook. Figure 4-1 shows the monthly WCC values, which are updated annually with the release of the Q2 Outlook.

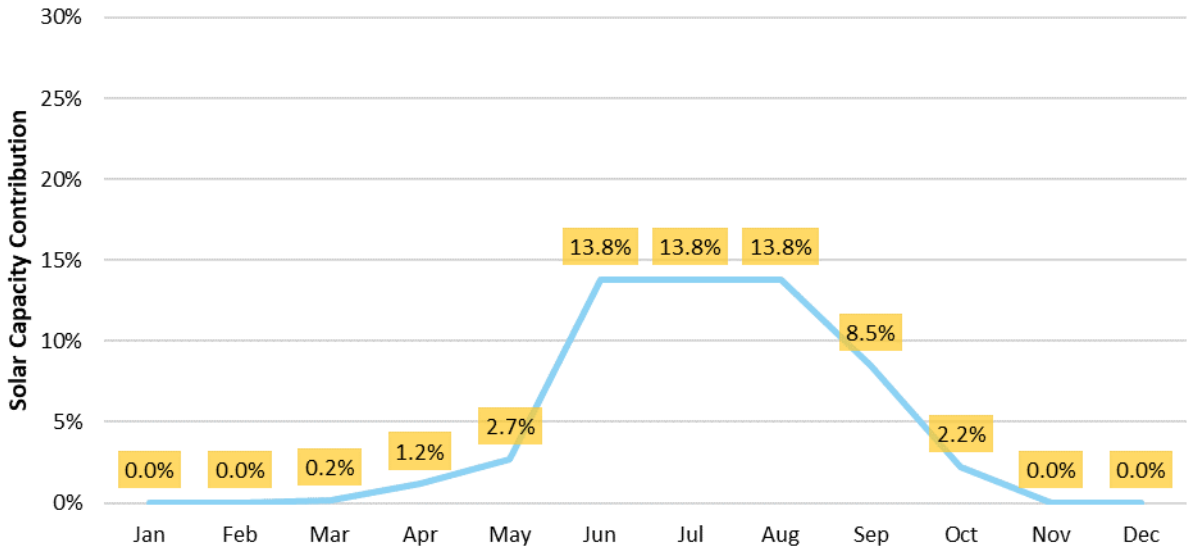
Figure 4-1 | Monthly Wind Capacity Contribution Values



Solar

For solar generation, monthly solar capacity contribution (SCC) values from the weekday peak hour are used. Information on how the solar contribution is calculated can be found in the Methodology to Perform the Reliability Outlook. Figure 4-2 shows the monthly SCC values, which are updated annually for the release of the Q2 Outlook.

Figure 4-2 | Monthly Solar Capacity Contribution Values



4.1.3 Demand Measures

Both demand measures and load modifiers can impact demand, but differ in how they are treated within the Outlook. Demand measures, such as dispatchable loads and demand response procured through the IESO's capacity auction, are not incorporated into the demand forecast and are instead treated as resources. Load modifiers are incorporated into the demand forecast. The impacts of activated demand measures are added back into the demand history prior to forecasting demand for future periods.

4.1.4 Firm Transactions

Capacity-Backed Exports

The IESO allows Ontario resources to compete in the capacity auctions held by certain neighbouring jurisdictions, but only if Ontario has adequate supply. New York Independent System Operator (NYISO)[2] will allow up to 80 MW of capacity-backed exports from Ontario between September 2023 and April 2024.

[2] http://icap.nyiso.com/ucap/public/rgt_availability_display.do

System-Backed Exports

The electricity trade agreement between Ontario and Quebec has expired as of March 2023, ending the supply of 500 MW of capacity to Quebec for winter months. However, Ontario will continue to receive up to 2.3 TWh of clean energy annually until December 31, 2023, scheduled economically via Ontario's real-time markets. The economically imported energy will target peak hours to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Ontario. The agreement includes the opportunity to cycle energy.

Capacity Sharing Agreement

A 2015 Capacity Sharing Agreement with Hydro-Québec saw Ontario provide 500 MW of capacity to Québec in the winter of 2015/16. Ontario currently has a commitment from Québec to return 500 MW of firm capacity for four months during a summer of the IESO's choosing.

In August 2023, the governments of Ontario and Québec entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU)[3] between the IESO and Hydro-Québec for the swap of 600 MW of capacity over a period of up to 10 years, expected to start in winter 2024/2025. Under this trade agreement, the IESO and Hydro-Québec will carry out an annual capacity swap of 600 MW. The IESO will provide 600 MW to Hydro-Québec in the winter and Hydro-Québec will provide 600 MW to the IESO in the summer. Ontario, alone will also have the opportunity to bank any amount of the 600 MW of summer capacity provided each year for use in any future summer period during the agreement up to the 1250MW capacity limit of the Ontario-Quebec intertie, allowing the province to save capacity until it is required. More information can be found in the 2023 Capacity Sharing Agreement Backgrounder

4.1.5 Summary of Scenario Assumptions

To assess future resource adequacy, the IESO must make assumptions about the amount of available resources. The Outlook considers two scenarios: a firm scenario and a planned scenario.

