

North of Sudbury Bulk Plan Background

Electricity demand is forecast to increase in the North of Sudbury area driven by mining and industrial activity, as well as mineral processing opportunities and broader electrification trends. New investments in electricity infrastructure are needed to support economic development and improve reliability. With the area also being served by aging infrastructure, replacing equipment nearing end of life will strengthen system stability.

Strengthening the Electricity Grid

The IESO is recommending transmission infrastructure reinforcements in the northeast to advance in two stages, making investments that are essential today while preserving options for additional investments that will proceed to construction only when necessary.

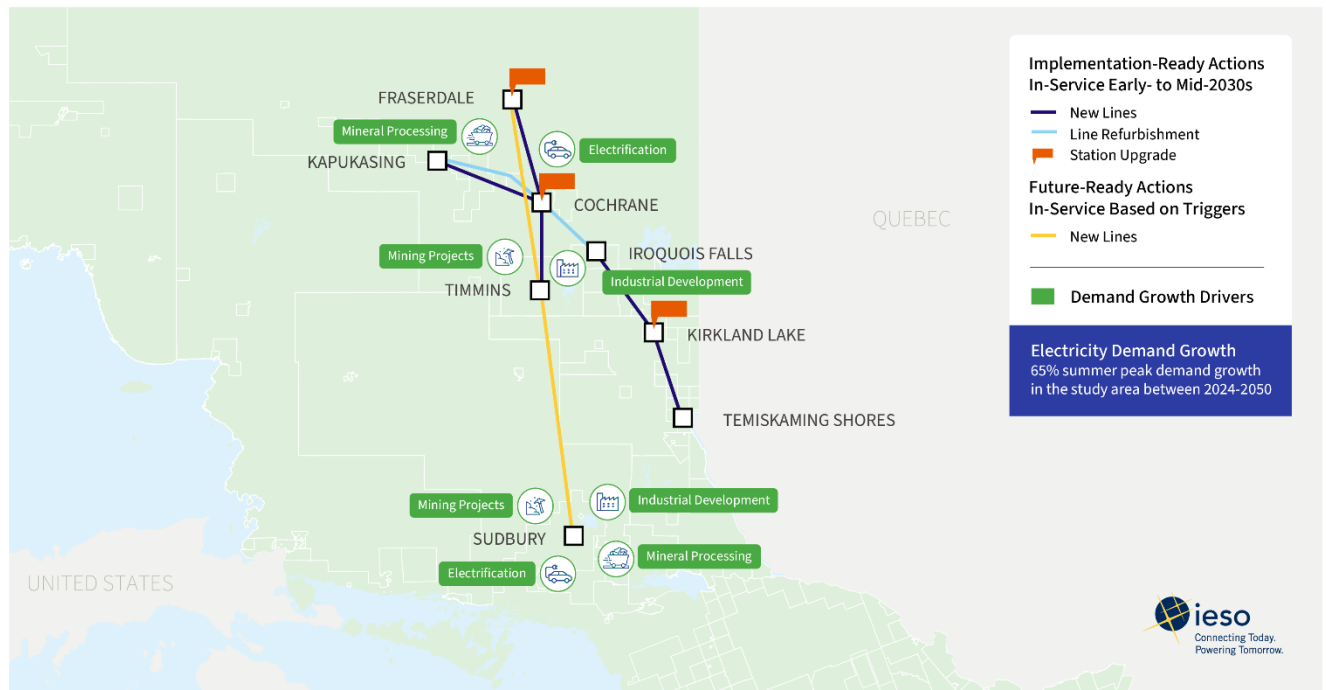
Implementation-ready actions are investments that should be initiated imminently, given typical development timeframes. This will help improve reliability and respond to community feedback the IESO received through its engagements.

Future-ready actions should begin early development — preliminary engineering and design, route consideration, environmental approvals, and land rights — and defer construction until conditions warrant.

Benefits

- ✓ **Supports economic growth:** more power for new and expanded mining projects.
- ✓ **Improves reliability and resiliency:** new power routes and larger amounts of electricity protect against extreme weather and other disruptions.
- ✓ **Cost-effectiveness:** a staged approach builds the required infrastructure as demand materializes, reducing upfront costs and ensuring ratepayers only fund investments when there is a clear need.
- ✓ **Enables more supply:** allows new generation resources to be built.

North of Sudbury Bulk Plan Overview



Transmission line routes are illustrative and not final. Demand drivers indicate general areas of potential growth.

Next Steps

- Once a transmitter for a project is determined, it assumes responsibility for the project, advances environmental assessments, engages with municipalities and Indigenous communities, and develops potential route options for the transmission line.
- As the regulator, the Ontario Energy Board reviews the project to confirm that the proposed investment is needed, is in the public interest, and has met all applicable regulatory requirements and commitments.
- Once regulatory approvals are obtained, the transmitter proceeds with construction of the new transmission line.
- After the line is energized and placed into service, the transmitter owns, operates, and maintains the asset, while the IESO manages and directs its flow of electricity as part of the province's transmission system.

Other Area Activities

- Construction of an approximate 300-kilometre-long Sudbury–Barrie Transmission Line expected to be in-service by 2032, as well as the preservation of a right-of-way for potential a second transmission line, to support future growth as recommended in the [2025 Northern Ontario Bulk Plan](#).
- Construction of an approximate 260-kilometre-long Timmins–Wawa Transmission Line expected to be in-service by 2030; approximate 205-kilometre-long line between Algoma and Sudbury expected to be in-service by 2029; and approximate 75-kilometre-long line between Algoma and Sault Ste. Marie expected to be in-service by 2029 as recommended in the [2022 Northeast Bulk Plan](#).
- Recently launched or completed Integrated Regional Resource Plans in [northeast Ontario](#) that complement this bulk plan: [East Lake Superior](#) and [Sudbury/Algoma](#).
- Recommendations from recently completed Integrated Regional Resource Plans include replacement of aging transmission assets and transformer station upgrades to enhance reliability, additional energy efficiency measures to optimize existing system capacity, and continued monitoring of demand growth to align infrastructure investments with actual system needs.
- Balancing the needs and risks of ratepayers and suppliers, the IESO's [competitive procurements](#) align electricity resources with the system's evolving needs, ensuring the continued availability of electricity from various sources at the lowest cost.
- Five new solar projects — all with Indigenous equity — located in northeast Ontario were selected as part of the IESO's second Long-Term Request for Proposals (LT2 RFP), adding 570 MW of renewable energy to the grid by 2030.
- Energy efficiency continues to be a valuable resource for communities, helping homes and facilities lower costs through [Save on Energy](#) programs, rebates, and incentives.