MAY 27, 2026

# Quarterly Bulk Update

# Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan

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# Shared Commitment to Respectful Participation

To support a focused and constructive discussion:

- We will take questions one at a time; please use the raise-hand feature to enter the speaking queue
- We encourage concise and focused comments to allow time for multiple perspectives
- Participants are encouraged to raise relevant points during the discussion and provide more detailed feedback through the written submission process
- We ask that all participants maintain a respectful and professional tone throughout the session
- Facilitators will guide the discussion and manage participation to stay aligned with today's focus and agenda
- Where necessary, we may disable a participant's microphone to manage participation

# Territory Acknowledgement

The IESO acknowledges that Eastern Ontario is the traditional territory of many nations including the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation, Haudenosaunee, and Wendat peoples, including those covered by the Williams Treaties.

The IESO would also like to acknowledge all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and their valuable past and present contributions to this land.

# Purpose

**The Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan has advanced, and today we will share the draft recommendations for feedback.**

To recap, in previous engagement updates we have shared data, diagrams and maps of the study area, demand assumptions, transmission system interface limits, and draft options and sought feedback throughout the development of the plan.

This webinar will provide an overview of and seek input on the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan, including its planning assumptions and an evaluation of non-wires alternatives, the draft recommendation to meet the supply needs of Belleville and Ottawa, including the rationale for transmission options.

# Agenda

- Overview of the IESO and Meeting Electricity Needs
- Bulk Transmission System Planning
- Overview of the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan
- Draft Recommendations
- Provincial Achievable Potential Study
- Next Steps and Discussion

# Ontario’s Growing Electricity Needs

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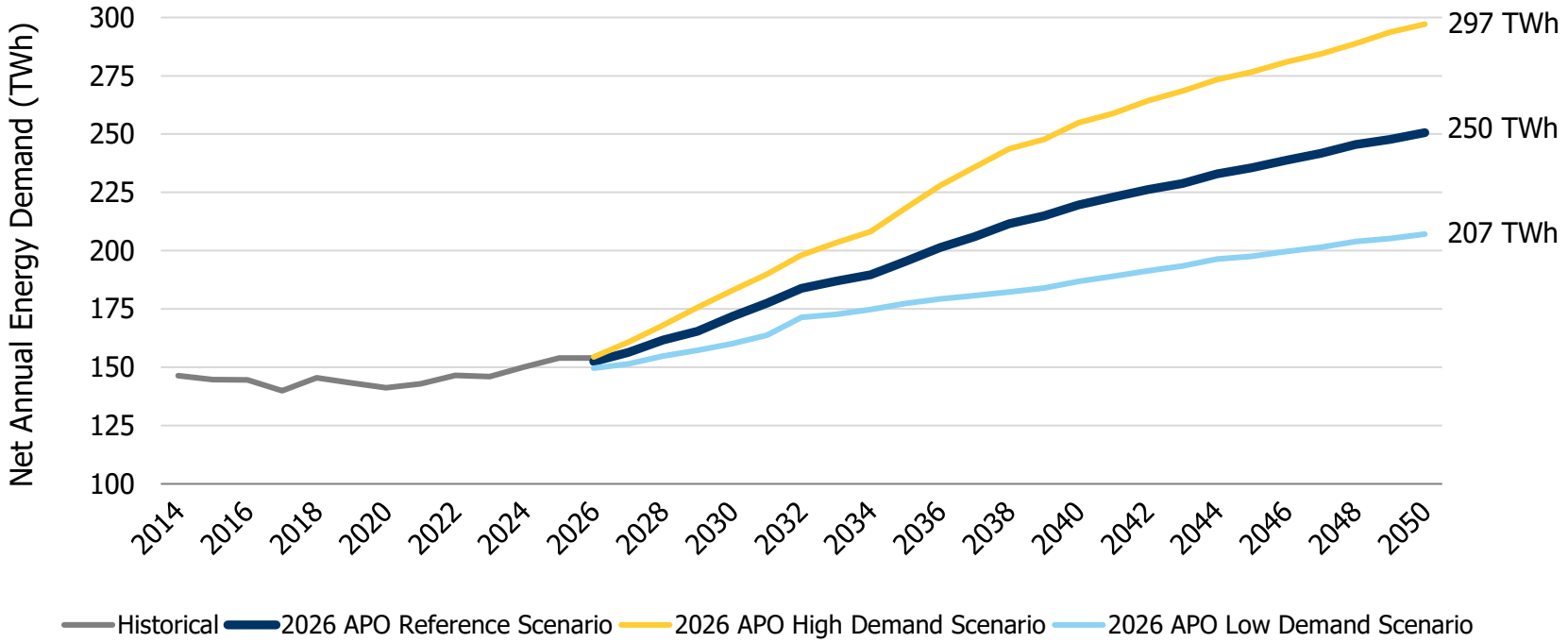
We work with:

**Generators** >>> **Transmitters** >>> **Local Distribution Companies** >>> **Energy Consumers**

<<< **Communities** >>>

# Electricity Demand Long-Term Outlook



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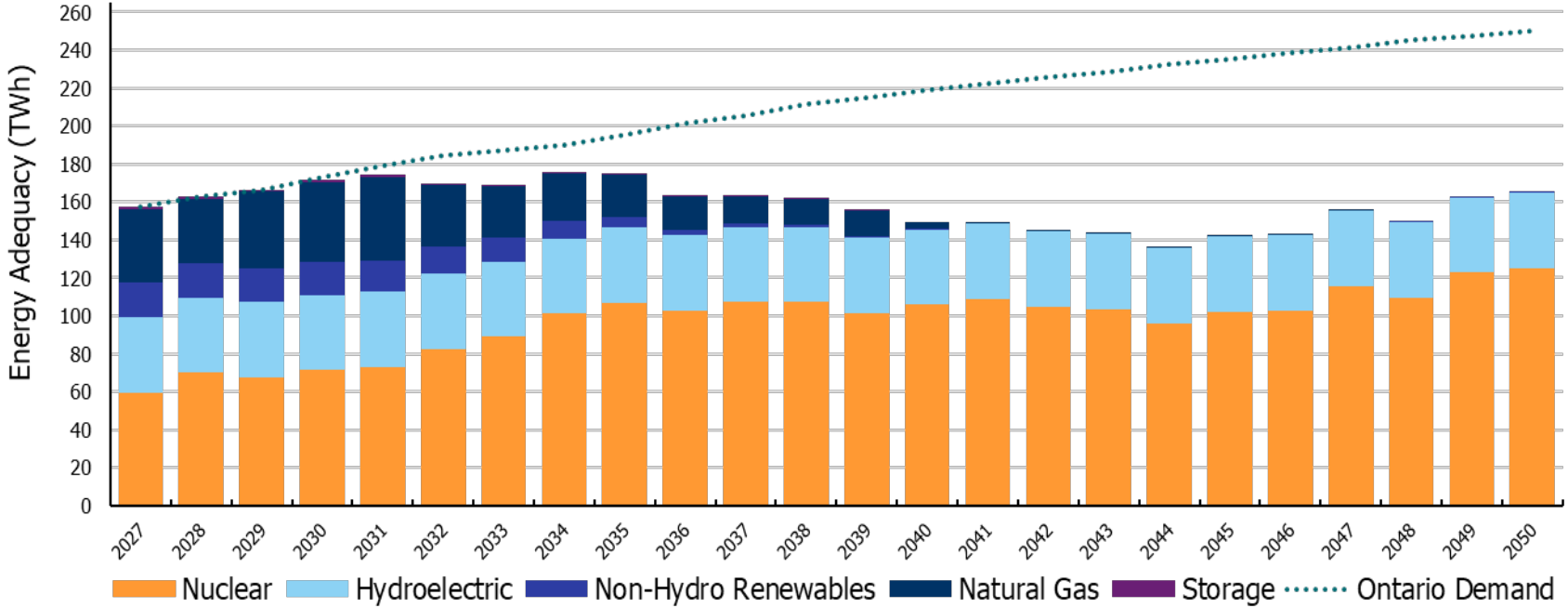
# Energy Supply



# Addressing the Evolution of the Electricity System

To ensure reliable and affordable electricity is available where and when it is needed, the IESO continues to drive and guide the sector's future while supporting economic development across Ontario:

- **Largest energy storage procurement in Canada:** More than 2,500 MW of capacity from battery storage secured through the IESO's first long-term procurements
- **New supply procured:** 12 new solar and 2 new wind projects awarded 20-year contracts, expected to be in service by 2030, secured through the first window of the second Long-Term (LT2) RFP
- **More procurements on the way:** Future needs will be addressed through subsequent windows of the LT2 RFP, Long Lead-Time RFP, and the third Medium-Term RFP
- **Expanding the bulk transmission system:** multiple projects are scheduled to come into service to support mining, agricultural, and industrial development, as well as the connection of new and refurbished generation resources. Transmission planning continues to be essential in unlocking future growth and maintaining reliable electricity service province wide
- **Initiatives planned and underway**: Northern Hydro Program, Small Hydro Program, future medium-term procurements, Local Generation Program, Annual Capacity Auction, and enhanced energy efficiency opportunities will also help secure Ontario's electricity future

# Role of Transmission

A robust transmission system is not only about moving power; it plays a key role in enabling the future power system

- Transmission is essential to:
  - Deliver new and refurbished generation to where electricity is needed
  - Unlock future supply and load connections without over-reliance on local emitting generation
  - Provide flexibility and resilience across a range of future demand and supply outcomes
  - Support economic growth and electrification across broad geographic regions

# Bulk Transmission System Planning

# Electricity Planning in Ontario

## Provincial/Bulk System Planning

Addresses provincial electricity system needs and policy directions

Led by the IESO

Underway: Eastern Ontario, South and Central, North of Sudbury
Completed: 2022 Gatineau End-of-Life Study

## Regional Planning

Addresses local electricity system needs at the transmission system level

Led by the IESO and transmitter

Underway: Peterborough to Kingston, St. Lawrence
Completed: Ottawa

## Distribution Planning

Addresses local electricity system needs and priorities at the distribution system level

Led by local distribution companies

# Bulk System Planning Overview

With Ontario's electricity demand forecast to grow over the next 20+ years, a robust transmission system is essential to ensure power from new resources can be delivered where and when it is needed. This will reliably support economic development and electrification at both the provincial and local levels.

The Annual Planning Outlook (APO) contains a snapshot of bulk transmission needs.

- The IESO's Schedule of Planning Activities summarizes the plans that are underway and upcoming.
- Activities are reviewed and updated every year, considering the most recent demand and supply forecasts, and changes to reliability standards and public policy objectives.
- Based on these changes, the scope of existing plans may be adjusted, planning work may be re-prioritized, or new planning studies may be initiated.

For more details and data, download the Annual Planning Outlook from the IESO's website.

# Components of a Bulk Plan

| Demand Forecasts | Needs and Opportunities | Evaluation of Options | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|
| How much power is needed over the planning timeframe<br><br>Key inputs:<br>• Annual Planning Outlook<br>• Large loads i.e., mining, data centres<br>• Regional Planning forecasts<br>• System Impact Assessments | Can the electricity system meet customer demand via a combination of committed generation and existing transmission capacity and maintain reliability planning standards?<br><br>Is the current system compatible with government policies and direction? | What kinds of solutions can meet the future needs for the plan area?<br>• Compatibility of solutions at bulk and local level<br>• Ability to materialize policy driven decisions<br>• Flexibility to pivot based on new information | Based on an assessment of potential options, what recommended actions will ensure a reliable and adequate electricity supply over the long term? |

# Key Sector Participants for Transmission Implementation

Delivers key electricity services including operating and planning the grid, enabling energy efficiency programs, procuring new generation and storage, and designing a more efficient electricity marketplace.

Transmitters

Builds and maintains Ontario's high-voltage transmission system.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Regulates the energy sector in the public interest and grants approval to construct transmission lines.

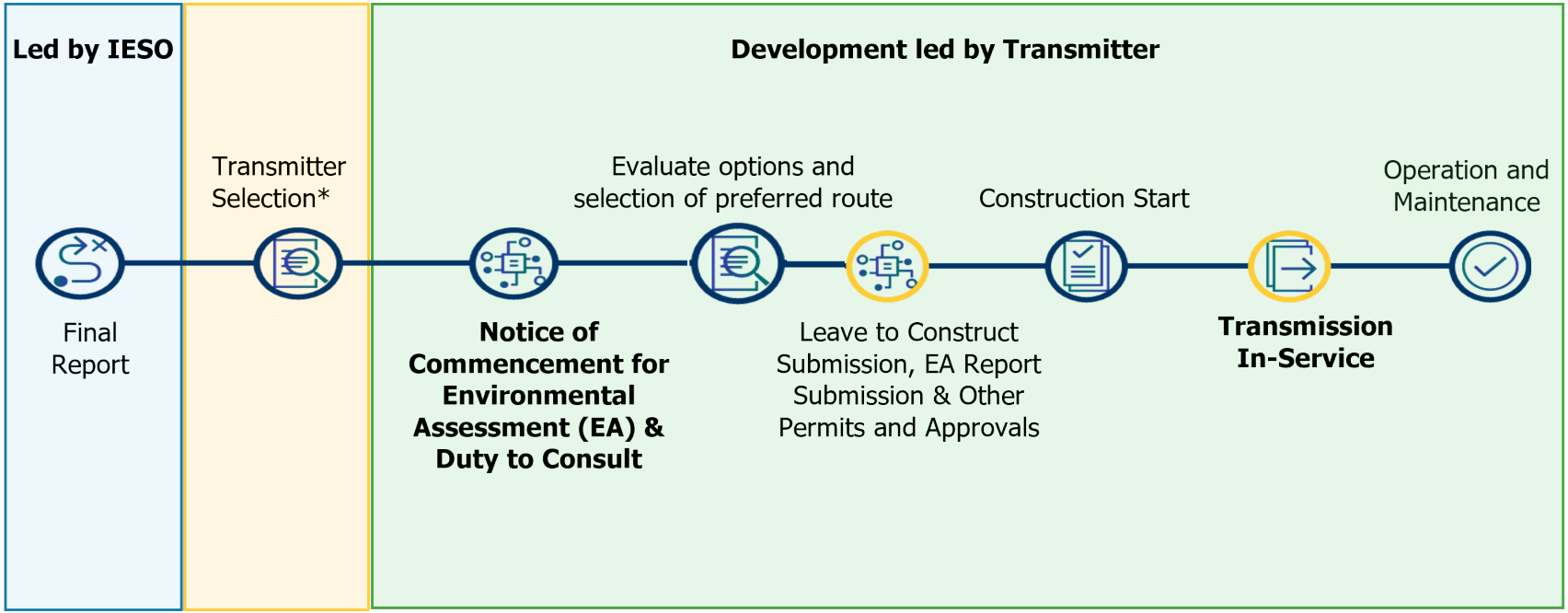
Ministry of Energy and Mines

Sets overall policies for the electricity sector.

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Legislative authority for environmental assessments in Ontario.

# Typical Process for Transmission Development

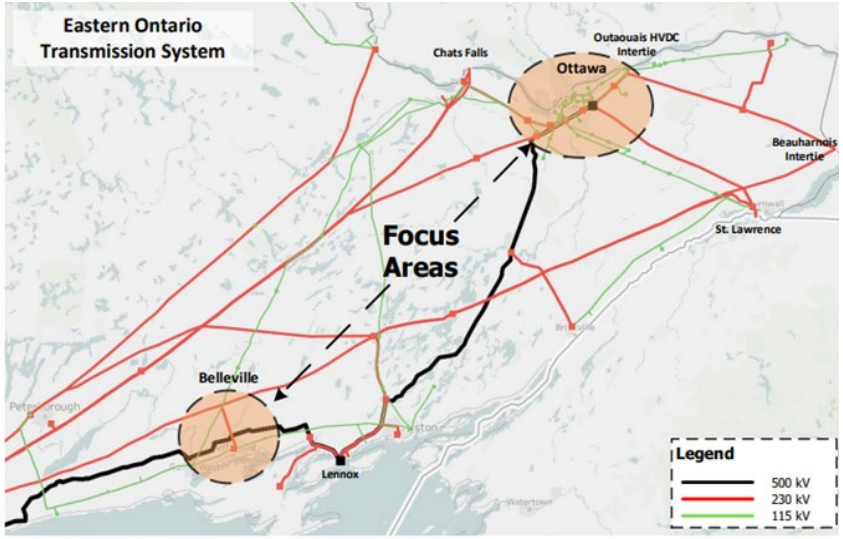



*Transmitter Selection Framework under development

# Overview of the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan

# Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan

- As electricity demand in Eastern Ontario continues to grow due to increased electrification and economic development, the IESO initiated the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan.
- The plan includes a comprehensive assessment of the transmission system's ability to reliably serve eastern Ontario, support future growth, enhance long-term system resilience and identify opportunities to support the potential expansion of interties with neighbouring jurisdictions including Québec and New York.
- Informed by previous work, two focused assessments have been developed: Belleville and Ottawa