The starting point for both scenarios is the existing installed resources shown in Table 4-1. The planned scenario assumes that all resources scheduled to come into service are available over the assessment period. The firm scenario considers only those resources that have reached commercial operation status as of the time of this assessment. Generator-planned shutdowns or retirements that have a high likelihood of occurring are considered for both scenarios. They also both reflect planned outages submitted by generators. Table 4-4 shows the available resources that are forecast over the 18-month Outlook, under both scenarios in normal weather conditions, and at the time of the summer and winter peak demands.

[3] https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1003444/the-governments-of-ontario-and-quebec-support-new-electricity-trade-agreement

Table 4-4 | Summary of Available Resources under Normal Weather

Notes	Description	Winter Peak 2024 Firm Scenario	Winter Peak 2024 Planned Scenario	Summer Peak 2024 Firm Scenario	Summer Peak 2024 Planned Scenario	Winter Peak 2025 Firm Scenario	Winter Peak 2025 Planned Scenario
1	Installed Resources (MW)	38,193	38,253	38,193	38,253	38,193	38,253
2	Total Reductions in Resources (MW)	11,908	11,928	12,351	12,362	12,469	12,284
3	Demand Measures (MW)	853	853	1,099	1,191	711	711
4	Firm Imports (+) / Exports (-) (MW)	17	17	0	0	-600	-600
5	Available Resources (MW)	27,155	27,195	26,941	27,082	25,835	26,080
6	Bottling (MW)	749	773	0	0	351	351
7	Available Resources without Bottling (MW)	27,904	27,968	26,941	27,082	26,186	26,431

Notes on Table 4-4:

1. Installed Resources: The total generation capacity assumed to be installed at the time of the summer and winter peaks.
2. Total Reductions in Resources: The sum of deratings, planned outages, limitations due to transmission constraints and allowances for capability levels below rated installed capacity.
3. Demand Measures: The amount of demand reduction expected to be available at the time of peak.
4. Firm Imports/Exports: The amount of expected firm imports and exports at the time of summer and winter peaks.
5. Available Resources: Installed Resources (line 1) minus Total Reductions in Resources (line 2) plus Demand Measures (line 3) and Firm Imports/Exports (line 4). This differs from the Forecast Capability at System Peak shown in Table 4-1 due to the impacts of generation bottling (transmission limitations).
6. Available Resources without Bottling: Available resources after they are reduced due to bottling.

4.2 Capacity Adequacy Assessment

The capacity adequacy assessment accounts for zonal transmission constraints resulting from planned transmission outages assessed as of August 29, 2023. The generation planned outages occurring during this Outlook period have been assessed as of September 5, 2023.

4.2.1 Firm Scenario with Normal and Extreme Weather

The firm scenario incorporates all capacity that had achieved commercial operation status as of September 5, 2023.

Figure 4-3 shows Reserve Above Requirement (RAR) levels, which represents the difference between available resources and required resources. The required resources equals forecast demand plus the required reserve.

Capacity secured in the December 2022 Capacity Auction (CA) has been included in this assessment. Firm guidance targets for capacity in the December 2023 Capacity Auction, as announced in the IESO's 2022 Annual Acquisition Report, have been included and modelled as demand measures in the firm resource scenario for summer 2024 and winter 2024/25[4].

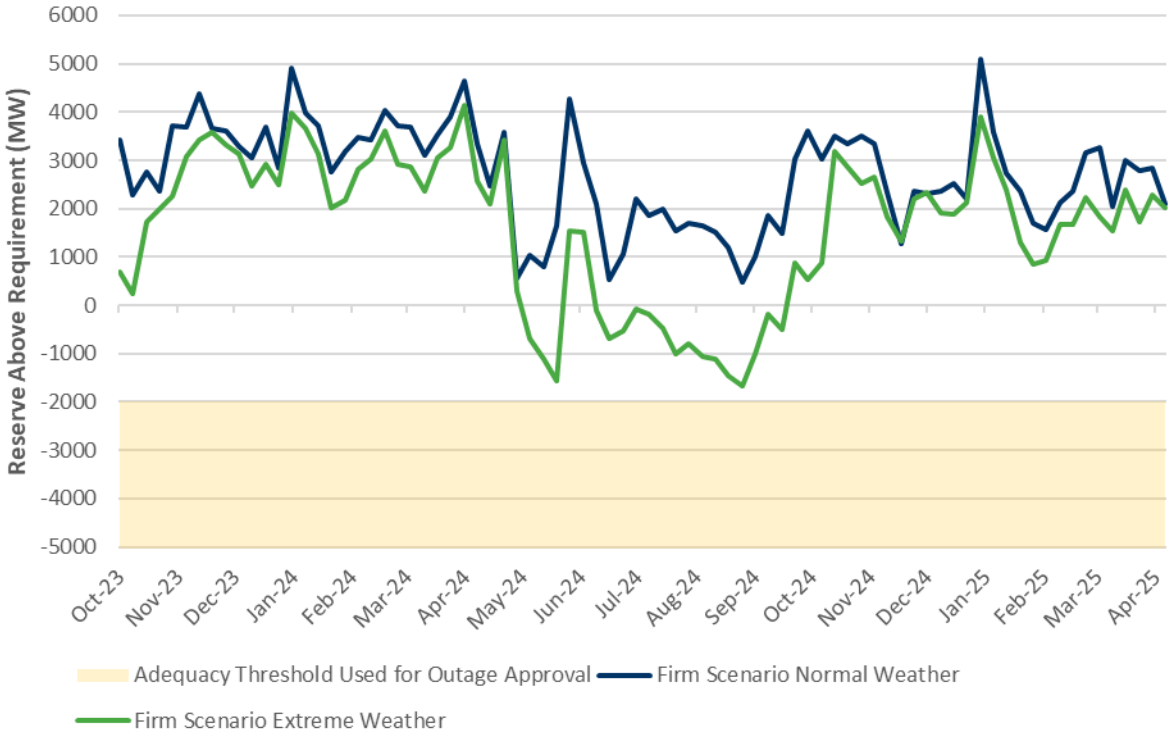
The IESO expects to have sufficient reserves for the winters of 2023/24 and 2024/25. In the firm scenario under extreme weather conditions, the reserve drops below 0 MW for 18 weeks in the summer of 2024, but does not cross the adequacy threshold at any time.

