

# Feedback Received and IESO Response

## North of Dryden Addendum Public Webinar – May 7, 2025

The IESO hosted a public webinar on May 7, 2025, to share the demand forecasts, electricity needs, and non-wire and wire options screening for the North of Dryden electrical region. The presentation material and recorded webinar are available on the [engagement webpage](#).

The IESO appreciates the feedback received, which will be considered by the Technical Working Group<sup>1</sup> to develop the Addendum Study. Feedback was received from the following parties and the full submission can be viewed on the North of Dryden [engagement webpage](#):

- [Enbridge Gas Inc.](#)
- [Frontier Lithium](#)
- [Grand Council Treaty #3](#)
- [Kinross Gold Corporation](#)
- [Kinross Gold Corporation Fact Sheet](#)
- [Northwest Energy Task Force](#)
- [Ontario Waterpower Association \(OWA\)](#)
- [Waterpower, Wetlands and Waterfowl Near Deer Lake \(provided by OWA\)](#)

The section below summarizes feedback received that should be considered in the electricity planning for the North of Dryden Addendum Study.

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<sup>1</sup> The Technical Working Group (TWG) consists of IESO as the lead, the local transmitters Hydro One Networks Inc. and Wataynikaneyap Power, and the local distribution companies Hydro One Networks Inc. (Distribution), Hydro One Remotes, Fort Frances Power Corporation, Sioux Lookout Hydro Inc.

## North of Dryden Addendum Study Feedback

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
<p><b>Ensure the forecast captures anticipated growth, development and additional variables including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kinross Gold Corporation wanted to ensure that both the Advanced Exploration and Production Phases of the Great Bear Project have been accounted for in the reference forecast.</li> <li>• Frontier Lithium wanted to ensure that their load, as submitted through a System Impact Assessment (SIA), has been factored in, and asked under which scenario the load has been considered.</li> <li>• Northwest Energy Task Force wanted to ensure that the residential load growth, due to community expansion to support new mines, has been accounted.</li> <li>• Northwest Energy Task Force argued that electric power equipment underground should be factored into the demand projections.</li> <li>• GCT3 requested a list of the additional contributing factors requiring an Addendum to the 2023 IRRP and how it contributes to the need to update electricity infrastructure.</li> <li>• GCT3 inquired if Residential Load Growth includes First Nation communities and if First Nation communities current and future energy needs were considered in the plan</li> </ul>	<p>Thank you for providing feedback to inform and confirm the demand forecasts for this Addendum study. The IESO can confirm the following inputs have been accounted for in the reference forecast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kinross’s Great Bear Project (Advanced Exploration and Production Phases)</li> <li>• Frontier Lithium’s System Impact Assessment forecasted load</li> <li>• First Nations communities’ load is included in the updated station level load forecast</li> <li>• Residential load growth</li> </ul> <p>Forecast information received that was less certain or likely to proceed in terms of timelines, magnitude or location were captured in the high or extreme scenarios.</p> <p>The IESO received the station level forecast directly from the transmitters (i.e., Watay Power and Hydro One Inc.) which includes information from local distributors, Indigenous communities, and municipalities. This forecast includes current and future load demand within these communities as forecasted by the transmitter. The IESO’s plan will have sufficient margin and flexibility to accommodate reasonable deviations from the forecasted load.</p> <p>The IESO welcomes details on the equipment and the amount of power consumed by underground electric equipment, should the Northwest-Energy Task Force have these details.</p> <p>The North of Dryden Addendum study was initiated, due to emerging growth in the North of Dryden sub-region to address emerging local needs to ensure a reliable supply of electricity that supports local growth and economic development. The main driver of this</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GCT3 requested the data underpinning the reference, high and extreme growth scenarios</li> </ul>	<p>growth is the forecasted load in the mining sector in areas of Red Lake and Pickle Lake.</p> <p>The energy forecasts used in the study were provided by transmitters, distributors, Indigenous communities, and municipalities in the sub-region. It includes current and future energy needs of communities they are serving. The IESO will work with transmitters to share relevant load forecast data with communities. The final forecasting methodology will be included in the final Addendum report.</p>
<p>Kinross, Frontier Lithium, Northwest Energy Taskforce recommended that a short-term solution should be identified until new transmission will be in service.</p>	<p>Thank you for this feedback. The IESO is open to receiving further feedback on potential short-term supply solutions that could be implemented until a more long-term option is developed. The next cycle of Northwest regional planning is commencing in mid-2025, and short-term supply options could be further explored within that plan.</p>
<p><b>Enbridge Gas Inc. recommended the demand scenarios consider one or more scenarios with gas and electric systems working together to achieve GHG targets, specifically:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enbridge Gas advocated for the opportunity to work with the IESO and the Technical Working Group of the Addendum study to explore scenarios that leverage the benefits of both energy systems to meet the local energy needs.</li> </ul>	<p>The IESO and the Technical Working Group acknowledge the potential benefits of coordination between energy planning processes and welcomes further discussion and input on the options available to meet needs. During upcoming regional planning milestone, the Technical Working Group welcomes input and data from Enbridge Gas on the amount of demand that could be supplied from low-carbon fuels and options available to reduce demand.</p> <p>The Ministry of Energy and Mines recently released the province’s <a href="#">Integrated Energy Plan</a> that reflects a coordinated and long-term approach to ensure Ontario has access to reliable and affordable energy. The IESO looks forward to working with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ontario Energy Board, local distribution companies, municipalities, and gas utilities as part of this new approach.</p>
<p>Northwest Energy Taskforce shared that the reference forecast is in-line with their estimate, and they wanted to confirm whether</p>	<p>Yes, the IESO’s load forecast scenarios are based on the assumption of non-coincident winter peak loads.</p>