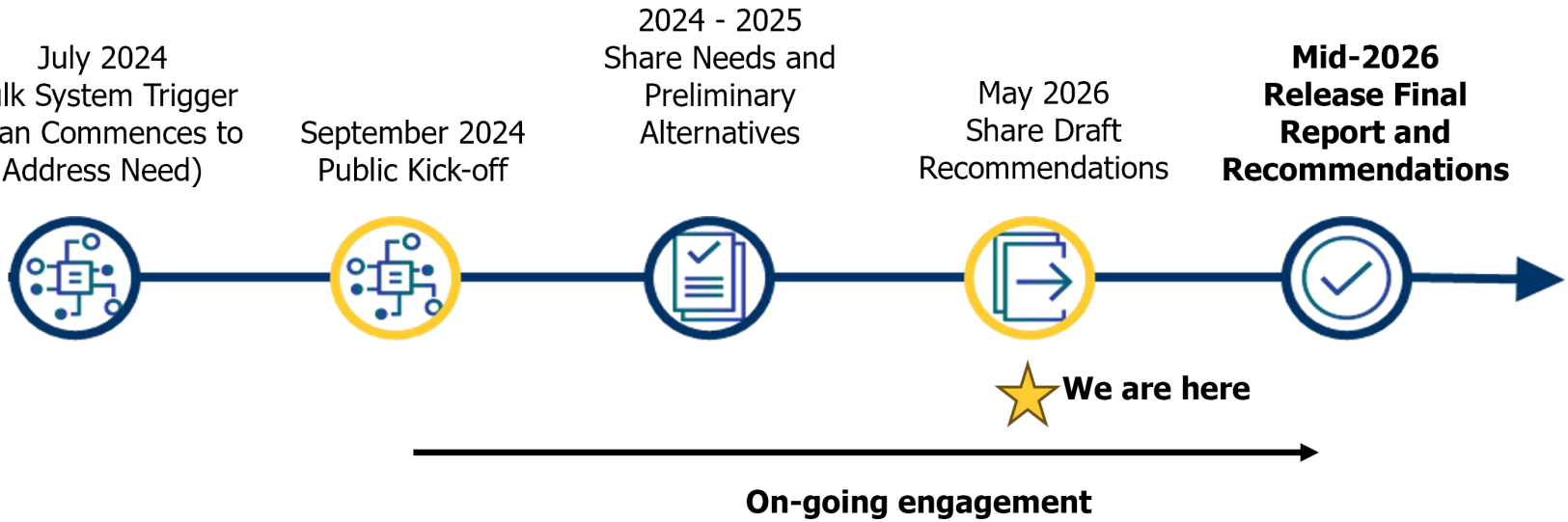


# Recap: Plan Assumptions

The Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan was initiated to ensure the bulk transmission system can reliably support demand growth driven by increased electrification and economic development over the next two decades. As part of this work, the plan includes two focused areas: to assess the supply to both Ottawa and to Belleville. In addition, the plan considered how well the system serves eastern Ontario today and the existing interconnections with Quebec and New York and any added benefits when identifying options to strengthen the transmission system. In addition:

- The Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan has used assumptions as outlined in the **IESO's Annual Planning Outlook (APO) and Pathways to Decarbonization report**
- The plan also leveraged data and needs identified from the **regional planning process**, including local economic development, housing growth, community climate plans as well as committed transmission projects to coordinate bulk and local transmission system solutions
- It also considered the Gatineau End-of-Life Study and incorporates outcomes from the first Long-Term (LT1) Request for Proposals, ensuring continuity with prior system needs and committed resources.

# Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan



# Co-ordinating With Local Needs

Bulk planning is led by the IESO to assess the ability of the provincial transmission system (i.e., 500 kV, 230 kV) to deliver electricity from where it's generated to where it's needed.

Regional planning focuses on addressing local capacity needs within the IESO's 21 planning regions.

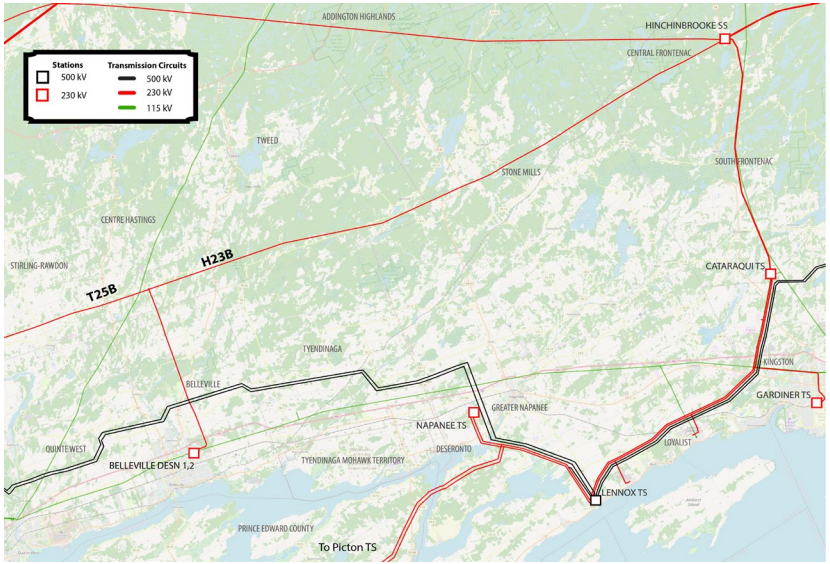
**The Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan is integrated with Integrated Regional Resource Plans (IRRPs)** developed through the regional planning process, which includes current or recently completed IRRPs: Ottawa Area IRRP, Peterborough-to-Kingston IRRP, and St. Lawrence IRRP will benefit from the recommendations by enabling additional supply resources, improving flexibility and system resilience.

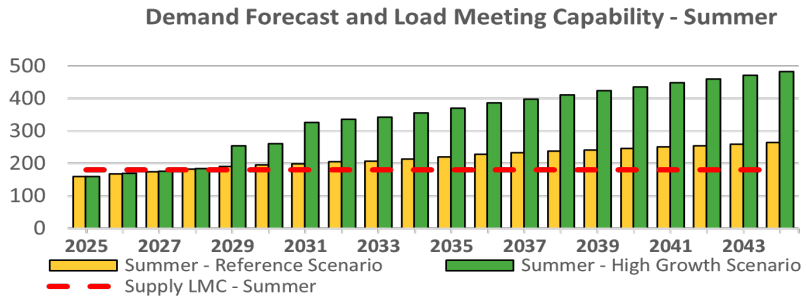
Regional needs can trigger requirements for bulk system upgrades, and bulk plans can impact needs and options considered in regional plans.

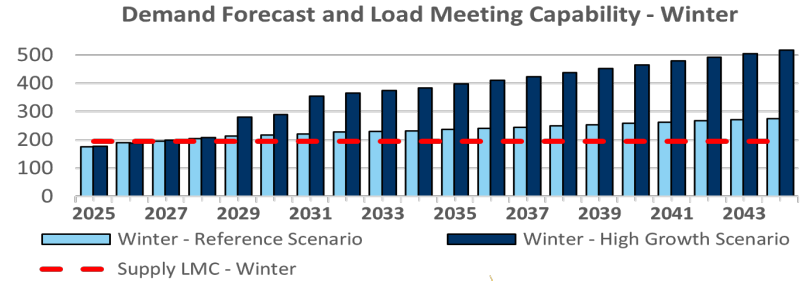
1. Co-ordination in planning scope.
2. Alignment in demand forecast and system assumptions.
3. Co-ordination between bulk and regional solutions.

# Recap: Supply Capacity Needs – Belleville

Under the Reference Scenario, a supply need emerges in 2028. The High-Growth Scenario drives a significantly higher need, reaching approximately 300 MW over the planning horizon.