The IESO has been carefully managing outages with participants to minimize impacts to the RAR adequacy threshold and has succesfully navigated the summer of 2023. Moving forward, he IESO will continue to work closely with participants that have planned outages to ensure Ontario maintains adequate reserves. However, Ontario may have to rely on more than 2,000 MW of supply from other jurisdictions and/or additional operating actions in order to ensure reliability under extreme weather conditions.

Under periods of tighter supply conditions, planned generator maintenance outages are difficult to schedule. Generators are advised not to schedule outages during periods when reserves are forecast to be low, and are strongly encouraged to plan ahead and coordinate the timing of outages with IESO staff.

[4] Results of the December 2023 Capacity Auction were not available at the time this assessment was completed. 2022 Capacity Auction results can be found in the post-auction report on the IESO's webpage, and will be included in the firm scenario in future outlooks.

Figure 4-3 | Comparison of Normal and Extreme Weather: Firm Scenario Reserve Above Requirement

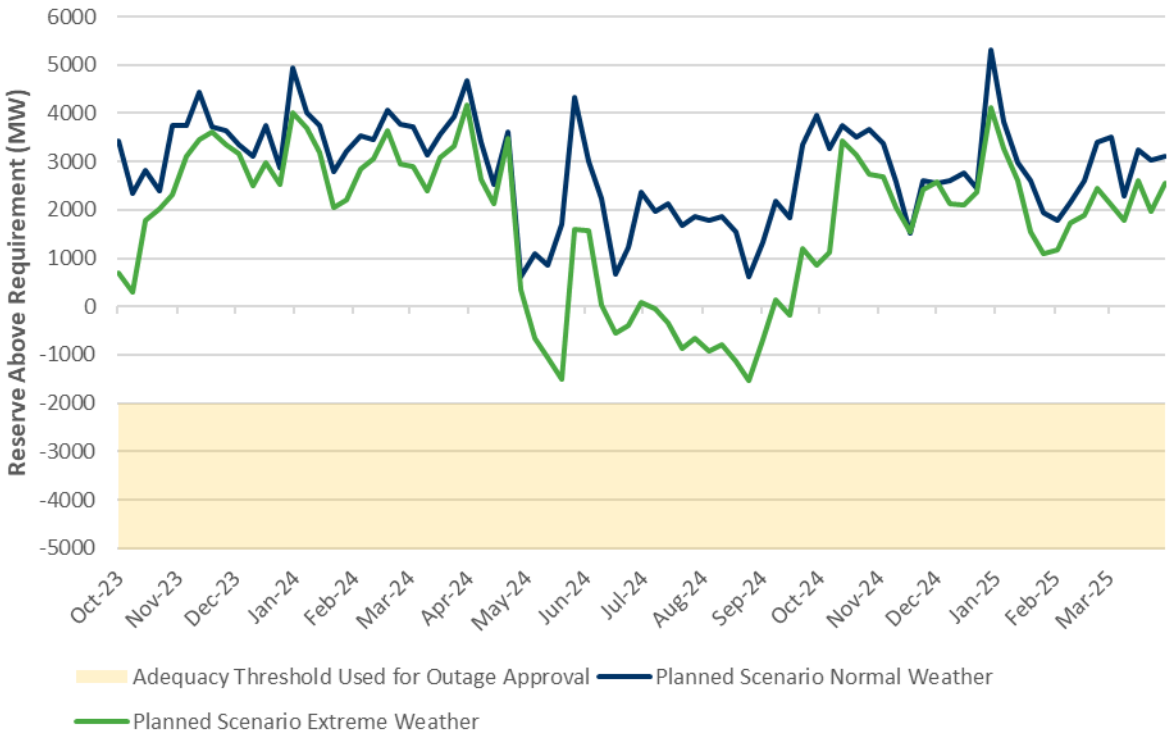


4.2.2 Planned Scenario with Normal and Extreme Weather

The Planned scenario incorporates all existing capacity, as well as all capacity expected to come into service. Approximately 60 MW of new generation capacity is expected to connect to Ontario's grid over this Outlook period.

