



System Impact Assessment Report

Final Report - Public

CAA ID: 2022-738

Project: Connect Darlington SMR GS to Holt SS

Connection Applicant: Hydro One Network Inc.

August 26, 2026



Acknowledgement

The IESO wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Hydro One in completing this assessment.

Disclaimers

IESO

This report has been prepared solely for the purpose of assessing whether the connection applicant's proposed connection with the IESO-controlled grid would have an adverse impact on the reliability of the integrated power system and whether the IESO should issue a notice of conditional approval or disapproval of the proposed connection under Chapter 4, section 6 of the Market Rules.

Conditional approval of the project is based on information provided to the IESO by the connection applicant and Hydro One at the time the assessment was carried out. The IESO assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of such information, including the results of studies carried out by Hydro One at the request of the IESO. Furthermore, the conditional approval is subject to further consideration due to changes to this information, or to additional information that may become available after the conditional approval has been granted.

If the connection applicant has engaged a consultant to perform connection assessment studies, the connection applicant acknowledges that the IESO will be relying on such studies in conducting its assessment and that the IESO assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of such studies including, without limitation, any changes to IESO base case models made by the consultant. The IESO reserves the right to repeat any or all connection studies performed by the consultant if necessary to meet IESO requirements.

Conditional approval of the proposed connection means that there are no significant reliability issues or concerns that would prevent connection of the proposed project to the IESO-controlled grid. However, the conditional approval does not ensure that a project will meet all connection requirements. In addition, further issues or concerns may be identified by the transmitter(s) during the detailed design phase that may require changes to equipment characteristics and/or configuration to ensure compliance with physical or equipment limitations, or with the Transmission System Code, before connection can be made.

This report has not been prepared for any other purpose and should not be used or relied upon by any person for another purpose. This report has been prepared solely for use by the connection applicant and the IESO in accordance with Chapter 4, section 6 of the Market Rules. This report does not in any way constitute an endorsement of the proposed connection for the purposes of obtaining a contract with the IESO for the procurement of supply, generation, demand response, demand management or ancillary services.

The IESO assumes no responsibility to any third party for any use, which it makes of this report. Any liability which the IESO may have to the connection applicant in respect of this report is governed by Chapter 1, section 13 of the Market Rules. In the event that the IESO provides a draft of this report to the connection applicant, the connection applicant must be aware that the IESO may revise drafts of this report at any time in its sole discretion without notice to the connection applicant. Although the IESO will use its best efforts to advise you of any such changes, it is the responsibility of the connection applicant to ensure that the most recent version of this report is being used. The IESO provides no comment, representation or opinion, express or implied, with respect to who should bear

the cost of IESO requirements for connection in this report and disclaims any liability in connection therewith.

Hydro One

The results reported in this report are based on the information available to Hydro One, at the time of the study, suitable for a System Impact Assessment of this connection proposal.

The short circuit and thermal loading levels have been computed based on the information available at the time of the study. These levels may be higher or lower if the connection information changes as a result of, but not limited to, subsequent design modifications or when more accurate test measurement data is available.

This study does not assess the short circuit or thermal loading impact of the proposed facilities on load and generation customers.

In this report, short circuit adequacy is assessed only for Hydro One circuit breakers. The short circuit results are only for the purpose of assessing the capabilities of existing Hydro One circuit breakers and identifying upgrades required to incorporate the proposed facilities. These results should not be used in the design and engineering of any new or existing facilities. The necessary data will be provided by Hydro One and discussed with any connection applicant upon request.

The ampacity ratings of Hydro One facilities are established based on assumptions used in Hydro One for power system planning studies. The actual ampacity ratings during operations may be determined in real-time and are based on actual system conditions, including ambient temperature, wind speed and facility loading, and may be higher or lower than those stated in this study.

The additional facilities or upgrades which are required to incorporate the proposed facilities have been identified to the extent permitted by a System Impact Assessment under the current IESO Connection Assessment and Approval process. Additional facility studies may be necessary to confirm constructability and the time required for construction. Further studies at more advanced stages of the project development may identify additional facilities that need to be provided or that require upgrading.



Table of Contents

Acknowledgement	1
Disclaimers	2
IESO	2
Hydro One	3
Project Description	5
Notification of Conditional Approval	5
IESO Requirements for Connection	5
General Requirements	5
Appendix A: General Requirements	6
Appendix B: Project Data (Confidential)	10
Appendix C: Facility Classifications (Confidential)	10
Appendix D: Detailed Study Results (Confidential)	10
Appendix E: Protection System Description (Confidential)	10



Project Description

Hydro One Inc. (the “connection applicant” and the “transmitter”) is planning to build a new 500 kV switching station (SS) called Holt SS connected to 500 kV circuits X520B and X521B, located 600 m from Bowmanville SS (the “project”). The purpose of the project is to facilitate the connection of a new Darlington Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Unit 1, assessed under CAA ID 2022-727. The project will include the installation of three 500 kV breakers at two 500 kV disconnect switches at Holt SS as shown in Figure 1 of Appendix B.

