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Frank D'Andrea
Vice President, Reliability Standards and Chief Regulatory Officer

BY EMAIL

March 15, 2021

Independent Electricity System Operator
120 Adelaide St. W. #1600
Toronto, ON M5H 1T1

Re: IESO Formalizing the Bulk System Planning Process – February 22, 2021

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) hosted a webinar on February 22, 2021 on their Bulk System Planning Process. The IESO has indicated that they are seeking feedback from participants on where and in what way stakeholder engagement and participation in the process would be most beneficial, as well as on the type of information coming out of the process that would be most helpful to stakeholders.

Hydro One recommends that the IESO continue to work closely with Hydro One, as the majority transmission owner in Ontario, throughout the Bulk System Planning process. Please find our detailed comments below.

Hydro One appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback and the IESO's consideration of its comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank D'Andrea".

Frank D'Andrea

Feedback Form

IESO Formalizing the Bulk System Planning Process – February 22, 2021

Feedback Provided by:

Name: Frank D'Andrea

Title: Vice President, Reliability Standards and Chief Regulatory Officer

Organization: Hydro One

Email: [REDACTED]

Date: March 15, 2021

Involvement in the process

Topic	Feedback
Where in the process do you feel that you need, or would benefit from, being engaged by the IESO as we carry out planning for the bulk power system?	<p>As owner of more than 98 of Ontario's transmission system capacity, Hydro One believes it is important to be fully engaged and involved throughout the entire Bulk System Planning process.</p> <p>When system needs or customer needs emerge, Hydro One is almost always affected and ready to provide support as needed. Hydro One provides valuable information, input and assessments that may not otherwise be available. Hydro One frequently approaches the IESO to undertake Bulk Studies in an area as part of our continuous communication regarding emerging needs across the province.</p>

Topic	Feedback
	<p>In order to ensure an efficient and transparent process, Hydro One recommends that enhanced stakeholdering, including with relevant customers, take place predominantly at the beginning of the process in the issues and needs assessment phases. In the later stages of the process, Hydro One recommends that IESO work mainly with the transmission asset experts, including Hydro One, who will be responsible for addressing/implementing solutions to identified needs. Hydro One needs to have a broader understanding of where bulk needs are and can provide meaningful input into faster and more efficient solutions based on its experience and available asset information. Early identification of possible solutions makes the planning process more focused and results in faster decisions.</p> <p>Hydro One notes that increased coordination between the related planning processes, including regional planning, can be beneficial. However, the degree of coordination needs to be balanced with the incremental complexity and regulatory burden created by coordination in order to ensure timely completion of these studies.</p>
<p>At the touchpoints identified above, what level of engagement is useful to you (e.g. having the opportunity to be informed, and/or provide input or feedback to the IESO, etc.)?</p>	<p>As stated above, Hydro One recommends full engagement (i.e., providing input and feedback as well as discussing options) throughout the process due to the valuable information, input and assessments Hydro One is able to provide and the impacts of planning decisions on Hydro One's systems.</p>

Process outcomes and information

Topic	Feedback
<p>What specific types of information would you like to see come out of a Bulk System Planning Process that would be helpful for you?</p>	<p><i>No comment</i></p>

General Comments/Feedback

Hydro One appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the IESO's Bulk System Planning initiative and looks forward to further opportunities to provide input.