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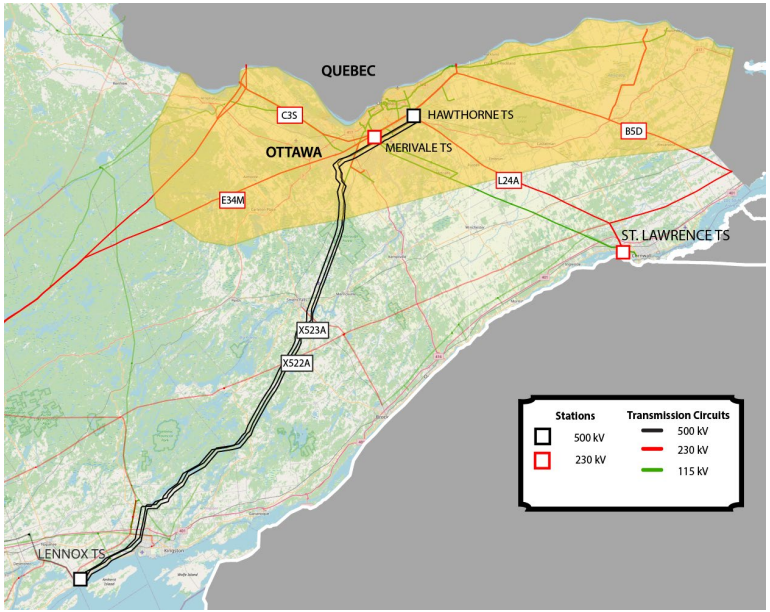
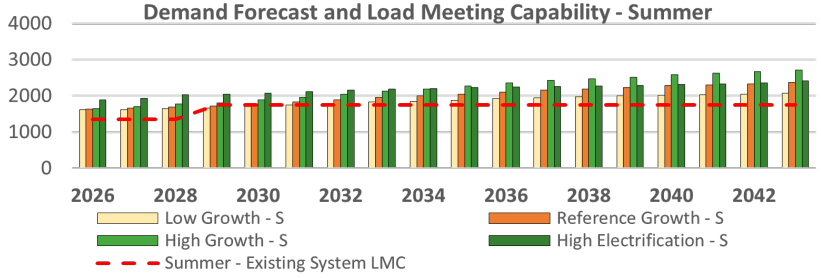
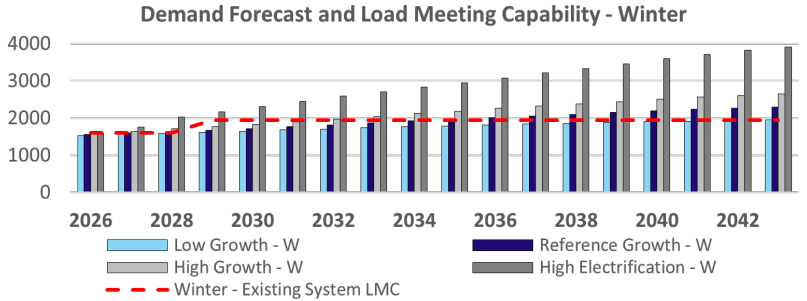
# Recap: Supply Capacity Needs – Ottawa

The Ottawa demand currently exceeds system capability that are being managed through operational measures.



# Recap: Option Evaluation Approach

The IESO considered each option's ability to support provincial policies and demand growth while considering the ability to enhance supply diversity and system resilience, and factors such as costs and development lead time:

**Reliability performance –** Ability to supply future demand according to established reliability criteria for electric power systems.

**System operability and resilience –** Impact on the power system's operational intricacies and ability to withstand or recover from major events.

**Broader system impacts –** Benefits to the overall bulk transmission network and the flexibility to support a range of possible futures.

**Community and Stakeholder feedback and implementation –** Feedback, land-use impact, and pacing of reinforcement build-out.

**Cost-effectiveness for ratepayers –** Cost effectiveness of the option in providing power reliably and safely to consumers. This includes co-ordinating bulk system level and regional level solutions.

# Non-Wires Alternatives (NWA) Option Analysis

# Expanded eDSM Framework

- To support Ontario's growing electricity demand, the IESO has significantly expanded energy efficiency programming with a budget of up to $10.9 billion over 12 years that began in 2025. This expanded programming includes new and expanded solar, solar-plus-storage, and demand response programs. This renewed commitment to electricity-demand side management drove the development of a new provincial Achievable Potential Study (APS).
- Results from the APS will directly inform the evaluation of non-wires alternatives in regional and bulk system planning by identifying achievable energy efficiency, demand response, and solar/storage potential.
- The provincial APS has strong overlap with the Ottawa L-APS, including dedicated zoning and scenario analysis for the Ottawa area and clear opportunities for local engagement.
- Given the current stage of the Ottawa L-APS, learnings from the study will be carried forward and integrated into the provincial APS, supporting a more coordinated and efficient approach.

# Overview: Achievable Potential Study (APS)

- Rather than continuing to commission standalone achievable potential studies, the IESO is working with a consultant (Cadmus Group) on integrating an enduring APS modelling capability into its long-term demand forecasting tool (LEAF).
- This approach standardizes methodology while allowing key inputs such as demand forecasts, avoided costs, rates and measure assumptions to be updated over time.
- The APS will leverage demand forecasts from the IESO's 2027 Annual Planning Outlook, ensuring alignment with major recent federal and provincial policy developments since the Ottawa Area IRRP.
- The APS will feature four scenarios, exploring the impact of different electrification and economic development load growth trends on program potential, and produce results for each of Ontario's 10 transmission zones, including the Ottawa zone.
- Interested parties are encourage to subscribe to receive updates from the IESO's Bulletin on when future engagements will be hosted.

# Evaluating Supply Resource Options

Potential solutions to address bulk system needs are evaluated based on the following key considerations:

**Technical feasibility:** Can the option be executed i.e. proximity to customers, routing and spacing considerations, operations

**Ability to Address Needs:** Are the number, magnitude, and diversity of needs adequately addressed?

**Integration and Cost-Effectiveness:** What is the lowest cost solution considering the possibility that one option may be able to address multiple needs simultaneously? Would a combination of option types be most effective?

**Lead Time:** How long would the potential options take compared with the timing of needs?

# Non-Wires Alternatives: Development and Assessment

**Three-Step Process:**

**1: Screening -** A high-level screening process is conducted on the local demand net of Load Meeting Capabilities (LMCs) to determine non-wires alternative resources that are technically feasible options to meet the identified local needs.

**2: Development -** Detailed modelling and analysis are conducted to develop potential NWA options for the local areas identified in the non-wires alternative Screening step, utilizing the resource candidates identified as technically feasible options.

**3: Economic Analysis -** The total costs and system benefits of the non-wires alternative options developed in Step 2 are calculated for comparison against each other, and against transmission (i.e. "wires only") options to meet local needs.

# Non-Wires Screening

**Hydroelectric projects** often require long lead times to develop; new transmission lines, as well as specific geographic conditions, which limits where they can be built.

**Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** are not a practical option for the timeframe needed (immediate supply capacity need in Ottawa; 2028 for Belleville). The first commercial SMRs are expected to be operating around 2029.

**New gas generation** faces major challenges, especially because local municipalities have active decarbonization policies that limit or discourage the use of fossil fuels.

# Findings: Non-Wires Options

**Resource-only options** (for example, local generation or demand-side resources) were not enough on their own to meet system needs in either planning area because the required scale was too large. However, these resources can still help support a transmission solution.

**Energy Efficiency (EE)** is an important part of demand-side programs. However, additional EE beyond what is already planned to meet provincial targets is not enough on its own to address system needs. Instead, it can help support transmission upgrades.

**Wind, Solar, and Storage (Hybrid)** to meet all system needs is not practical due to large land requirements and technical limits of inverter-based resources. These resources can still play a supporting role alongside transmission upgrades.

**Demand Response (DR)** can be a cost-effective way to manage the system by temporarily reducing electricity use when needed, similar to a "virtual power plant." Existing procurement programs, such as the Capacity Auction, could be used to secure demand response capacity to help address short-term reliability issues, particularly during outages.

# Summary of NWA Analysis

- While NWAs would not be able to fully meet the identified bulk system needs on their own, they can provide incremental capacity and flexibility to complement the transmission solutions.
- eDSM provides cost-effective energy and peak demand savings and remains a key component of the plan, with expanded provincial programs and ongoing APS work supporting the continued implementation.
- The IESO will continue to explore and enable NWA opportunities, guided by the needs and locational signals identified through the Eastern Ontario bulk study and ongoing regional planning activities.

