

Feedback and IESO Responses

North of Sudbury Bulk Plan

On May 20, 2026, the IESO hosted a public webinar to provide the draft recommendations for feedback and comment. The following is a summary of the feedback the IESO received.

The IESO received written feedback submissions from:

- [Hydro One Networks Inc.](#)
- [Northland Power Inc.](#)
- [Ontario Power Generation](#)
- [Ontario Rivers Alliance](#)
- [Taykwa Tagamou Nation](#)

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

Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Responses

The IESO appreciates receiving feedback about this work. The feedback and the IESO responses are organized by theme.

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Theme	IESO Response to Feedback
Strong Support for the Planning Approach Summary: Feedback expressed clear support for the bulk plan direction, including Phase 1 implementation-ready transmission reinforcements, strengthening the 230 kV backbone, and focus on reliability and system capability.	The IESO appreciates the support for the Phase 1 recommendations and overall planning direction. This input reinforces that the plan is appropriately focused on near-term reliability priorities while maintaining flexibility for future development.
Need for Greater Clarity on Timing, Triggers, and Sequencing Summary: Feedback requested more precise timing-related information about in-service dates, Phase 2/3 triggers, project sequencing and key dependencies on other infrastructure. Feedback also highlights the need for greater transparency regarding: • Planning assumptions • Factors influencing project advancement • The role of dependencies in determining timing and need	The IESO acknowledges the need for additional clarity regarding timing, triggers, and sequencing. In the final report, the IESO will: • Provide additional context on expected timing windows for implementation-ready projects • Clarify key factors influencing advancement of future phases (e.g., demand growth, resource development) • Increase transparency regarding key planning assumptions that may affect timing by providing more information on key interfaces and needs Timing for later phases will remain conditional, reflecting the long-term uncertainty inherent in bulk system planning and will be further detailed in future planning in the region, as new forecasts are gathered.

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Reliability and System Capability Summary: Reliability remains a dominant theme, with feedback related to addressing end-of-life infrastructure, supporting system stability and voltage control, and reducing reliance on operational workarounds. Feedback was also received related to the energy-limited nature of hydroelectric resources and the need to consider variability in resource availability under changing conditions.	Reliability remains the primary objective of the bulk plan. Planning analysis: • Reflects the operational characteristics of existing and anticipated resources, including energy limitations • Assesses system performance under a range of operating conditions and uncertainties • Ensures all recommendations meet applicable reliability standards The final report will provide additional clarity on key planning assumptions relevant to system capability and performance.

Theme	IESO Response to Feedback
Integration of Transmission and Supply Summary: Feedback emphasized that reliability depends on both transmission and supply, including: • Enabling generation deliverability • The need for firm and dispatchable resources Feedback also raised questions regarding the approach to evaluating non-wires alternatives and the importance of considering combinations of resources rather than evaluating resource types in isolation.	The plan reflects the interaction between transmission infrastructure and resource development by considering a range of supply scenarios and system needs. The IESO considers non-wires alternatives through its planning processes; however, these solutions typically depend on sufficient underlying transmission infrastructure to deliver and integrate power reliably. Bulk planning establishes that foundational high-voltage system, after which regional planning processes (Integrated Regional Resource Plans) assess how non-wires alternatives can be applied to address local needs in a coordinated and effective manner. Due to the scale of transfer requirements and areas of impact considered through bulk planning, non-wires alternatives are not typically a viable solution to meet these types of needs, although may be used as part of complementary measures to ensure reliability and provide flexibility. The final report will provide additional clarity on the role on non-wire alternatives in various sub regions, and how development of major generation would require transmission. The IESO will continue to co-ordinate bulk planning with resource procurement and development activities.

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Operability and System Performance Summary: Feedback highlighted the need to consider system behaviour during outages and contingencies, operational tools (e.g., Remedial Action Schemes) and practical system performance outcomes	Operational performance is a key consideration in the development of the bulk plan. Analysis includes: • Contingency assessments • Evaluation of system response under a range of operating conditions • Consideration of operational tools where relevant The final report will provide additional clarity on operational assumptions, expected reliance on operational measures, and implications for system users.
Flexibility Under Uncertainty Summary: There was an expression of uncertainty in load growth (particularly industrial and resource-driven demand), resource mix, and the timing of development stemming from the concern that different demand scenarios influence system needs and the potential risk of overbuild or stranded assets under lower-demand outcomes.	The phased approach is designed to deliver near-term investments that are robust across a range of demand scenarios, preserve flexibility for future decisions, and enable adaptation as system conditions evolve. The final report will expand discussion of uncertainty considerations, including how demand variability may influence future planning needs.
Prioritization and Investment Transparency Summary: There was an emphasis on the importance of understanding the relative priority of projects, drivers for recommended investments, and the sequencing and interdependencies of projects.	The final report will: • Provide greater clarity on the relative urgency of identified needs • Expand on the drivers for recommended investments • Highlight key dependencies and sequencing considerations