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<p>the target of 435 MW will account for seasonal fluctuations.</p>	<p>This represents the maximum load anticipated in the region and will cover seasonal fluctuations in loading.</p>
<p><b>General support for the preliminary transmission options has been identified, with a few preferences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kinross recommends a new 230 kV line from Ear Falls to Red Lake should be included in Option 1 &amp; 2.</li> <li>• Frontier Lithium recommended Option 3 given the substantive load required in Red Lake area.</li> <li>• Northwest Energy Taskforce recommended Option 1 as the most appropriate for the area and further recommended that a double circuit line is contemplated.</li> </ul>	<p>Thank you for this feedback for the preliminary transmission options under consideration. The IESO's assessment did study alternative scenarios for Options 1 and 2 with a 230kV connection from Ear Falls to Red Lake and the findings will be considered while developing the recommended solution.</p> <p>The IESO has studied double-circuit lines supplying critical load pockets and the findings will be considered while developing the recommended solution.</p> <p>For next steps, the IESO's options analysis will consider several factors such as cost, reliability (i.e., outages), flexibility and feasibility of implementation. The IESO will also consider the feedback shared from stakeholders, before recommending the best solution. More details will be shared at upcoming engagements.</p>
<p><b>Support for the inclusion of non-wires alternatives to support the demand, specifically:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northwest Energy Task Force supports the inclusion of biomass generation to be considered as a non-wire options and further recommended including hydro-electric development options that are available adjacent to Watay Power's two transmission lines.</li> <li>• Ontario Water Association advocates that waterpower be recognized as a potential option due to its previous 2013 study<sup>2</sup> that demonstrated there was "economic community-scale</li> </ul>	<p>Thank you for this feedback. As part of the planning process, the IESO will consider all feasible wire and non-wire solutions to meet the needs of this sub-region. To meet the electrical needs identified, the IESO evaluated a number of non-wire options, and screened-in Battery Energy Storage (in combination with solar and on-shore wind) and Biomass Generation. As a next step, the IESO will evaluate the screened-in non-wire alternatives (NWA) listed above for economic feasibility to meet the reference demand forecast with supply. More details about assessing non-wire alternatives can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>The IESO welcomes information from the Ontario Waterpower Association and Northwest Energy Task Force to inform electricity planning initiatives. This information will be very helpful for the broader</p>

<sup>2</sup> [Northern Hydro Assessment](#)

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<p>waterpower” in proximity to remote Indigenous Communities.</p>	<p>regional planning for the next cycle of the Northwest Region anticipated to this year. Non-wires alternative sources of energy will be considered during the development of the upcoming Northwest regional plan.</p> <p>In parallel, the IESO is pursuing the long-term procurement of resources across the province with a focus on clean energy to support Ontario’s economic development. More information can be found on the <a href="#">Long Term Procurement webpage</a>.</p>
<p><b>When evaluating options additional variables should be considered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ontario Water Association recommended recognizing the waterpower potential that may be enabled.</li> <li>• Frontier Lithium recommended considering mine development schedules and work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines for input.</li> <li>• Kinross is concerned that the potential options may not align with their project development schedule, which could stall economic growth in the Northwestern Ontario.</li> <li>• Kinross shared future outage and customer impact should be considered in the evaluation of the recommended solution.</li> </ul>	<p>Thank you for this feedback. As part of the IESO’s detailed options analysis, the IESO will evaluate potential solutions based on following key considerations: technical feasibility, ability to address needs, cost-effectiveness and lead time. The IESO develops long term plans to address the forecasted needs at the time of plan development. The IESO’s planning process needs to be prudent in balancing cost with the identified need. We consider several other factors such as reliability, flexibility and feasibility of implementation.</p> <p>Further consideration of additional variables as part of the environmental process will identify potential impacts including schedules, customer impacts, outages and other impacts that will need to be mitigated.</p> <p>With the merging of the Ministry of Energy and former Ministry of Mines, the IESO is appreciative of the new insights this new Ministry will bring to the regional planning process in the Northwest region.</p>
<p><b>Cost allocation of potential transmission projects, specifically:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCT3 inquired if new transmission lines resulted in higher costs for consumers and First Nation communities</li> <li>• Kinross inquired on cost allocation given the anticipated network benefits</li> </ul>	<p>Cost allocation methodology is outside the mandate of the IESO and the scope of IRRP and bulk recommendations. The OEB determines cost allocation for transmission investment adhering to the Transmission System Code (TSC) beneficiary pays principles. This process follows two key principles:</p>

