

Feedback Received and IESO Response

Bulk Study Updates (South and Central) – May 29, 2025

The IESO hosted a public webinar on May 29, 2025, to provide updates on the South and Central Bulk Study, the Northern Ontario Bulk Plan, the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan and the Ontario-Manitoba Intertie Joint Study and introduced the North of Sudbury Bulk Plan.

The IESO received written feedback submissions on the South and Central Bulk Plan from:

- [GrandBridge Energy Inc.](#)
- [Haldimand County](#)
- [London Hydro](#)
- [Ontario Power Generation](#)
- [Ontario Rivers Alliance](#)
- [TC Energy](#)

Each presentation and recording of the webinar, along with the IESO's responses to feedback are available on [the South and Central Bulk Study](#), [the Northern Ontario Bulk Plan](#), [the Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan](#), and [the North of Sudbury Bulk Plan](#) webpages.

Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Response

The IESO appreciates receiving feedback from participants about our work. The responses to the feedback about this study is organized by topic.

South and Central Bulk Study

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
<p>Mixed support was shared for the study options due to the various needs that study-area communities are experiencing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GrandBridge Energy Inc. supported Options B and C indicating that they create a critical point of supply through the Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph region and acknowledged the synergies with the Burlington to Nanticoke IRRP recommendations. • Haldimand County indicated preference for Option A because it supports the potential for nuclear and other renewables/economic projects. • London Hydro supports Option C due to significant growth in the northwest London area. • Ontario Power Generation is supportive of the plan and portfolio options in general and did not express an option preference. • TC Energy expressed support for the expansion of the 500 kV double-circuit from Bruce to Essa which is contained in all three options. 	<p>Thank you for sharing your perspectives regarding the preliminary portfolio of options.</p> <p>The IESO appreciates the opportunity to clarify that the options under consideration in the South and Central Bulk Study intended to address system needs provide three approaches as to how these needs can be addressed.</p> <p>The preliminary portfolios A, B and C are subject to change given that technical studies and ongoing engagement are underway, and the purpose of our quarterly bulk study webinars is to build awareness and understanding of those options and provide opportunities to address questions and understand feedback.</p>
<p>Additional areas should be considered in the development of the preliminary portfolios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haldimand County observes that other options do not include improvements to Nanticoke TS. • London Hydro recommended the consideration of bulk transmission solutions to support major load growth in London (including in the northwest and southwest areas). 	<p>The IESO appreciates these recommendations and would like to ensure further understanding of the South and Central Bulk study objectives, which are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirm required transmission reinforcements to connect small modular reactors; consider potential pumped storage;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine required transmission to decrease reliance on emitting resources in the GTA; • determine required transmission under various scenarios within key growth areas; and • ensure coordinated approach between Northern Ontario Bulk Study with bulk system improvements in the GTA related to recommended transmission reinforcements. <p>The IESO can confirm that bulk transmission solutions to support major load growth from economic development in southwestern Ontario is part of the scope of work for the South and Central Bulk Study. We appreciate Haldimand County's interest in ensuring electricity supply to the Nanticoke area is sufficient for the area's future needs. Should improvements be required at the station from a bulk perspective, the improvements would be identified through this work. The IESO would like to clarify that needs could also be addressed at the regional planning level through the Burlington to Nanticoke regional planning process, if identified. Please visit the website for more details and ensure to keep your local distribution company up to date regarding anticipated growth.</p>
<p>Strong interest exists around alignment and co-ordination of the South and Central Bulk Plan with existing bulk and regional plans, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GrandBridge Energy Inc. supports integration between bulk system planning and the IRRP and recommends the IESO prioritize streamlined outcomes. • London Hydro recommends sharing more information around how the 	<p>Thank you for sharing this feedback, the IESO agrees that alignment between existing and ongoing plans is very important. The IESO acknowledges that regional needs can trigger requirements for bulk system upgrades and bulk plans can impact needs and options that are considered in regional plans. For example, the IESO will refine the portfolio of options to incorporate likely recommendations from ongoing regional plans, such as the options to address</p>