Figure 4-4 shows RAR levels under the Planned scenario. Reserves do not fall below requirements in 2024 under normal weather conditions. Under the extreme weather scenario, reserves fall short for 15 weeks in the summer of 2024.

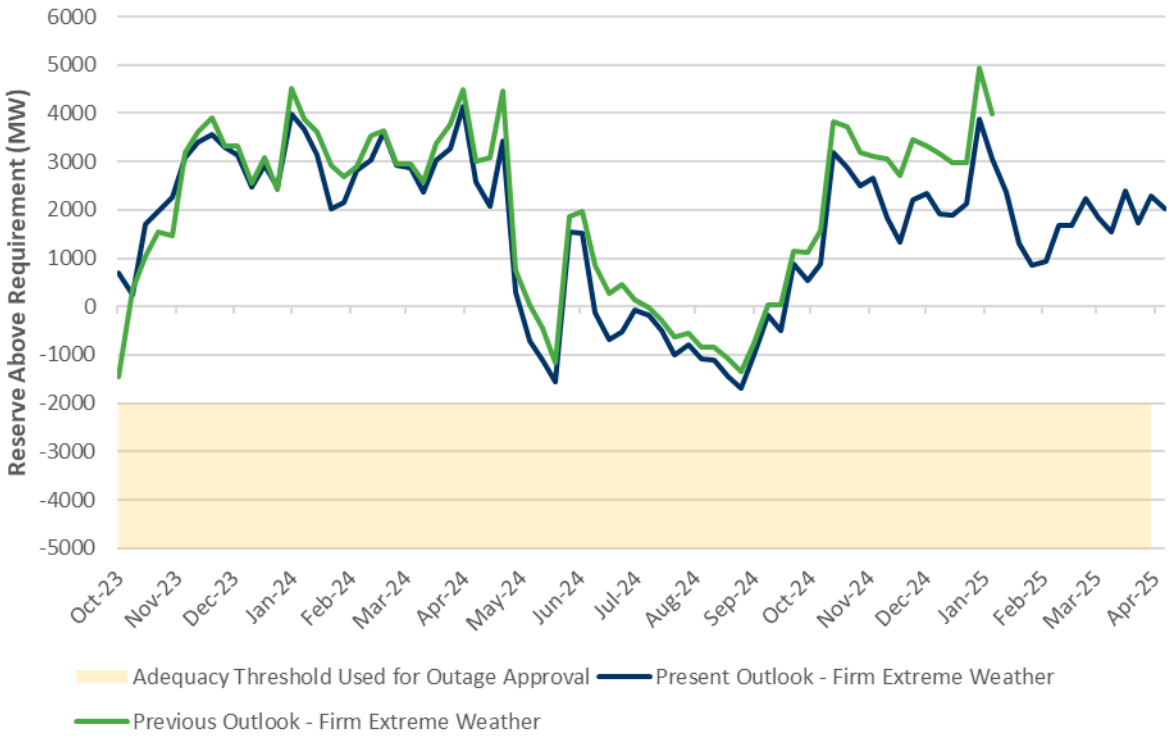
Figure 4-4 | Comparison of Normal and Extreme Weather: Planned Scenario Reserve Above Requirement



4.2.3 Comparison of the Current and Previous Weekly Adequacy Assessments for the Firm Extreme Weather Scenario

Figure 4-5 compares forecast RAR values in the current Outlook with those in the previous Outlook, which was published on June 23, 2023. The difference is primarily the result of changes in planned outages and the introduction of a 600 MW firm export agreement with QC starting in Winter of 2024/25.

Figure 4-5 | Comparison of Current and Previous Outlook: Firm Scenario Extreme Weather Reserve Above Requirement



Resource adequacy assumptions and risks are discussed in detail in the Methodology to Perform the Reliability Outlook.

4.3 Energy Adequacy Assessment

This section assesses energy adequacy to determine whether Ontario has sufficient supply to meet its forecast energy demands, while highlighting potential adequacy concerns during the Outlook time frame. At the same time, the assessment estimates the aggregate production by resource category to meet the projected demand based on assumed resource availability.

4.3.1 Summary of Energy Adequacy Assumptions

The energy adequacy assessment (EAA) uses the same set of assumptions as the capacity assessment outlined in Tables 4-1 and 4-2, which indicate the total capacity of committed resources and when they are expected to be available over the next 18 months. The monthly forecast of energy production capability, based on energy modelling results, is included in the Reliability Outlook Tables.