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	<p>approved projects must be “just and reasonable,” and the “beneficiary pays” approach.</p> <p>However, the government is considering changes to the transmission cost responsibility framework with the new authorities granted by the <a href="#">Affordable Energy Act</a>. The IESO will support this work as it develops by sharing insights and inputs gleaned from the planning process.</p>
<p><b>During future engagements additional information should be provided, specifically:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kinross recommended to share a schedule to construct the recommended solutions and anticipated costs, along with cost allocation.</li> <li>• Northwest Energy Taskforce recommended sharing capacity for each line in the options provided, along with anticipated loads.</li> <li>• Northwest Energy Task Force requested future engagements include the actual MW capacity of the lines in potential transmission options.</li> </ul>	<p>Thank you for this feedback. Through the IRRP process the IESO will develop recommendations to meet the identified electricity needs. Once a transmitter is selected (either through the OEB’s priority project designation process, or a competitive procurement process) it will be up to the transmitter to develop a detailed construction timeline for new/upgraded energy infrastructure.</p> <p>The IESO will provide further technical details of the draft recommendations at an upcoming webinar, including costing and MW. Final details on the load forecast will be available in the final Addendum report.</p>
<p><b>Inquiries related to Indigenous engagement, specifically:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCT3 requested the following confirmations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A list of the First Nation communities within the Addendum study scope.</li> <li>○ If the Technical Working Group included Treaty #3 representation and the Record of Consultation for the Addendum Study.</li> <li>○ The First Nation policies the IESO is following and requested</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>A list of First Nation Communities can be found on the <a href="#">North of Dryden Addendum Study Engagement page</a>.</p> <p>The Northwest Technical Working Group - consisted of the LDCs in the region, the local transmitter and the IESO.</p> <p>The IESO’s <a href="#">Corporate Indigenous Peoples Policy</a> is a public-facing commitment to strengthening our relationships with Indigenous peoples, with mutual trust, accountability, understanding and respect as the critical foundations. The IESO’s principles for Indigenous engagement and relationship building, consistent with the existing <a href="#">Engagement Principles</a>.</p>

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<p>a copy of the IESO's Consultation Policy and Protocol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GCT3 requested capacity support and training to participate in the regional planning study</li> </ul>	<p>The IESO appreciates the time and input into our engagement initiatives. While it is not the IESO's practice to provide compensation to participate in engagement initiatives there are programs to help enable participation, particularly among First Nation communities. The IESO's <a href="#">Indigenous Energy Support Program (IESP)</a> are available to support Ontario First Nation communities and organizations to increase their energy-related capacity.</p>
<p><b>General comments, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GCT3 requested a copy of the Northwest Scoping Assessment Report</li> <li>GCT3 requested a copy of the First Nation development plans that were considered in the 2023 Northwest IRRP</li> <li>GCT3 requested a more in-depth explanation of forecasting predictions for Northwestern Ontario.</li> </ul>	<p>A copy of the <a href="#">Northwest Region Scoping Assessment Report from January 2021</a> can be found using this link.</p> <p>The IESO welcomes input from Indigenous communities in the regional planning process – in particular specific initiatives within community energy plans and economic development plans that could inform the future electricity needs and potential local energy solutions at a local or regional level. The IESO relies on the Local Distribution Companies to bring energy and development plans to the IRRP Technical Working Group's attention. All other materials from the 2023 Northwest Regional Plan can be found on the <a href="#">Northwest engagement website</a>.</p> <p>In addition, the IESO will continue to invite and respond to requests for targeted one-on-one discussions to address any emerging issues or seek additional information.</p> <p>The North of Dryden Addendum forecasting methodology will be included in the final report.</p> <p>Please email us at <a href="mailto:Indigenousrelations@ieso.ca">Indigenousrelations@ieso.ca</a> with any questions that you may have or if you wish to schedule a one-on-one meeting.</p>