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<p>bulk study aligns with current Integrated Regional Resource Plans to ensure feedback is timely to support the bulk study portfolio decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario Power Generation also recommends coordination with the Eastern Bulk Study and the upcoming Niagara Bulk Study to address currently required and future proof grid reinforcements to ensure adequate transmission capacity to enable export capacity well beyond current capacity. 	<p>Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph priority needs, the third transmission supply for Toronto, and bulk upgrades required in GTA North. Similarly, outcomes of the South and Central bulk will consider the latest demand forecasts and identified local needs from ongoing regional plans, such as the London Area and GTA West Integrated Regional Resources Plans. Bulk system upgrades will be incorporated when assessing needs and options for ongoing and future regional plans and shared where relevant to discussions in ongoing regional planning engagements.</p> <p>In terms of Ontario Power Generation’s recommendation to coordinate with the Eastern Ontario and upcoming Niagara bulk studies, the IESO remains committed to sharing our planning progress at our quarterly bulk webinars, which include key updates about our ongoing bulk studies to ensure broad awareness of the status of these plans at each milestone.</p> <p>The Eastern Ontario Bulk Study is assessing options to increase eastbound transmission capability from Bowmanville/Lennox area to supply eastern Ontario, in coordination with the South and Central Bulk Study focused on enhancing westbound capability. The IESO expects that future bulk studies will explore options to ensure sufficient transmission capacity to enable resource changes, such as additional nuclear generation at the Wesleyville site, informed by policy. More information will be made available once planning for this next study kicks off.</p> <p>Currently, the IESO is undertaking joint studies with Hydro Quebec, and is also exploring opportunities to expand the interties with neighbouring Quebec and New York as part of the Eastern Ontario bulk study. Future studies would align with the recently released Ontario Integrated Energy</p>

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	<p>Plan (IEP), which includes a directive to explore opportunities for increasing electricity exports.</p>
<p>Ontario Power Generation recommended the inclusion of the three nuclear sites into the study model, along with the inclusion of transmission expansions to enable future connections. They shared the government direction for Ontario Power Generation to explore three sites for future nuclear generation.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing this additional recommendation for consideration as part of this study. The Eastern Ontario Bulk Study will assess options to increase eastbound transmission capability from Bowmanville/Lennox area to supply eastern Ontario, in coordination with the South and Central Bulk Study focused on enhancing westbound capability.</p> <p>The IESO expects that future bulk studies will explore options to ensure sufficient transmission capacity from the Wesleyville site. More information will be made available once planning for this next study kicks off.</p>
<p>Recommendations were shared with the IESO about the type of information they would appreciate receiving and type of engagement to be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GrandBridge Energy Inc. expressed an interest in project schedules as early as possible, once portfolio options are finalized. • Haldimand County supports regular communications with municipalities so that the IESO gains better insights into potential future projects that could impact planning and forecasts. 	<p>Thank you for this feedback. We will consider these recommendations as planning continues to progress.</p>
<p>Haldimand County flagged that the region is a location of interest for renewable energy projects, including nuclear, and high energy projects, and that they have approved development of key employable lands.</p> <p>GrandBridge Energy Inc. is particularly interested in support for the Kitchener-Waterloo Cambridge Guelph region, which</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing this information. As the system planner, it is critical to our process that, as load growth is identified by a community, these growth details are communicated by the community/customers to the local distribution company who will share that information with the IESO through forecast updates. We encourage</p>

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has significant load growth in the immediate and longer term.	participation by the sector in our regional planning process and advise that large customers consider starting the connection process early. The IESO can confirm that known customer connection interest from large loads in Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph is being considered as part of the ongoing regional plan.

General Comments/Feedback

Feedback	IESO Response
Ontario Rivers Alliance expressed opposition to new hydroelectric development due to environmental, climate, and economic concerns.	Thank you for this feedback. The government's policy position to meet Ontario's forecasted 75% increase in electricity demand by 2050 is through an "all options on the table" approach. Increased transmission in the South and Central Bulk study area to complement hydropower will help to mitigate risks caused by seasonally variable generation and climate change. Should you wish to raise these concerns with the government, you may contact them via email using MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca
TC Energy shared details about the benefits of their pumped storage project as part of managing the province's capacity by having a flexible resource to meet peak demand.	Thank you for sharing this information with the IESO.