For the EAA, only the firm scenario in Table 4-5 with normal weather demand is assessed. The key assumptions specific to this assessment are described in the Methodology to Perform the Reliability Outlook.

4.3.2 Results – Firm Scenario with Normal Weather

Table 4-5 summarizes the energy simulation results over the next 18 months for the Firm scenario with normal weather demand both for Ontario and for each transmission zone.

Table 4-5 | Summary of Zonal Energy for Firm Scenario Normal Weather

Zone	18-Month Energy Demand TWh	18-Month Energy Demand Average MW	18-Month Energy Production TWh	18-Month Energy Production Average MW	Net Inter-Zonal Energy Transfer TWh	Zonal Energy Demand on Peak Day of 18-Month Period GWh	Available Energy on Peak Day of 18-Month Period GWh
Bruce	1.1	85	65.3	4,966	64.2	1.5	137.0
East	12.0	916	17.1	1,303	5.1	23.6	102.1
Essa	13.6	1,033	3.6	276	-10.0	28.1	16.1
Niagara	6.6	502	20.9	1,592	14.3	15.3	48.2
Northeast	16.5	1,255	15.5	1,177	-1.0	27.1	39.4
Northwest	7.3	554	6.8	515	-0.5	12.2	19.5
Ottawa	13.2	1,002	0.7	51	-12.5	30.2	1.8
Southwest	41.9	3,184	8.4	637	-33.5	95.1	22.6
Toronto	75.1	5,714	54.9	4,174	-20.2	174.1	148.6
West	22.0	1,671	16.1	1,225	-5.9	52.6	79.8
Ontario	**209.3**	**15,916**	**209.3**	**15,916**	**0.0**	**459.8**	**615.1**

4.3.3 Findings and Conclusions

The EAA indicates that Ontario is expected to have sufficient supply to meet its forecast energy needs throughout the outlook period for the Firm scenario with normal weather demand, without having to rely on support from external jurisdictions.

The figures and tables in this section are based on a simulation of the province's power system, using the assumptions presented within the Outlook to assess whether Ontario will be energy adequate.

Figure 4-6 breaks down projected production by fuel type to meet Ontario's energy demand for the next 18 months, while Figure 4-7 shows the expected production by fuel type for each month. The province's energy exports and imports are not considered in this assessment. Table 4-6 summarizes these simulated production results by fuel type, for each year.