# Transmission Option Analysis

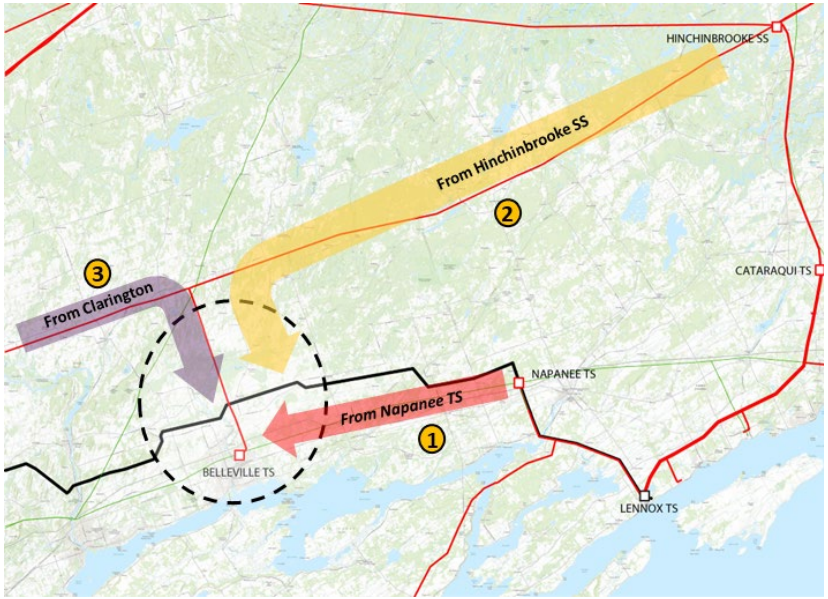
# Transmission Options Considered – Belleville

Transmission reinforcements to Belleville were considered from three different sources:

1. Napanee (33 km)
2. Hinchinbrooke SS (84 km), in Central Frontenac
3. Clarington (138 km)

Additional considerations:

- New switching station in Belleville for improved reliability, flexibility and scalability.
- Reactive compensation to improve voltage stability, increasing LMC.



# Option Evaluation for Reinforcement - Belleville

| Option | Outcome |
|---|---|
| 1. New double 230 kV transmission line from Napanee TS to Belleville TS (~33km) | • Assessment results indicate that this option can meet the reference forecast with additional reactive compensation and non-wired solutions. |
| 2. New double 230kV transmission line from Hinchinbrooke SS to Belleville TS (~84km) | • Assessment results indicate that this option can meet the reference forecast with additional reactive compensation and non-wired solutions.<br>• Technical performance is comparable to Option 1 but with a significant cost increase due to the distance. |
| 3. New double 230kV transmission line from Clarington to Belleville TS (~138km) | • Screened out because comparable technical performance was expected, but at a significantly higher cost due to the distance from the Belleville area. |

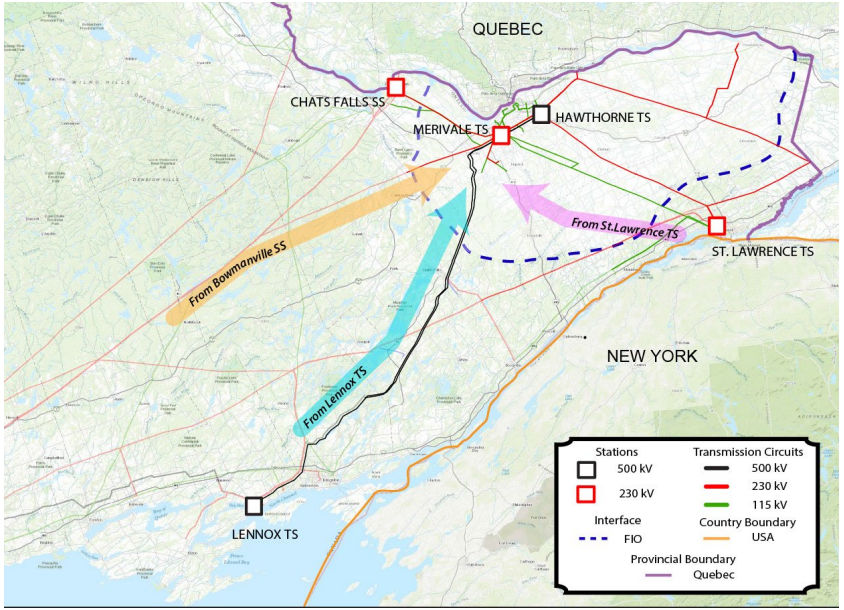
# Transmission Options Considered – Ottawa

Transmission reinforcements to Ottawa were considered from three different sources:

1. St. Lawrence (80 km) in Cornwall
2. Lennox (175 km), in Greater Napanee
3. Bowmanville (310 km)

Additional considerations:

- New station on the western side of Ottawa for supply diversity, flexibility and scalability.
- Reactive compensation to improve voltage stability.



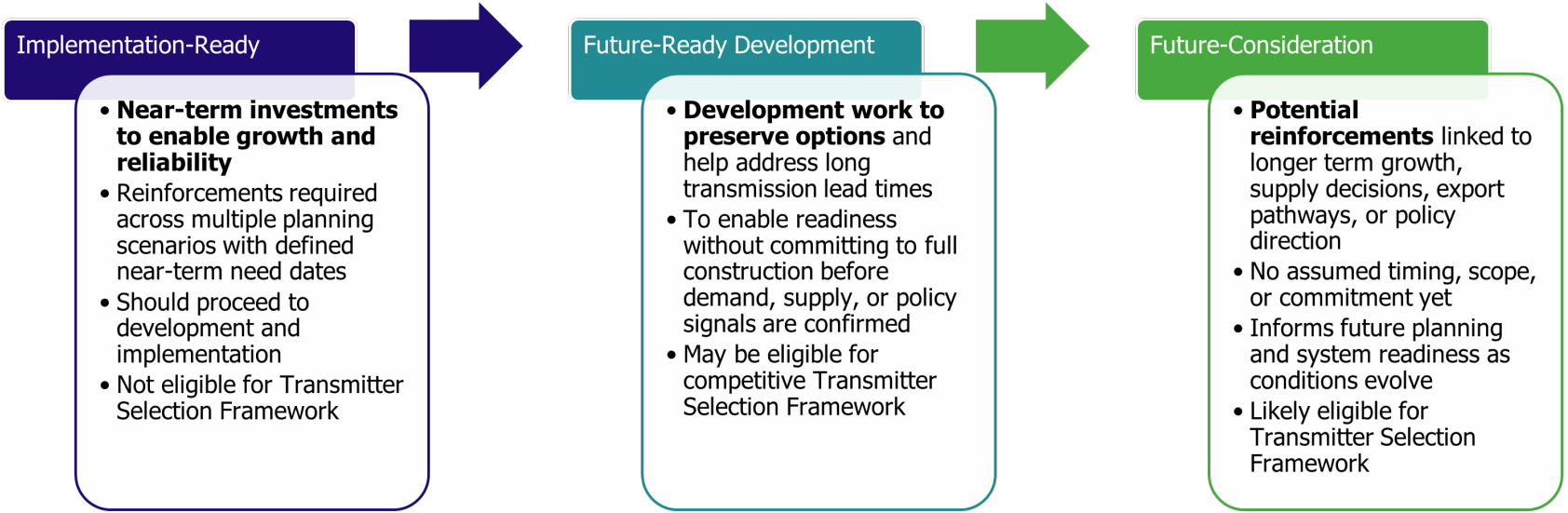
# Option Evaluation for Reinforcement - Ottawa

| Option | Outcome |
|---|---|
| 1. New double 230kV transmission line from St. Lawrence TS to Merivale TS (~80km) | • Assessment results indicate that this option can meet the reference forecast with additional reactive compensation and non-wires solutions. |
| 2. New double 500kV transmission line from Lennox to new transformer station in western Ottawa (~175km) | • Assessment results indicate that this option can meet high electrification forecast when combined with Option 1 and additional reactive compensation. |
| 3. New double 500kV transmission line from Bowmanville SS to new transformer station in western Ottawa (~310km) | • Provides comparable technical performance to Option 2 but at a significantly higher cost due to the distance. |

# Draft Recommendations

# Staging the Draft Recommendations

Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan recommendations will be sequenced based on how demand forecasts, procurement outcomes, or policy decisions evolve. Development actions now can preserve flexibility while enabling other near-term actions to proceed.



