

Feedback and IESO Responses

Bulk Planning Update Webinar Eastern Ontario Bulk Planning

On December 12, 2025, the IESO hosted a public webinar to provide updates for Eastern Ontario and South and Central Bulk Plans. The following is a summary of the feedback the IESO received for the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan. The IESO received written submissions from:

- Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation

The presentation and recording of the webinar, along with the IESO's responses to feedback are available on the [Eastern Ontario Bulk Planning webpage](#).

Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Responses

The IESO appreciates receiving feedback from participants about our work. The IESO responses to the feedback about the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan are organized by topic.

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Topic	IESO Response to Feedback
<p>Environmental Impacts</p> <p>Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN) provided feedback on elements of the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan, with emphasis on potential in-water or near-shore infrastructure, equity participation, and reconciliation.</p> <p>Impacts on Unceded Lands Under Lake Ontario: The MSIFN communicated that any underwater, near-shore, or shoreline-adjacent transmission routing traverses that the bed of Lake Ontario, south of the Michi Saagiig Gunshot Treaty (Johnson-Butler Purchase, 1787–1788) triggers the Duty to Consult and Accommodate (DTCA) and requires consent for any disruption to the lakebed. Concerns include the potential disturbance of sensitive aquatic ecosystems, submerged archaeological resources, and traditional harvesting areas. MSIFN requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A government-to-government consultation framework • Integration of Michi Saagiig knowledge keepers in route selection, impact assessments, and monitoring • Early involvement in the development of Draft Recommendations for the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan. 	<p>The IESO remains committed to ongoing, meaningful dialogue with communities to help shape long-term planning in regions across Ontario, as their input is appreciated in helping shape an inclusive and collaborative planning process. The IESO recognizes the critical importance of early and meaningful engagement and deeply values the insights, perspectives and cultural knowledge shared by MSIFN. Input into draft recommendations for the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan can be provided to the IESO by continuing to provide written feedback in response to engagement sessions or posted documents, or by requesting a dedicated one-on-one meeting with the Indigenous Engagement Team.</p> <p>The Duty to Consult in respect of any transmission project that is recommended by the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan will be delegated to the respective project proponent after a decision is made to proceed with the project by the Minister of Energy and Mines, and a proponent is selected. The proponent will be responsible for conducting an Environmental Assessment as part of the project development process. If the project meets criteria under the Impact Assessment Act, a federal impact assessment may be triggered. Notice of these processes, as applicable, will be provided at the outset to Indigenous communities identified by the Crown for engagement and consultation.</p>
<p>Indigenous Equity Participation</p> <p>MSIFN strongly supports authentic Indigenous economic partnerships in the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan, aligned with Ontario’s reconciliation goals. Feedback included recommendations to:</p>	<p>The IESO recognizes that Indigenous engagement and economic participation are critical to the success of electricity infrastructure projects in Ontario.</p> <p>The IESO is subject to policy direction from the Ministry of Energy and Mines with respect to the inclusion of requirements related to Indigenous economic participation</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt Hydro One’s 50-50 equity participation model to any new transmission, transmission refurbishments, inertia reinforcements, new transmission stations or transmission sub-stations in Eastern Ontario. • Explore majority First Nation ownership with MSIFN and other Michi Saagiig Nations as priority partners. • Leverage federal funding programs to enhance ratepayer benefits 	<p>in any IESO programs or procurements. The IESO will share MSIFN’s feedback with the Ministry to inform the approach for any transmission projects arising from the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan.</p> <p>The IESO offers funding support through the Indigenous Energy Support Program (IESP). The IESP promotes broad equitable participation in Ontario’s energy sector for Indigenous communities and organizations, including by offering funding to support assessment and development of opportunities for partnerships and participation in new or existing energy infrastructure projects. The IESO Indigenous Engagement Team encourages Indigenous communities to reach out with any questions that they may have regarding the IESP at iesp@ieso.ca.</p>
<p>New or Existing Right-of-Way</p> <p>MSIFN inquired whether a new or existing right-of-way would be required for each of the possible transmission reinforcement paths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply to Belleville Study: Belleville (Napanee to Belleville, Hinchinbrooke to Belleville, and Clarington to Belleville). • Supply to Ottawa Study: Ottawa (Bowmanville to Ottawa, Lennox to Ottawa, and St. Lawrence to Ottawa). 	<p>While final route selection is not determined during the planning stage, the identification of potential transmission line corridors is a key consideration in developing and evaluating options. Where feasible, preference is given to alternatives that maximize the use of existing rights-of-way. This will be captured in each of the Supply to Belleville and Supply to Ottawa studies.</p> <p>During the implementation stage, when the recommended transmission reinforcement is designed and constructed, the selected transmitter will engage with potentially affected communities as part of the route evaluation process. This consultation will inform the selection of a final transmission line route, including the extent to which existing rights-of-way will be used.</p>