Figure 4-6 | Forecast Energy Production by Fuel Type

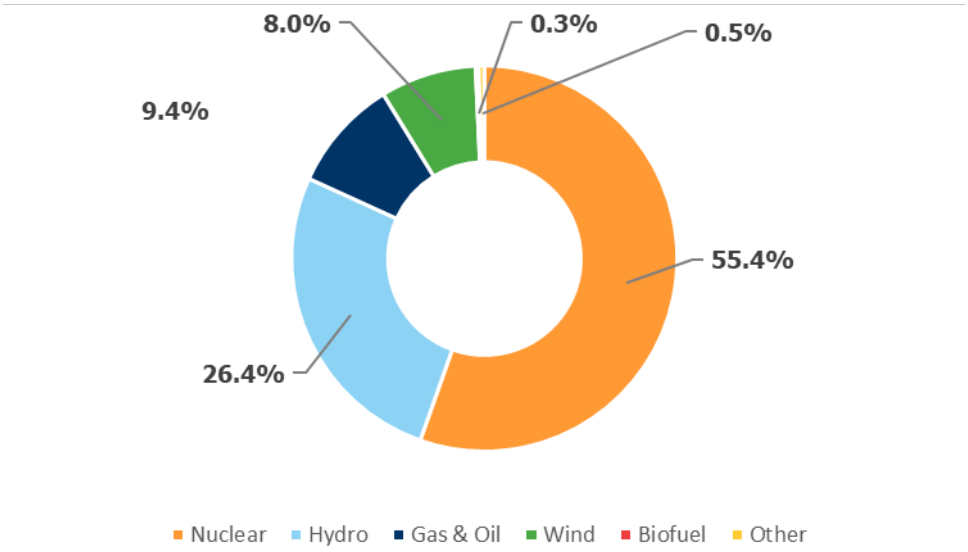


Figure 4-7 | Forecast Monthly Energy Production by Fuel Type

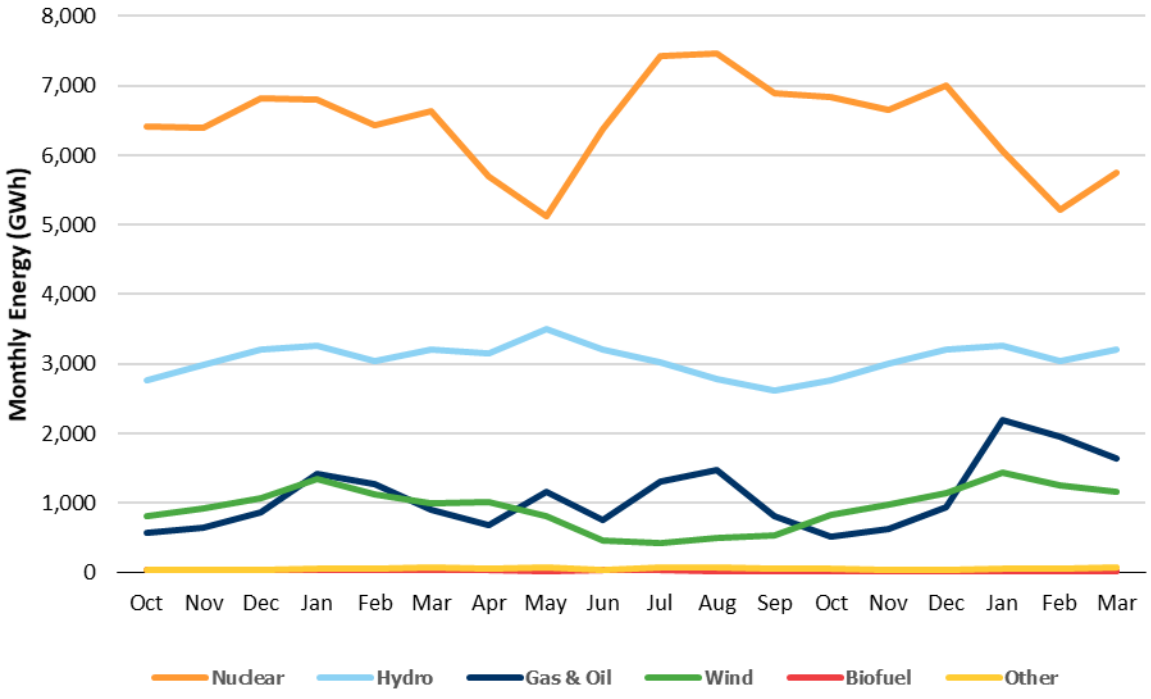


Table 4-6 | Energy Production by Fuel Type for the Firm Scenario Normal Weather

Fuel Type (Grid-Connected)	2023 (Oct 1 – Dec 31) (GWh)	2024 (Jan 1 – Dec 31) (GWh)	2025 (Jan 1 – Mar 31) (GWh)	Total (GWh)
Nuclear	19,611	79,347	17,021	115,979
Hydro	8,965	36,778	9,513	55,256
Gas & Oil	2,070	11,867	5,785	19,723
Wind	2,809	10,173	3,862	16,845
Biofuel	104	361	76	541
Other (Solar & DR)	117	661	209	987
Total	**33,677**	**139,188**	**36,467**	**209,332**

5. Transmission Reliability Assessment

Ontario's transmission system is expected to continue to reliably supply province-wide demand for the next 18 months, even while experiencing normal contingencies defined by planning criteria. However, some combinations of transmission and/or generation outages could create operating challenges. For this reason, it is – and will continue to be – increasingly difficult to schedule certain outages to avoid reliability concerns. The volume of outage requests and the limited time periods available to complete the work will make outage scheduling a challenge for the foreseeable future. The IESO assesses transmission adequacy using a methodology based on conformance to established criteria, including the Ontario Resource and Transmission Assessment Criteria (ORTAC), NERC transmission planning standard TPL 001-4 and NPCC Directory #1 as applicable. Planned system enhancements and projects, and known transmission outages are also considered in the studies.

5.1 Transmission Projects

This section considers the information transmitters have provided with respect to transmission projects that are planned for completion within the next 18 months. The list of transmission projects can be found in Appendix B1. Note that the planned in-service dates in this table and throughout this document are as of July 2023. These dates are subject to change as the COVID-19 pandemic may impact project logistics. Any changes will be communicated through subsequent Reliability Outlooks.

5.2 Transmission Outages

The IESO's assessment of transmission outage plans is shown in Appendix C, Tables C1 to C11. The methodology used to assess the transmission outage plans is described in the Methodology to Perform the Reliability Outlook. This Outlook reflects transmission outage plans submitted to the IESO as of August 31, 2023.

5.3 Transmission Considerations

The purpose of this section of the report is to highlight projects and outages that may affect reliability and/or the scheduling of other outages, and to consolidate these considerations by zone. For more information about the IESO's transmission zones and interfaces, please see the Transfer Capability Assessment Methodology.

Bruce, Southwest, and West Zones

Significant growth in the greenhouse sector has led to a number of customer connection requests in the Windsor-Essex region that are expected to exceed the capacity of the existing transmission system in the area. The new switching station ("Lakeshore TS") at the Leamington Junction has been installed and all four of the existing circuits have been cut over. The first South Middle Rd load station is connected by radial circuits to Lakeshore TS and new loads have began connecting. Work is currently on-going for the second load station. The new Lakeshore RAS has been installed, and resulting operational measures available will be restrictive over the course of this period. During this time, system resiliency will be reduced, and per market rule exemptions in place, certain customers in the area may experience a lower level of reliability.