# Draft Recommendations – Belleville

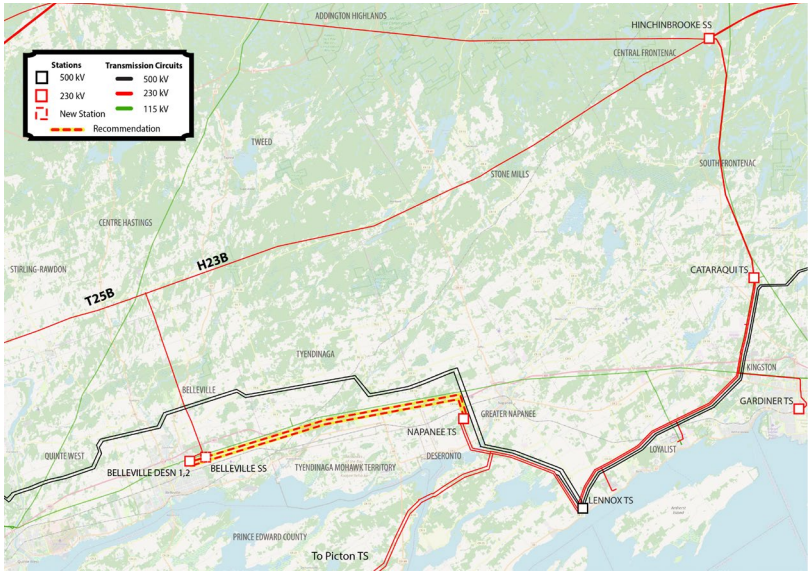
**Implementation-Ready Recommendations**

Transmission reinforcement with estimated cost of $500-550 million[1]:

- A new switching station in Belleville, with existing 230 kV circuits re-terminated into the station.
- The addition of 100 Mvar reactive compensation at Belleville.
- A new double-circuit 230 kV line from Napanee to Belleville, as a 33 km extension of existing 230 kV circuits X21/X22.

Pursue the potential for 60 MW of incremental electricity Demand-Side Management (eDSM) by 2044 in the Belleville, Napanee and Picton area.

Identify opportunities to guide the development of future supply resources, with a locational focus in the Belleville, Napanee and Picton area.



# Draft Recommendations – Belleville

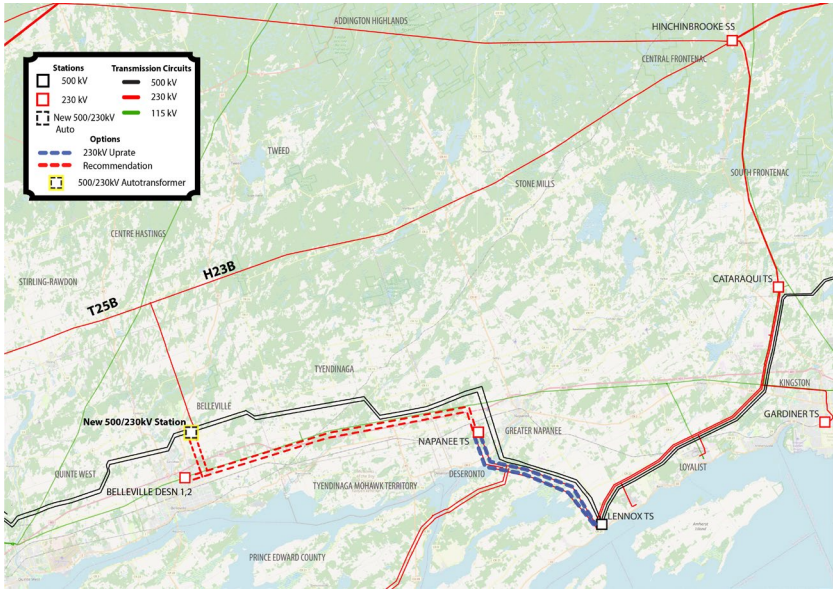
**Future Considerations:**

**Option 1 – Maximize Existing Assets:**

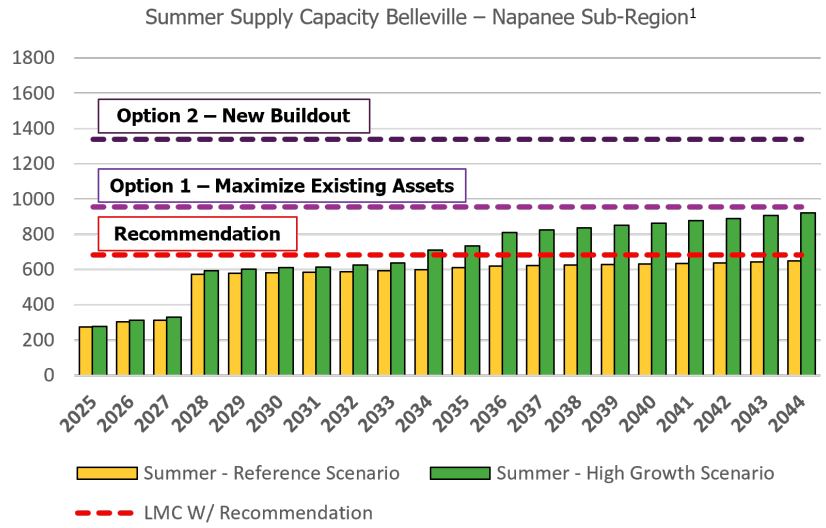
- Upgrade a section of existing 230 kV circuits X21/X22 (estimated length of 12 km)
- Leverage technology to optimize power flow across the 230 kV system
- Develop operational measures, including coordinated outage planning

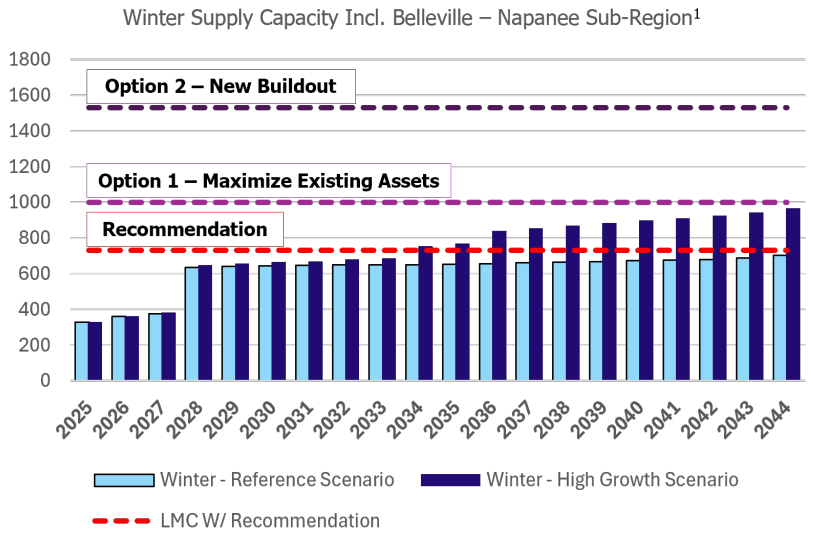
**Option 2 – New Buildout:**

- Build a 500/230 kV autotransformer station near Belleville to support future demand growth in broader Belleville and Napanee areas.



# Supporting Belleville - Napanee Sub-Region




[1] Defined as Belleville TS, Napanee TS, Picton TS and potential transmission customers

# Benefits – Belleville

By connecting Belleville and Napanee, the recommended transmission reinforcements increase the Load Meeting Capability by approximately 540 MW that can be shared by both areas.

This connection strengthens the Belleville-Napanee transmission corridor, extending benefits beyond Belleville by supporting a larger, more resilient regional demand pocket, and enabling future generation integration.

It maintains flexibility for future transmission reinforcements if longer-term needs materialize; operational measure such as demand management can be utilized until these future reinforcements are implemented.

# Path Forward and Triggers – Belleville

Proceed with Implementation-Ready recommendations immediately to achieve an in-service date of 2032, which are sufficient to meet the reference demand forecast over the forecast horizon.

Monitor demand growth and IESO procurement outcomes to assess whether demand growth exceeds the reference forecast scenario, and whether planned resources materialize in the region to inform the timing and scope of the next investment.

Trigger the next transmission reinforcement if demand growth materializes beyond forecast projections or if anticipated resources do not materialize.

Operational measures may be deployed as interim solutions should higher-than-expected demand growth materializes in advance of planned infrastructure reinforcements.