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Cost Transparency and Broader Planning Context Summary: Feedback emphasized the importance of understanding the bulk plan within the broader electricity system context, including: • Overall system costs and ratepayer impacts • Cumulative cost implications across multiple concurrent investments • Key planning assumptions and trade-offs • Consideration of alternative approaches	Bulk plans are developed to address regional reliability needs while considering demand growth, resource availability, and system performance. The IESO provides planning-level cost estimates and evaluates cost-effectiveness as part of its analysis. The IESO considers affordability alongside reliability and sustainability, and advances transmission investments in a staged and prudent manner based on changing system conditions such as actual demand growth and generation connections. While overall system costs increase to support a larger system, analysis through the Annual Planning Outlook indicates that per-unit electricity costs are expected to remain relatively stable as demand grows alongside infrastructure. The final report will: • Provide additional context on cost assumptions and associated uncertainties • Improve transparency regarding how regional plans relate to broader system planning processes Broader system-level cost projections and policy decisions are addressed through provincial planning processes, including the Annual Planning Outlook.

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Environmental, Climate, and Regulatory Considerations Summary: Feedback raised environmental and climate-related considerations as it related to planning. Concerns were expressed around hydrological variability and climate-related uncertainty, the performance of hydroelectric resources under changing conditions and broader environmental and project risk considerations, including the evolving regulatory and environmental assessment frameworks.	Environmental, climate, and regulatory considerations form an important context for electricity planning. Bulk system planning focuses on identifying reliability needs and technically feasible solutions and incorporates relevant resource characteristics and uncertainties into system analysis. Project-specific environmental assessments, regulatory approvals, and detailed risk evaluations are undertaken by project proponents and relevant authorities. The final report will: • Provide additional clarity on planning assumptions related to resource characteristics and uncertainty • Enhance transparency regarding external factors that may influence implementation of recommended solutions
Indigenous Engagement and Consultation Summary: Feedback emphasized the importance of engagement with Indigenous communities, including clarity on consultation processes and roles, consideration of community impacts, and broader context related to project development.	The IESO undertakes engagement activities to share information and gather input as part of its planning role. Feedback received through these processes is considered, where relevant, in planning activities. Responsibility for consultation and accommodation obligations rests with the Crown, while project proponents are responsible for engagement related to specific projects. The IESO will continue to support transparency in its engagement processes and improve clarity regarding how engagement informs planning outcomes.

Transmission to Connect Future Developments

Summary: Taykwa Tagamou Nation feedback expressed the inclusion of transmission north of Pinard in this bulk plan. The required reinforcements from Timmins to Pinard to enable future hydroelectric projects in the Moose River Basin. Full transmission buildouts to support projects be considered as implementation ready or even future ready that can support transmission requirements north of Pinard to help with grid connection with the inclusion of transmission north of Pinard in this bulk plan.

The IESO acknowledges the importance of transmission planning in supporting potential generation opportunities within the Moose River Basin. The North of Sudbury Bulk Plan is part of a broader, integrated electricity planning framework in Ontario. It is informed by and co-ordinated with:

- The Annual Planning Outlook
- Regional electricity planning processes (IRRP)
- Provincial policy direction
- Ongoing generation and procurement initiatives

Bulk and regional planning processes are interdependent, with bulk infrastructure enabling regional solutions and regional needs informing bulk system requirements.

The use of a portfolio-based approach allows the IESO to consider system needs holistically and evaluate how different combinations of projects perform under a range of future scenarios, including varying demand levels and supply outcomes.

In response to input received from Taykwa Tagamou Nation through this engagement process, the final report includes an assessment of future resource enablement north of Pinard TS, including consideration of transmission infrastructure that could be required to support hydroelectric development in the Moose River Basin. This assessment identifies a technically feasible transmission pathway and demonstrates how additional transmission reinforcement could support larger-scale development in the future. While the report identifies a potential pathway for transmission development north of Pinard, the IESO is not recommending transmission

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	infrastructure north of Pinard as part of this plan, at this time. The report nevertheless establishes a planning foundation for future assessments and recognizes the potential significance of resource development opportunities in the region. The IESO will continue to engage with Taykwa Tagamou Nation and other interested parties as part of future planning activities. The IESO will continue to update plans as new information becomes available through its annual planning cycle to ensure that investments remain co-ordinated, flexible, and responsive to changing conditions.