Multiple new transmission lines are under development in the region that will increase available supply starting mid-decade. Specifically, two new 230-kV circuits from Chatham SS to Lakeshore SS are expected to be in service in 2025 to to support continued load growth.

The Bruce B 500 kV switchyard is being rebuilt and expected to be in-service by 2024 Q4. The existing circuits are being cut-over to the new switchyard, among other outages that are required.

The following outages will impact the flow out of the Bruce zone:

- A planned five-week outage starting September 18, 2023, on circuit B560V, and another planned six-week outage starting August 26, 2024
- A planned three-week outage starting October 29, 2023, on circuit B502M
- A planned three-week outage starting November 13, 2023, on circuit B569B
- A planned two-week outage starting October 7, 2024, on circuit B563A

Toronto, East, and Ottawa Zones

To address high voltages in eastern Ontario and the Greater Toronto Area, two 500 kV line connected shunt reactors have now been installed and are in-service at Lennox TS. There may continue to be a need to remove from service certain 500 kV circuits for voltage control during specific prevailing conditions.

There are upcoming nuclear refurbishments of multiple units at Darlington with overlapping timelines. As a result, it will be increasingly challenging for market participants to take outages impacting the Flow East Towards Toronto (FETT) interface. Future planned outages will necessitate enhanced coordination between transmitters and generators. Planned outages for certain windows may need to be rescheduled or rejected to ensure reliability. Of note, the FETT Capacity Upgrade (i.e., Richview-Trafalgar Reinforcement) project to address future needs is underway; the project is expected to be in-service by Q1 2026.

The Hawthorne-Merivale transmission path supplies load in western Ottawa and delivers eastern Ontario resources, and imports from Quebec to other Ontario load centres. The two 230 kV circuits between Merivale TS and Hawthorne TS, a length of 12 km, are being upgraded. Hydro One began the project this year, with an expected in-service date of Q4 2023.

The following outage will reduce transfer capability on the Flow into Ottawa interface:

- A planned three-week outage starting October 16, 2023, on circuit X523A

Northwest, Northeast, and Essa Zones

The following outages will reduce the transfer capability of the North-South tie:

- A seven-week outage on circuit X503E starting September 8, 2023

The East-West Tie Expansion project consists of a new 230 kV transmission line roughly paralleling the existing East-West Tie Line between Wawa and Thunder Bay. The new line will increase the electricity transfer capability into Northwest Ontario and will improve the flexibility and efficiency of the Northwest electricity system. As part of this project, upgrades were planned for the Lakehead, Marathon and Wawa transformer stations to accommodate the new line. The project was placed in-service at the end of Q1 2022. However, the full benefit of the project will not be realized right away due to ongoing and upcoming outages as a result of work in the Northwest.

In the Kirkland Lake area, a new RAS is planned to be in service in December 2023 that will enable load rejection, eliminating the need for pre-contingency load curtailment. IIn order to improve transmission system capacity, the Ansonville to Kirkland Lake A8K/A9K transmission circuits were refurbished and came in-service Q2 2023. Additional transmission refurbishments on Kirkland Lake to Matachewan are expected to be in-service by Q3 2023.

In the Sault Ste. Marie area, there will be an increase in load because of Algoma Steel converting their coke-fired furnaces to electric-arc furnaces over the next couple of years. The fluctuating nature of electric-arc furnace operation in an electrical area with limited transmission will require special attention to manage voltage and power fluctuations prior to the completion of the system reinforcements recommended in the Northeast Bulk System plan.

The "Barrie Area Transmission Upgrade" project is expected to come into service in Q4 2023. This project will convert the existing Barrie TS and its supply lines from Essa TS (circuits E3B and E4B) from 115 kV to 230 kV, enabling additional load to be supplied from Barrie TS. The existing 230/115 kV auto-transformers at Essa TS will no longer be needed after this conversion and will be retired.

Interconnections

The Phase Angle Regulators (PARs) between Ontario and New York are being replaced in order to provide greater flexibility to control intertie flows between Ontario and New York. The new PAR on L33P was put into service Q3 2022. The PAR on L34P is being replaced to match L33P; it is currently out of service for replacement work and has an expected in-service date of Q4 2023.

6. Operability

Ontario's power system is operating within a period of tighter supply conditions requiring careful consideration of outage management. The IESO will continue to assess other aspects of operability and report on them in future Outlooks where appropriate.This section highlights existing or emerging operability issues that could impact the reliability of Ontario's power system.

Operability refers to the IESO's ability to manage a variety of conditions on the power system as they occur in real-time. The IESO works to ensure that the power system is reliable under changing system conditions, variability of supply and fluctuations in load, while respecting thermal, voltage and transient stability limits on the system. Operability is assessed in advance to ensure that the power system is adequately prepared for expected real-time conditions, while also having the ability to absorb and adapt to unexpected changes.