# Draft Recommendations – Ottawa

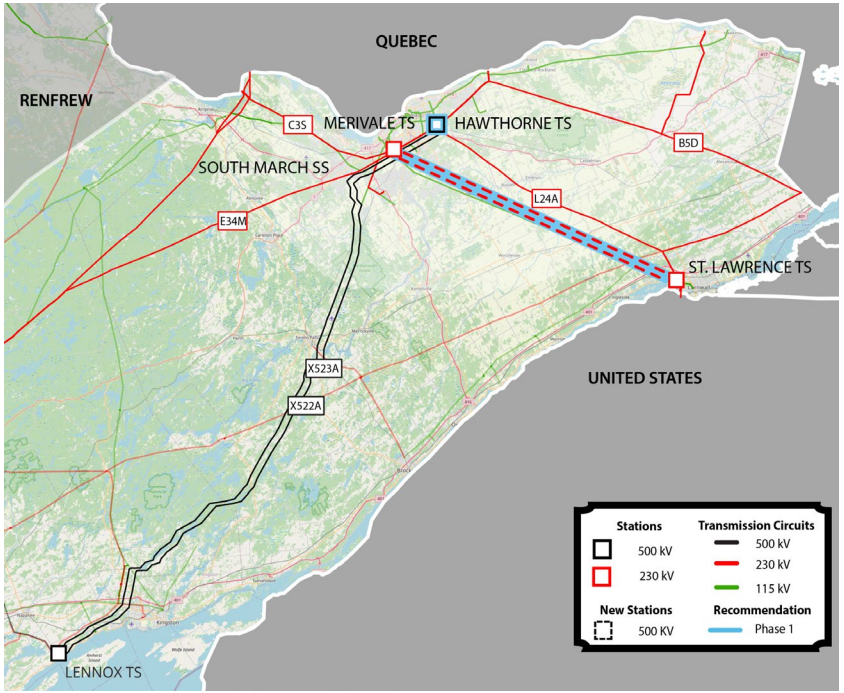
**Phase 1 – Implementation-Ready Recommendations:**

Transmission reinforcement with estimated cost of $0.9 B to $1.1 B [1]:

- Station work at Hawthorne TS to mitigate thermal limitations on existing autotransformer T3.
- A new double-circuit 230 kV line from St. Lawrence TS to Merivale TS (estimated length of 80 km).
- The addition of 200 Mvar reactive compensation at Hawthorne TS.

Pursue the potential for 200 MW of incremental eDSM by 2043[2].

Identify opportunities to guide the development of future supply resources, with a locational focus in Ottawa and surrounding areas.




[1] Planning estimates range from 50% to +100%

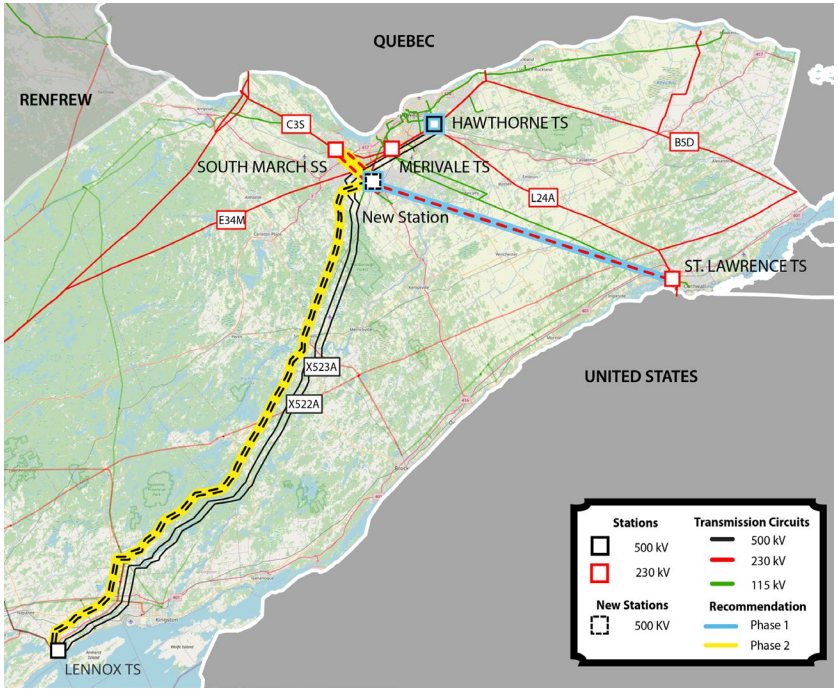
[2] This is aligned with the recommendation for incremental eDSM in the latest Ottawa IRRP

# Draft Recommendations – Ottawa

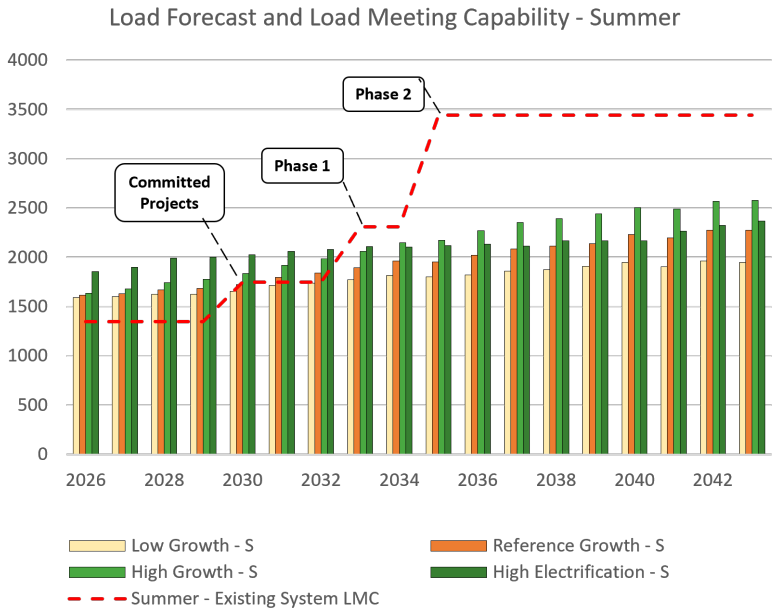
**Phase 2 – Future Considerations:**

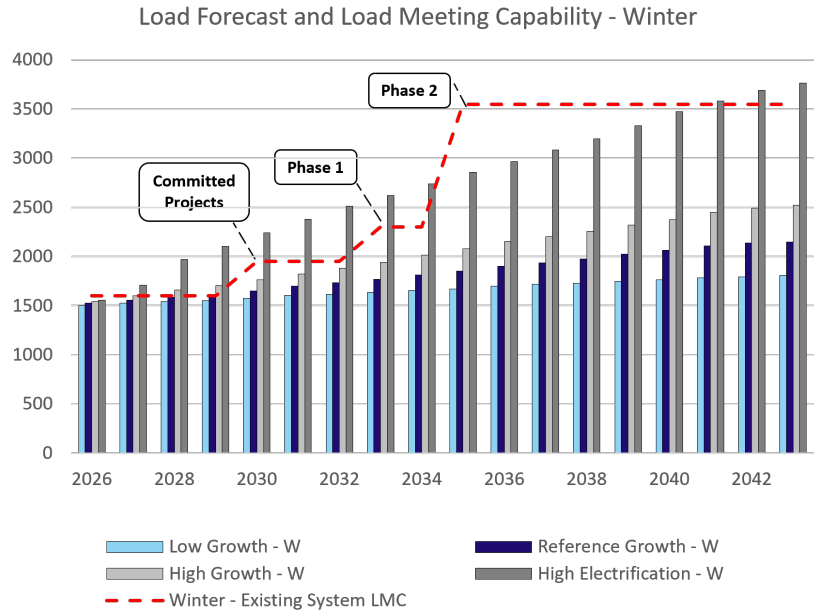
Transmission reinforcement with estimated cost of $2.8 B-$3.0 B[1]:

- A new 500/230 kV transformer station in west Ottawa with two autotransformers.
- A new double-circuit 500 kV line from Lennox (Greater Napanee) to west Ottawa station (estimated length of 175 km).
- A new double-circuit 230 kV line from South March to west Ottawa station (estimated length of 15 km).
- Connect existing 500 kV circuits X522A and X523A into new west Ottawa station.
- Connect 230 kV St. Lawrence to Merivale TS (Phase 1) circuits into new west Ottawa station.
- The addition of 200 Mvar reactive compensation at new west Ottawa station.



# Meeting Ottawa Needs



# Benefits – Ottawa

Increases the ability of the transmission system to reliably serve Ottawa in accordance with established planning criteria by approximately 550 MW under Phase 1, which is sufficient to meet the reference demand forecast.

Improves system operability and resilience by strengthening the 230 kV network supplying Ottawa.

Phase 2, if triggered, can further increase transmission system capability by up to 1,250 MW, supporting higher forecast demand growth.

# Path Forward and Triggers – Ottawa

Proceed with Phase 1 implementation-ready transmission reinforcements targeting an in-service date in the early-2030s

Monitor actual demand growth, electrification trends, IESO procurement outcomes, and intertie and regional planning developments to assess whether conditions are tracking above the reference scenario.

Advance Phase 2 transmission reinforcements if demand growth materializes faster or higher than forecast, planned resources do not materialize, additional system capability (including export flexibility) is required, or government direction necessitates expanded transmission capability; operational measures may be used as interim tools if required.