The proposed in-service date of the project is November 30, 2027.

Notification of Conditional Approval

This assessment concludes that the proposed connection of the project is expected to have no material adverse impact on the reliability of the integrated power system, provided that all requirements in this report are implemented. Therefore, the assessment supports the release of the Notification of Conditional Approval for connection of the project.

IESO Requirements for Connection

General Requirements

The connection applicant and transmitter shall satisfy all applicable requirements specified in the Market Rules, the Transmission System Code (TSC) and reliability standards. Some of the general requirements that are applicable to this project are presented in detail in Appendix A of this report.

Appendix A: General Requirements

The connection applicant shall satisfy all applicable requirements specified in the Market Rules, the Transmission System Code and reliability standards. This Section highlights some of the general requirements that are applicable to the project.

1. The connection applicant must notify the IESO at connection.assessments@ieso.ca as soon as they become aware of any changes to the project scope or data used in this assessment. The IESO will determine whether these changes require a re-assessment.
2. The connection applicant shall ensure that the BPS elements are in compliance with the applicable NPCC criteria, and the BES elements in compliance with the applicable NERC reliability standards. To determine the standard requirements that are applicable, the IESO provides mapping tools titled "NPCC Criteria Mapping Spreadsheet" for BPS elements and "NERC Reliability Standard Mapping Tool/Spreadsheet" for BES elements at the IESO's website of [Applicability Criteria for Compliance with Reliability Requirements](#).

Note, the transmitter may request an exception to the application of the BES definition. The procedure for submitting an application for exemption can be found in Market Manual 11.4: "[Ontario Bulk Electric System \(BES\) Exception](#)" at the IESO's website.

The IESO's criteria for determining applicability of NERC reliability standards and NPCC Criteria can be found in the Market Manual 11.1: "[Applicability Criteria for Compliance with NERC Reliability Standards and NPCC Criteria](#)" at the IESO's website.

Compliance with these reliability standards will be monitored and assessed as part of the IESO's Ontario Reliability Compliance Program. For more details about compliance with applicable reliability standards, the transmitter is encouraged to contact orcp@ieso.ca and also visit the [Ontario Reliability Compliance Program webpage](#).

3. The connection applicant shall ensure that the project's equipment meet the voltage requirements specified in section 4.2 and section 4.3 of the Ontario Resource and Transmission Assessment Criteria (ORTAC).
4. According to Section 6.1.2 of the TSC, the connection applicant must ensure the project's transmission connection equipment is designed to withstand the fault levels in the area. According to Section 6.4.4 of the TSC, if any future system changes result in an increased fault level higher than the project's equipment capability, the connection applicant is required to replace that equipment with higher rated equipment capable of withstanding the increased fault level, up to the maximum fault level specified in Appendix 2 of the TSC.

It is the connection applicant's responsibility to verify that all equipment and circuit breakers within the project are appropriately sized for the local fault levels.

5. The connection applicant shall ensure that the circuit breakers/switchers installed at the project have rated interrupting time that satisfies Appendix 2 of the TSC. Fault interrupting devices installed at the project must be able to interrupt fault currents at the applicable maximum continuous voltage as specified in Section 4.2 and Section 4.3 of ORTAC.

6. The connection applicant shall ensure that the protection systems are designed to satisfy all the requirements of the TSC. New protection systems must be coordinated with existing protection systems. Protection systems within the project shall only trip the appropriate equipment isolating the fault.

Associated overvoltage protective relaying must be set to ensure that the project's equipment does not automatically trip for voltages up to 5% above the equipment's corresponding maximum continuous voltage as specified in section 4.2 of the ORTAC.

BPS elements are deemed by the IESO to be essential to system reliability and security and must be protected by redundant protection systems in accordance with Section 8.2 of the TSC. These redundant protection systems must satisfy all requirements of the TSC, and in particular, they must be physically separated and not use common components, common battery banks, or common instrument transformer secondary windings.

The protection systems for transmission voltage BES elements (whose rated voltage is higher than 100 kV) must be redundant. Redundancy must be present in protective relaying for normal fault clearing and control circuitry associated with protective functions including trip coils of the circuit breakers or other interrupting devices. These redundant protection systems must not use common instrument transformer secondary windings. A single communication system, if used, must be monitored and reported and a single DC supply, if used, must be monitored and reported for both low voltage and open circuit.

As the electrical system evolves, transmission voltage non-BPS or non-BES elements (whose rated voltage is higher than 100 kV) within the project, may be re-classified as BPS elements or BES elements. The connection applicant is recommended to design the protection systems for these elements according to the protection requirements for BPS elements or have adequate provisions for future upgrade to meet those requirements.

