

Stakeholder Feedback and IESO Response

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

Following the February 22, 2021 engagement webinar on the IESO's Bulk System Planning Process, stakeholders submitted feedback and suggestions on how stakeholders could participate in the process, as well as on the type of information coming out of the process that would be most helpful to stakeholders.

The IESO received feedback from:

- [Capital Power](#)
- [Energy Storage Canada](#)
- [Hydro One](#)

This feedback has been posted on the [Formalizing the Integrated Bulk System Planning Process webpage](#).

Notes on Feedback Summary

The IESO appreciates the feedback received from stakeholders. The IESO has provided a summary below, which outlines specific feedback or questions for which an IESO response was required at this time.

Involvement in the Process:

Summary

Stakeholder submissions indicated support for the IESO's efforts to formalize the Bulk System Planning Process (BSPP), noting that a rigorous process is essential, and that transparency and timely communications throughout the process will help ensure a competitive landscape and benefit to Ontario ratepayers. All feedback submissions from stakeholders expressed the desire to continue engaging with the IESO on the formalization effort, and a willingness to provide further input when opportunities arise.

Feedback: Areas for stakeholders to participate in the process

Capital Power indicated a preference for stakeholders to be provided opportunities for engagement at every stage of the process.

Energy Storage Canada recommended regular engagement touchpoints to discuss the Schedule of Planning Activities, to provide an update about ongoing planning activities, new additions, any removals, and to allow stakeholders to clearly understand and ask questions with respect to bulk system planning.

Hydro One echoed the comment from Capital Power, suggesting they would appreciate engagement and involvement throughout the entire BSPP. With respect to efficiency and transparency, Hydro One recommended that enhanced stakeholder engagement take place predominantly at the beginning of the BSPP in the issues and needs assessment phases. In the later stages of the process, Hydro One recommended that the IESO work mainly with transmission asset experts, including Hydro One, to obtain meaningful input into faster and more efficient solutions.

While recognizing the potential benefits of increased coordination between the related planning processes, Hydro One noted the need to balance the degree of coordination with the incremental complexity and regulatory burden created by coordination in order to ensure timely completion of these studies.

IESO Response

The IESO agrees with the feedback received as the recommendations are generally in line with how the IESO envisions how bulk system planning will be carried out going forward.

The BSPP will define the frequency and the nature of engagement opportunities throughout bulk system planning and these opportunities will occur at appropriate times with regular and predictable frequency.

As the IESO develops this process further, we intend to have further discussions with stakeholders on how they would like to be involved in bulk system planning.

Feedback: Preferred type of engagement throughout the process

Capital Power noted in their feedback submission the interplay of the BSPP and Resource Adequacy work, and recommended stakeholders have the opportunity to review IESO analysis and provide feedback for incorporation into final planning reports. Capital Power also suggested the IESO clearly establish the criteria to be applied to BSPP decisions at the outset of the BSPP to provide sufficient detail to stakeholders to enable them to provide constructive and relevant feedback to the IESO. Capital Power recommends the IESO formally engage stakeholders on its proposed methodology for measuring efficiency gains, costs and benefits prior to finalizing its framework.

Capital Power provided the following additional points for consideration with respect to stakeholder engagement in the BSPP:

- Regular reporting in accordance with established and consistent timelines
- Early notification of system needs
- Opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback on reports (including study scopes), prior to finalization
- Coordination with NPCC/NERC requirements and standards
- Coordination between the IESO's bulk and regional system plans
- Clearly defined processes for linking BSPP outcomes to procurement decisions
- Defined methodologies for measuring and assessing costs and benefits of various planning options (e.g. transmission vs. generation)
- Established processes setting out how cost/benefit methodologies and analysis will be transparently applied

Energy Storage Canada indicated that direct engagement with IESO planners, supported by brief background information, would be preferred and most useful.

Hydro One recommended full engagement (i.e., providing input and feedback as well as discussing options) throughout the process would be the best way to obtain valuable input from stakeholders.

IESO Response

The BSPP will aim to provide stakeholders with opportunities to provide feedback on various planning reports prior to their finalization, and inform stakeholders of assessments and/or methodologies used to assess the costs and benefits of various planning options. As the IESO transitions from the BSPP high-level design to focusing on the detailed elements of the BSPP, each of these suggestions will be considered from the perspectives of keeping stakeholders informed, providing opportunities for stakeholder review and feedback, and ensuring a timely completion of studies and plans.

Process Outcomes and Information:

Feedback: Process outputs

Capital Power noted in their feedback submission the need for inclusion of BSPP outcomes in the Annual Planning Outlook (APO), identifying the following types of information:

- Gross, net, and grid energy demand forecasts (Province-wide, zonal)
- Inputs and variables used to forecast energy demand
- Methodologies and models used to forecast energy demand
- Methodologies and models used to forecast peak demand
- Methodologies and models used to determine reserve margins (Province-wide, zonal)
- Methodologies and models used to determine transmission zones and capacity zones
- Total nameplate capacity and effective capacity supply assumptions for the province broken down by (i) individual resource, either existing or planned (ii) capacity zones/transmission zones
- Methodology to determine effective capacity, UCAP or ELCC by technology type
- Assumptions regarding schedules for retirement and refurbishment of nuclear generating units, risks to refurbishment schedules, and risks to adequacy resulting from schedule delays
- Schedules setting out in-service and retirement schedules for all resources
- IESO Contracted Generation List and any applicable updates to termination dates
- Transmission security constraints and limits on transfer capability impacting energy delivery from area resources
- Planned transmission upgrades and expansions, with detail regarding expected impact of the upgrade
- Transmission and inertia transfer capabilities and planned outages
- Any issues identified by NERC relating to adequacy or reliability in Ontario and summary of IESO's responses to NERC where issues have been identified

Capital Power suggested it would also be helpful for the IESO to model the impact of various public policy outcomes as part of the overall BSPP.

Energy Storage Canada indicated their interest in receiving summaries of system needs with enough lead time to allow storage entities to develop potential solutions to address those needs.

IESO Response

The IESO thanks all respondents for their submissions. With the exception of some types of information that may be confidential due to commercial terms, that may reveal critical system vulnerabilities, or that may rest with asset owners, the IESO, working with stakeholders, will consider

these suggestions for what should be included in the APO (or other bulk planning reports and deliverables) as the BSPP is further developed.

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