

Feedback Form

Regional Electricity Planning - North of Dryden Addendum Study

Feedback Provided by:

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To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on this [engagement webpage](#) unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the North of Dryden Addendum regional planning webinar held on May 7, 2025, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the demand forecast, electricity needs, and options screening. A copy of the presentation as well as recording of the session can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by May 21, 2025.

North of Dryden Addendum Study

Topic	Feedback
What feedback do you have regarding the demand forecast?	Question: Where can we find the data and / or report that shows the new updated electricity demand and forecast to justify the requirement for the Addendum Study?
What feedback do you have regarding the electricity needs identified?	Question: Does IESO include the current and future energy needs of First Nation communities when carrying out the study? Where can we find this information and what metrics are used? Does "Residential Load Growth" include First Nation communities? Which First Nation communities are part of the North of Dryden Addendum Study?
What feedback do you have regarding the options screened to meet the needs?	Question: Where can we find the data and report on the forecasted Reference Scenario, High Scenario and Extreme Growth Scenario?
What additional information should be considered as we evaluate options?	IESO needs to address the specific concerns and impacts of transmission line development on the First Nation communities and traditional lands in Treaty #3. Land rights and ownership need to be respected and Manito Aki Inaakonigewin (MAI), the "Great Earth Law," needs to be followed and adhered to for all proposed activities and projects occurring in Treaty #3 – proponents need consent from the Nation beforehand. That being said, are there any specific protocols or policies that IESO are following to ensure First Nation rights are being respected and not infringed upon?
What additional information should be provided in future engagements to help understand perspectives and insights?	See Questions, Recommendations and Comments below.

General Comments/Feedback

Question: There's been no mention of which First Nation communities and organizations IESO has consulted with thus far. Please provide GCT3 with the Record of Consultation as well as IESO's Consultation Policy and Protocol.

Question: Is it anticipated that there will be higher costs associated to the consumer (in this scenario, First Nation communities and community members specifically) if these new lines get built (i.e. increase electricity bills or taxes)? If so, what is the estimated cost increase and in what areas?

Recommendation: Grand Council Treaty #3 (GCT3) needs to be directly involved in this study moving forward. To date, GCT3 has only received a single email from the IESO Indigenous Relations Team on Nov 29, 2024 with respect to this study. Since this study is occurring within Treaty #3, the IESO should be engaging directly with GCT3 throughout the entirety of the study and providing regular updates. In addition to this, GCT3 is requesting capacity support from IESO to assist in this study – staff time to review documents; attending meetings & webinars; training & education; field / site visits; professional fees; etc... For example, GCT3 staff would benefit from IESO training on how IRRP's, forecasts/demands, assumptions, scenarios are created & calculated, as well as how IESO will be conducting the North of Dryden Addendum Study, step by step.

Question: GCT3 would like to see a more in-depth explanation of IESO's forecasting predictions. Why does IESO assume all mines in northwestern Ontario will get built? For example, the odds of a mineral deposit ever becoming a mine are very low, estimated to be about 1 in 10 000. (Exploration and Mining Guide for Aboriginal Communities, 2013, <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/mineralsmetals/files/pdf/abor-auto/mining-guide-eng.pdf>).

Question: Will the North of Dryden Addendum Study affect First Nations access to traditional fishing, hunting and gathering areas? What measures will be taken to protect and preserve the significant cultural heritage sites? There have been concerns mentioned in the meeting at the Best Western in Dryden on community consultation with communities outside of the affected area. For example, community member Stan Tom expressed that Naotkamegwaaning First Nation has traditional hunting and fishing grounds that overlap with the First Nation communities that are currently being consulted with. Therefore, based on the assertion of those rights, this community should be involved in the consultation processes and engagements as well.

Question: Will the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3 be involved in the decision-making process and benefit from this project? Concerns may arise with respect to fair compensation and revenue sharing. How can we work together to ensure that First Nation communities have a framework in place to mitigate the economic concerns and fair due process?

Question: Is there any Treaty #3 representation on the Northwest Technical Working Group? If not, why is this? Is IESO willing to fund a representative from Treaty #3 to be a part of this working group?

Question: IESO has stated that “regional electricity planning takes a 20-year outlook on every region in the province.” IESO has also stated that “due to emerging growth in the North of Dryden sub-region a local electricity infrastructure study has been initiated to address emerging local needs to ensure a reliable supply of electricity that supports local growth and economic development.” A Northwest Integrated Regional Resource Plan was created in 2023. What has happened in the last two years (2023 to 2025) to merit a North of Dryden Addendum Study in order to deal with this new “emerging growth?” Please list all of the contributing factors and explain in detail how they contribute to the overall need to upgrade electricity infrastructure.

Recommendation: In addition to IESO sending emails to First Nation communities and organizations as part of their consultation process, they should go a step further to ensure that consultation is “meaningful.” Face-to-face meetings with cultural protocols are the best way to engage with the Anishinaabe in Treaty #3. GCT3 holds Energy Symposiums throughout the territory where IESO could join and present. There are spring and fall Chief Assemblies as well where IESO could address all Chiefs and the questions and concerns that they may have.

Question: Please provide GCT3 with the Northwest Scoping Assessment Report.

Question: In the Northwest Region Integrated Region Resource Plan Appendices, it states, “Provincial/regional development plans and known private/First Nations developments were taken into account.” What known private/First Nations developments were taken into account, where did IESO get this data from and can they share it with GCT3? Were any other data sources taken into account for First Nation communities that are not listed in the appendices? Were First Nation communities and Tribal Councils contacted by the IESO?