

Feedback Form

Bulk Planning Update Webinar (Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan) – December 12, 2025

Feedback Provided by:

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To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on this engagement webpage unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the Bulk Planning Update Webinar held on December 12, 2025, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback. A copy of the presentations as well as recordings of the sessions can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by January 23, 2026.

Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan

Topic	Feedback
What feedback do you have regarding the proposed 230 kV transmission reinforcement options to improve supply to Belleville?	For the reasons set out in the General Comments below, the PWU recommends that the IESO plan, at a minimum, for its High Growth Forecast, which has determined a capacity need of 200 MW for Belleville. According to p. 20 of the Presentation, ¹ under the IESO's High Growth Forecast, the capacity need reaches "approximately 200MW over the planning horizon," whereas under the IESO's Reference Forecast, the capacity need is 80MW. We note that this is a significant range. Given that the IESO's High Growth Forecast is still lower than the PWU's electricity demand forecast, it is quite possible that the forecast of 200MW of additional capacity need for Belleville will be insufficient.
What feedback do you have regarding the proposed conceptual transmission reinforcement options to enhance supply into Ottawa from various sources?	For the reasons set out in the General Comments below, the PWU recommends that the IESO plan, at a minimum, for its High Growth Forecast, which has determined a capacity need for Ottawa of 2450MW by 2043. According to p. 21 of the Presentation, "the projected need ranges from approximately 550 MW to 2,450 MW by 2043, depending on the demand forecast scenario." We note that this is a very big range and a very significant capacity gap. Given that the IESO's High Growth Forecast is still lower than the PWU's electricity demand forecast, it is quite possible that the forecast of 2450MW of additional capacity for Ottawa will be insufficient.
What additional information should we consider as we continue developing these solutions leading up to the recommendations?	As discussed in the General Comments below, the PWU recommends that the IESO clearly identify the specific transmission projects (and their timing) required for specific demand scenarios (e.g. 2026 APO Reference Scenario and 2026 APO High Demand Scenario and any other relevant forecasts) in Belleville and Ottawa. The Presentation (p. 19) lists key areas of feedback, including "Expand transmission infrastructure from the Wesleyville site to support future capacity needs, including

¹ Quarterly Bulk Update Eastern Ontario Bulk Study South and Central Bulk Study, Dec 12, 2025, p. 20. <https://www.ieso.ca/-/media/Files/IESO/Document-Library/engage/bulk-planning/BP-20251212-presentation.pdf>

Topic	Feedback
	<p>exports.” Wesleyville is situated closer to Eastern Ontario than many other potential large generation sites. Since the Bulk Study has demonstrated a clear need for significant additional supply into Eastern Ontario, a new nuclear facility at Wesleyville is a clear option for meeting Eastern Ontario’s capacity needs.</p>

General Comments/Feedback

Under a range of APO Demand Scenarios, Ontario is facing a looming capacity gap. Supplying higher demand requires more transmission to reliably and efficiently deliver electricity to customers throughout Ontario. In the Eastern Ontario bulk planning, the IESO should clearly identify the specific transmission projects (and their timing) required for specific demand scenarios in Belleville and Ottawa. The PWU recommends that bulk planning should accommodate a high growth scenario (as per the Priority 4 in Priorities for Ontario’s Integrated Energy Planning, in Energy for Generations, p. 119). Moreover, the PWU’s analyses have concluded that the demand forecast should be substantially higher than the high-growth demand forecast referenced in Energy for Generations, as well as the 2025 and 2026 APO Demand Scenarios illustrated on page 6 of the Presentation² associated with the Eastern Ontario Bulk Planning Study. In our view, the current APO forecasts significantly underestimate the scale and urgency of Ontario’s electrification required to avert an electricity crisis and support economic growth.

This chronic underestimation of Ontario’s electricity demand has important implications for bulk planning and robustness of the grid as demand increases. Page 7 of the December 2025 Presentation illustrates the Energy Adequacy Outlook under the 2025 APO forecast, which does not include a high-demand scenario. Even under this lower forecast, a huge gap between supply and demand opens up from 2030 onward. Consequently, significant transmission capacity will also be required rapidly to integrate all the needed supply. Given the looming capacity crunch, greater transmission capacity will also be required to improve the robustness of the grid, so that supply anywhere in the province can serve demand anywhere in the province.

In a series of discussion papers published in 2024, the PWU has elaborated on the emerging risks facing Ontario’s electricity system and better ways to meet Ontario’s growing electricity demand. Each of the discussion papers highlighted reliability, affordability and deliverability risks respectively. PWU’s January 2025 summary of these discussion papers³ emphasized that the reliance on the IESO’s conservatively low demand forecasts is exacerbating these risks at a time when Ontario is

² Ibid, p. 6.

³ Power Workers’ Union (PWU), Ontario’s Electricity System’s Risks and Mitigation – A Recap and Taking Stock, January 2025.

<https://www.pwu.ca/ontarios-electricity-systems-risks-and-mitigation-a-recap-and-taking-stock/>

facing an electricity crisis driven by rapidly growing demand. As illustrated in the January 2025 summary,⁴ there is a significant planning gap between the PWU's current Consensus electricity growth forecast of 200% by 2050 and the IESO's 2025 APO forecast of 75%. We note that there is an even greater planning gap between the PWU's forecast of 200% and the more recent 2026 APO forecast of 65%. **Therefore, the PWU is concerned that even the IESO's High Growth Forecasts for Ottawa and Belleville (as outlined in the December 2025 Presentation) will be insufficient.**

In Ontario's current high demand growth environment, the costs/risks of underbuilding transmission assets are much higher than the costs/risks of right-sizing (or upsizing). Therefore, the IESO should prioritize the development of greater transmission assets capacity as soon as possible to alleviate potential future constraints under a higher demand growth forecast.

⁴ Ibid, Illustrative Demand and Supply Growth Chart – Ontario, p. 4.