6.1 Outage Management Considerations

Ontario continues to experience a period during which generation and transmission outages will be difficult to accommodate, and the IESO is working with market participants to manage this. In addition to meeting global Ontario adequacy needs, transmission adequacy and security must be safeguarded.There are a significant number of major generation and transmission projects either currently underway or expected to begin in the near future. As the timing of many of these projects overlap with each other and can require multiple equipment outages, reliability assessments are increasingly complex. An example mentioned earlier describes major projects that are related to the Flow East Towards Toronto (FETT) interface.

With consideration of equipment failure, tighter supply conditions and other factors such as supply chain delays, some outages may need to be rejected and rescheduled. Transmitters and generators are strongly encouraged to plan ahead, coordinate with one another, submit outage requests early, and coordinate with the IESO; scheduling outages at desired times may still be difficult due to the significant number of major projects that are planned for the same time. Furthermore, outages are not guaranteed as unanticipated equipment failures may change reliability assessments.

One important aspect of grid equipment outages is recall time. Recall times indicate how long it takes for equipment on outage to return to service. Minimizing recall times increases the likelihood of outages being approved. If many outages are non-recallable, it can be difficult to accomodate additional outages as there needs to be a reliable plan to reposture the system after an equipment failure occurs on the grid. If multiple equipment failures occur, there may be instances where outage management alone will not address the concern. Under such circumstances the IESO may need to rely on additional non-firm imports or emergency operating procedures in order to ensure reliability. More information on actions the IESO can take to ensure reliability can be found in Market Manual 7.1: IESOControlled Grid Operating Procedures.

7. Resources Referenced in This Report

The table below lists additional resources in the order they appear in the report.

Table 7-1 | Additional Resources

Resource	URL	Location in This Report
Reliability Outlook Webpage	http://www.ieso.ca/en/Sector-Participants/Planning-and-Forecasting/Reliability-Outlook	Introduction
Security and Adequacy Assessments	http://www.ieso.ca/power-data/data-directory	Introduction
2023 Q3 Outlook Tables	http://www.ieso.ca/-/media/files/ieso/document-library/planning-forecasts/reliability-outlook/ReliabilityOutlookTables_2023Sep.xls	Throughout
Connection Assessments and Approval Process	http://www.ieso.ca/en/sector-participants/connection-assessments/application-status	Assessment Assumptions
Methodology to Perform the Reliability Outlook	http://www.ieso.ca/-/media/files/ieso/document-library/planning-forecasts/reliability-outlook/ReliabilityOutlookMethodology.pdf	Throughout
Capacity Auction	http://www.ieso.ca/en/Sector-Participants/Market-Operations/Markets-and-Related-Programs/Capacity-Auction	Demand Measures
Enabling Capacity Exports	http://www.ieso.ca/en/Sector-Participants/Market-Renewal/Capacity-Exports	Firm Transactions
Ontario Resource and Transmission Assessment Criteria	https://www.ieso.ca/-/media/Files/IESO/Document-Library/Market-Rules-and-Manuals-Library/market-manuals/connecting/IMO-REQ-0041-TransmissionAssessmentCriteria.ashx	Transmission Considerations
NERC Transmission Planning Standard TPL-001-4	http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Reliability%20Standards/TPL-001-4.pdf	Transmission Considerations
NPCC Directory #1	https://www.npcc.org/Standards/Directories/Directory_1_TFCP_rev_20151001_GJD.pdf https://www.npcc.org/content/docs/public/program-areas/standards-and-criteria/regional-criteria/directories/directory-01-design-and-operation-of-the-bulk-power-system.pdf	Transmission Considerations
Market Manual 4 Part 4.2	http://www.ieso.ca/-/media/Files/IESO/Document-Library/Market-Rules-and-Manuals-Library/market-manuals/market-operations/mo-dispatchdatartm.pdf?la=en	Surplus Baseload Generation
Market Manual 7.1	https://www.ieso.ca/en/sector-participants/market-operations/-/media/ccdae55168cc4ae8a4b73894ba305ebe.ashx	Operability
Annual Acquisition Report	https://www.ieso.ca/en/Sector-Participants/Planning-and-Forecasting/Annual-Acquisition-Report	Resource Adequacy

8. List of Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
CAA	Connection Assessment and Approval
DR	Demand Response
EAA	Energy Adequacy Assessment
FETT	Flow East Toward Toronto
GS	Generating Station
GTA	Greater Toronto Area
ICI	Industrial Conservation Initiative
IESO	Independent Electricity System Operator
IRRP	Integrated Regional Resource Plan
kV	Kilovolt
LDC	Local Distribution Company
MW	Megawatt(s)
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NPCC	Northeast Power Coordinating Council
NYISO	New York Independent System Operator
ORTAC	Ontario Resource and Transmission Criteria
PAR	Phase Angle Regulator
RAR	Reserve Above Requirement
RAS	Remedial Action Scheme
SBG	Surplus Baseload Generation
SCC	Solar Capacity Contribution
TS	Transmission/Transformer Station
TWh	Terawatt-hour(s)
WCC	Wind Capacity Contribution

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