

IESO Engagement

From: IESO Engagement
Sent: January 13, 2023 1:31 PM
To: IESO Engagement
Subject: Northwest Regional Electricity Plan Now Posted

The Northwest Regional electricity plan – Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) – that considers electricity demand and supply conditions over the next 20 years, is now [online](#) along with a [response](#) to the feedback received.

The Northwest is a large region roughly bounded by Lake Superior to the south, the Marathon area to the east, and the Manitoba border to the west.

As outlined in the report, there are already several recent or ongoing transmission reinforcement projects in the Northwest which will reinforce many of the 230 kV transmission paths in the region. With these reinforcements, the infrastructure in the Northwest will be generally adequate to support forecast growth except for some station capacity and local operational needs. These needs are addressed by the IRRP recommendations summarized in Section 2.1 of the report including:

- Consideration of non-wires alternatives (NWAs) at Kenora MTS, Crilly DS and Margach DS as a cost effective solution to support future capacity needs
- Reconfiguration of the Fort Frances Transformer Station to reduce supply interruptions
- Updated operations measures and equipment at Pickle Lake Substation to manage high voltages

Northwest electricity demand growth is primarily driven by the mining sector which tends to add large incremental blocks of load, often with short lead times. The IRRP also studied several high growth sensitivities most notably for the area north of Dryden and Fort Frances. These studies will help inform ongoing monitoring to determine when future planning activities should be triggered.

Finally, the Northwest IRRP report also provides an update on the IESO's ongoing Supply to the Ring of Fire study which proceeded in parallel with the IRRP.

For background about the study scope, engagement and details about the Northwest Region, visit the [engagement webpage](#) and download the full [IRRP report](#), [Appendices](#) and [Data Tables](#).

This concludes our engagement initiative. The IESO appreciates your participation and input received throughout the engagement initiative and looks forward to continuing discussions through the Northwest Regional Electricity Network. Register to join on the [IESO website](#). As a reminder, to stay informed about future electricity planning activities in your region please [subscribe](#) to receive updates.

Please contact engagement@ieso.ca if you would like to discuss the Northwest Region IRRP or if you have any questions.

Susan Harrison
IESO Community Engagement