This approach manages affordability while preserving the option to further enhance bulk-level supply paths if future conditions warrant, including higher-than-forecast demand growth, resource outcomes, or policy direction.

# Summary of Implementation-Ready Recommendations

| **Belleville** | **Ottawa** |
| --- | --- |
| Transmission (Wires):<br>• A new double-circuit 230 kV line from Napanee to Belleville<br>• A new switching station in Belleville, and addition of 100 Mvar of reactive compensation<br><br>Non-Wires:<br>• Target approximately 60 MW of incremental eDSM in Belleville and Napanee area<br>• Opportunities to guide the development of future supply resources in the Belleville and Napanee areas through an appropriate IESO procurement | Transmission (Wires):<br>• A new double-circuit 230 kV line from St. Lawrence TS to Merivale TS<br>• Station work and addition of 200 Mvar of reactive compensation at Hawthorne TS<br><br>Non-Wires:<br>• Target approximately 200 MW of incremental eDSM aligned with the Ottawa IRRP<br>• Opportunities to guide the development of future supply resources in Ottawa and surrounding areas through an appropriate IESO procurement |
| **Ongoing**: Monitor demand growth, coordinate with resource procurement and ongoing regional plans and aligned with policy direction to trigger additional investments | |

# Next Steps

# Next Steps & Staying Engaged

**Upcoming milestones for the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan:**

- Feedback on the draft recommendations due June 17, 2026, to engagement@ieso.ca
- Mid-2026 - Final report that will include:
  - **Implementation-Ready Recommendations** that should proceed now to address near-term reliability needs
  - **Future-Consideration Options** to inform future planning and system readiness as conditions evolve

**Learn more about this plan by** visiting the engagement webpage and subscribing to receive updates.

# Discussion

Today's webinar focused on the draft Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan recommendations as presented. With the plan objectives and scope established, we are seeking feedback on clarity, understanding, and considerations important to note as the plan moves toward finalization.

1. What additional data or context would help provide more clarity and for consideration in the final report?
2. What questions or concerns do you have about the draft recommendations that the IESO might consider in future planning activities?
3. What additional data or local considerations should the IESO be aware of in finalizing the draft recommendations, or for future planning?

**The IESO welcomes written feedback until June 17, 2026, to engagement@ieso.ca.**

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca using the feedback form posted on the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan engagement webpage.

# Thank You

## STAY INVOLVED

- Learn more at www.ieso.ca/learn
- Subscribe to updates at IESO.ca/subscribe
- Download the IESO's Municipal Toolkit
- Join an engagement

## CONTACT

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- Engagement@ieso.ca

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# Summary of Recommended Transmission Reinforcements

| | Project Name | Circuit Type | Voltage (kV) | Length (km) | 500/230 Autos | Regional Planning Coordination |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belleville (Implementation-Ready)** | Napanee to Belleville | Double | 230 | 33 | N/A | Peterborough to Kingston IRRP |
| | Belleville Switching Station + 100 Mvar Reactive Compensation | N/A | 230 | N/A | N/A | Peterborough to Kingston IRRP |
| **Ottawa (Implementation-Ready)** | St. Lawrence to Merivale TS | Double | 230 | 80 | N/A | Ottawa IRRP<br>St. Lawrence IRRP |
| | Hawthorne TS: Upgrade T3 + 200 Mvar Reactive Compensation | N/A | 230 | N/A | N/A | Ottawa IRRP |
| **Ottawa (Future Considerations)** | West Ottawa Autotransformer Station + 200 Mvar Reactive Compensation | N/A | 500/230 | N/A | 2 | Ottawa IRRP |
| | Lennox to West Ottawa Station | Double | 500 | 175 | N/A | Ottawa IRRP |
| | South March to West Ottawa Station | Double | 230 | 15 | N/A | Ottawa IRRP |
| | Merivale to West Ottawa Station (St Lawrence to Merivale TS Extension) | Double | 230 | N/A | N/A | Ottawa IRRP |

# Shaping Bulk Studies Through Engagement

Input from the various perspectives across the electricity sector is essential to the IESO's decision-making process. Several tools are available to enable public engagement through several channels including:

- The IESO Bulletin provides dates for upcoming webinars and is emailed to subscribers at www.ieso.ca/subscribe. Bulk updates are scheduled every quarter.
- Webinar recordings and materials are available on the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan webpage.
- We welcome feedback on the information we have shared. The IESO will consider all feedback and posts our responses to written submissions.

More information about how the IESO engages can be found on our External Relations Engagement Framework.

# Feedback and Responses – by Theme

## Summary of Feedback from September 2024 to January 2026

**Theme: Electricity Demand Forecasts and Planning Uncertainty**

**Community and Stakeholder Feedback:** Comments questioned whether demand forecasts fully capture future growth from electrification, industrial development, and population growth, especially in Ottawa and the Belleville area. Concerns were raised that forecasts may rely too heavily on historical baselines and present conclusions with insufficient acknowledgement of uncertainty or alternative outcomes.

**IESO Response:** The IESO emphasized that bulk planning is informed by the Annual Planning Outlook (APO), which includes multiple demand scenarios, including higher-growth cases, rather than a single forecast. The IESO clarified that demand ranges and scenario analysis are used to test system robustness under uncertainty, with plans intentionally designed to be adaptive as conditions evolve.

# Feedback and Responses – by Theme

## Summary of Feedback from September 2024 to January 2026

**Theme: Timing and Need for Transmission Reinforcements**

**Community and Stakeholder Feedback:** Participants sought clearer justification for the timing and scale of proposed transmission reinforcements, particularly for Belleville and Ottawa. Some feedback expressed concern about advancing major infrastructure too early, given economic uncertainty and evolving demand signals.

**IESO Response:** The IESO noted that bulk transmission needs are assessed over a long-term planning horizon, allowing solutions to be staged and sequenced. The IESO stated that recommendations are not final commitments and will be refined as technical studies progress and new information becomes available.



Webpage to view all feedback received and the IESO's responses can be found here.

# Feedback and Responses – by Theme

## Summary of Feedback from September 2024 to January 2026

**Theme: Evaluation of Alternatives and System Flexibility**

**Community and Stakeholder Feedback:** Feedback encouraged greater consideration of non-wires alternatives, such as conservation, demand response, storage, and distributed resources, before advancing transmission infrastructure. Requests were made for clearer comparisons of cost, timing, and reliability benefits across different solution types.

**IESO Response:** The IESO explained that bulk planning focuses on system-level needs and capability, while detailed evaluation of non-wires alternatives typically occurs during subsequent regional planning or implementation stages. The IESO reaffirmed that planning frameworks are designed to remain flexible and align with least-cost and reliable system outcomes as solutions are further developed.

# Feedback and Responses – by Theme

## Summary of Feedback from September 2024 to January 2026

**Theme: Integration of Generation and Export Considerations**

**Community and Stakeholder Feedback:** Questions were raised about how transmission planning aligns with potential new generation development and expanded exports, particularly in eastern Ontario. Clarity was sought on whether proposed reinforcements primarily address domestic reliability needs or enable broader future development.

**IESO Response:** The IESO clarified that the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan assesses transmission capability, not specific generation projects or export decisions. The IESO noted that decisions related to generation development, exports, or intertie expansion are subject to separate policy direction, regulatory approvals, and future planning processes.

# Feedback and Responses – by Theme

## Summary of Feedback from September 2024 to January 2026

**Theme: Environmental and Climate-Related Considerations**

**Community and Stakeholder Feedback:** Feedback emphasized the importance of incorporating climate resilience, extreme weather risk, and long-term environmental considerations into demand forecasts and infrastructure planning. Requests were made for greater transparency on how climate change considerations influence planning assumptions.

**IESO Response:** The IESO acknowledged the importance of climate and system resilience and stated that planning methodologies are periodically updated to reflect evolving policy direction, reliability standards, and emerging risks. The IESO reiterated that bulk planning provides a strategic framework, with project-specific environmental assessment and mitigation addressed at later stages.

# Feedback and Responses – by Theme

## Summary of Feedback from September 2024 to January 2026

**Theme: Transparency, Engagement, and Ongoing Refinement**

**Community and Stakeholder Feedback:** Comments stressed the need for continued transparency around assumptions, methodologies, and decision points as the plan advances, as well as ongoing engagement as options are refined and recommendations developed.

**IESO Response:** The IESO reaffirmed its commitment to regular engagement through quarterly updates, public webinars, and posted feedback summaries. The IESO emphasized that feedback is used to inform evolving technical work and that responses are organized by theme to support transparency and accountability.



Webpage to view all feedback received and the IESO's responses can be found here.