7. The connection applicant shall ensure that the connection equipment is designed to be fully operational in all reasonably foreseeable ambient conditions. Failures of the connection equipment must be contained within the project and have no adverse impact on the IESO-controlled grid.
8. The connection applicant shall install a permanent device for disturbance recording that meets the technical specifications provided in Section 2.7 of Market Manual 1.6: Performance Validation (formerly Market Manual 2.20). The quantities to be recorded and the trigger settings will be provided by the IESO during the Market Registration process.
9. According to Section 7.3A of Chapter 4 of the Market Rules, the connection applicant shall provide to the IESO the telemetry data listed in Appendix 4.15 of the Market Rules on a continual basis. The whole telemetry list will be finalized during the IESO's Market Registration process.

The data shall be provided with equipment that meets the requirements set forth in Appendix 2.2, Chapter 2 of the Market Rules, in accordance with the performance standards set forth in Appendix 4.25 subject to Section 7.6A of Chapter 4 of the Market Rules.

As part of the IESO's Market Registration process, the connection applicant must complete end to end testing of all necessary telemetry points with the IESO to ensure that standards are met and that sign conventions are understood. All found anomalies must be corrected before IESO's final approval to connect any phase of the project is granted.

10. The connection applicant must initiate the IESO's Market Registration process at least eight months prior to the commencement of any project related outages.

The connection applicant is required to provide "as-built" equipment data for the project during the IESO Market Registration process. If the submitted equipment data differ materially from the ones used in this assessment, then further analysis of the project may need to be done by the IESO before final approval to connect is granted.

Models and data, including any controls that would be operational, must be provided to the IESO. This includes both PSS/E and DSA software standard library models representing the new equipment for further IESO, NPCC and NERC analytical studies. The models and data may be shared with other reliability entities in North America as needed to fulfill the IESO's obligations under the Market Rules, NPCC and NERC rules. The connection applicant may need to contact the software manufacturers directly, in order to have the models included in their packages. This information should be submitted at least eight months before energization to the IESO-controlled grid, to allow the IESO to incorporate this project into IESO work systems and to perform any additional reliability studies.

As part of the IESO Market Registration process, the connection applicant must also provide evidence to the IESO confirming that the project's equipment installed meets the Market Rules requirements and matches or exceeds the performance predicted in this assessment. This evidence shall be either type tests done in a controlled environment or commissioning tests done on-site. In either case, the testing must be done not only in accordance with widely recognized standards, but also to the satisfaction of the IESO. Until this evidence is provided and found acceptable to the IESO, the Market Registration process will not be considered complete and the connection applicant must accept any restrictions the IESO may impose upon this project's participation in the IESO-administered markets or connection to the IESO-controlled grid. The evidence must be supplied to the IESO within 30 days after completion of commissioning tests. Failure to provide evidence may result in disconnection from the IESO-controlled grid.

If the submitted models and data differ materially from the ones used in this assessment, then further analysis of the project may need to be done by the IESO before final approval to connect is granted.

At the sole discretion of the IESO, performance tests may be required at generation and transmission facilities. The objectives of these tests are to demonstrate that equipment performance meets the IESO requirements, and to confirm models and data are suitable for IESO purposes. The transmitter may also have its own testing requirements. The IESO and the transmitter will coordinate their tests, share measurements and cooperate on analysis to the extent possible.

Once the IESO's Market Registration process has been successfully completed, the IESO will provide the connection applicant with a Registration Approval Notification (RAN) document, confirming that the project is fully authorized to connect to the IESO-controlled grid. For more details about this process, the connection applicant is encouraged to contact IESO's Market Registration at market.registration@ieso.ca.

11. As per Market Manual 1.4: Connection Assessment and Approval, the connection applicant will be required to provide a status report of its proposed project with respect to its progress upon

request of the IESO using the project status report form on the IESO website. Failure to comply with project status requirements listed in Market Manual 1.4: Connection Assessment and Approval will result in the project being withdrawn.

The connection applicant will be required to also provide updates and notifications in order for the IESO to determine if the project is “committed” as per Section 3.3 of Market Manual 1.4: Connection Assessment and Approval.



Appendix B: Project Data (Confidential)

Appendix C: Facility Classifications (Confidential)

Appendix D: Detailed Study Results (Confidential)

Appendix E: Protection System Description
(Confidential)

**Independent Electricity
System Operator**

1600-120 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 1T1

Phone: 905.403.6900

Toll-free: 1.888.448.7777

E-mail: customer.relations@ieso.ca

ieso.ca

 [@IESO_Tweets](https://twitter.com/IESO_Tweets)

 facebook.com/OntarioIESO

 linkedin.com/company/IESO