

Northeast Electricity Planning

Engagement Plan

Background

This Engagement Plan outlines the background, objectives and proposed timelines to engage with communities and other interested parties in the development of the 2022 Northeast Bulk Plan.

Examples of the input the IESO is seeking to inform the Northeast Bulk Plan include:

- Information to inform the electricity forecast and needs of the region including details about economic development goals, projected growth and future plans particularly related to new industrial development or expansion of existing projects in Northeast Ontario
- Solutions to meet emerging electricity needs in Northeast Ontario

All interested parties are invited and encouraged to participate in this engagement initiative. Interested parties may include, but are not limited to, local municipalities, Indigenous and Métis communities, businesses, stakeholders and members of the general public.

This engagement plan may be subject to review and update as the process evolves.

ABOUT ELECTRICITY PLANNING

The IESO plans and prepares for Ontario's electricity needs by assessing electricity requirements for the power system of today and tomorrow as well as planning to ensure electricity will be available when and where it is needed. Bulk system planning addresses provincial electricity needs and considers the impacts of various factors on the electricity system, including policy directions, the supply/demand balance, operability requirements and others. It is an iterative process that must consider short-, medium- and long-range electricity needs as well as impacts on cost, reliability, the environment and others. Various planning reports are developed to inform this work including:

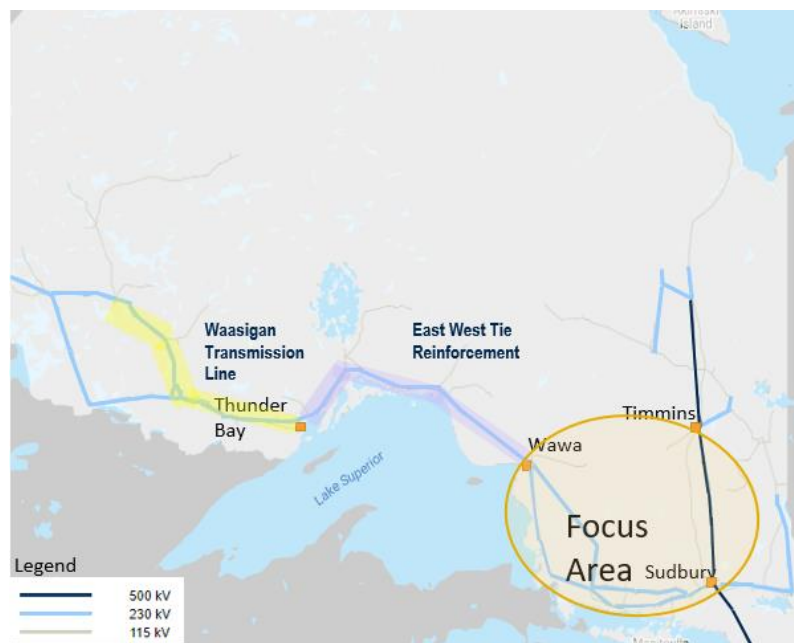
- [Reliability Outlook](#): Published quarterly, this report assesses the adequacy and security of resources and transmission to meet Ontario's forecast demand. The summer and winter versions look five years forward, while the spring and fall versions look 18 months forward.
- [Annual Planning Outlook \(APO\)](#): Provides a 20-year forecast for Ontario's electricity system, including projected electricity demand, a resource adequacy assessment, transmission considerations, and performance indicators, such as an emissions outlook. It also identifies the province's energy and capacity needs.
- [Annual Acquisition Report](#): Translates planning and operational information into a series of procurement requirements, while looking at the province's needs over a variety of timeframes.

ELECTRICITY PLANNING IN NORTHEAST ONTARIO

Northeast Ontario lies north of Lake Huron and east of Lake Superior, stretching from the French River and Manitoulin Island in the south, to Timmins, Temiskaming Shores and Cochrane in the North. The northernmost communities include Attawapiskat, Fort Albany and Moosonee, and to the east it lies along the Quebec border, and to the west, it includes the communities of Chapleau, Foleyet and Kapuskasing. Nearly 90 local municipalities within the districts of Algoma, Sudbury, Cochrane, Temiskaming, Nipissing and Manitoulin, and several Indigenous and Métis communities are encompassed within Northeast Ontario (see Appendix for full list). The Trans Canada Highway cuts across the southern portion connecting Sudbury and North Bay, while Highway 11 is the main thoroughfare travelling north through the region.

From an electricity planning perspective, Northeast Ontario is comprised of four unique planning regions (North & East of Sudbury, East Lake Superior, North of Moosonee and Sudbury/Algoma) and consists of two radial 115 kV interconnection points with Quebec. There are four transmitters and eight local electricity distributors serving Northeast Ontario (see Appendix for full list).

The IESO's [2020 APO](#) identified constraints with delivering supply resources from Northern Ontario to the rest of the province, followed by the [2021 APO](#) that identified the need for approximately 400 MW of additional capacity in Northeast Ontario starting in 2029, coinciding with the connection of new industrial loads. Substantial government support is being provided for decarbonization initiatives that would promote intensification of electricity use (e.g. electric arc furnaces), resulting in a potentially large increase in industrial electricity use.



2022 Northeast Bulk Plan

The IESO is leading the development of the Northeast Bulk Plan that will address the supply gap identified in the APO and examine forecasted constraints under various electricity supply and demand conditions – including specific large load connection scenarios, investigate reinforcement options, and identify the nature, magnitude and timing for when the implementation of solutions would be required. A major focus of this plan is to address the limitation of facilities between the City of Sudbury and Town of Wawa to meet future capacity and deliverability requirements and provide recommendations to maintain reliability of supply to the region over the next 20 years. This plan will:

- Ensure a reliable supply to Northeast Ontario
- Investigate cost-effective ways of removing constraints on the existing hydro generation in the north
- Implement a phased approach to addressing needs to align with developments, market trends and policies

More details can be found on the Northeast Bulk Plan [engagement webpage](#).

ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The objective of this engagement plan is to ensure that interested communities, stakeholders and interested parties understand the scope of the Northeast Bulk Plan and are in a position to provide input into the development of the document. Input will be sought to ensure the plan:

- Aligns with emerging needs
- Incorporates options to meet the growing electricity demand in Northeast Ontario
- Ensures a reliable source of electricity to Northeast Ontario over the next 20 years.

Through the planned initiatives to engage communities, stakeholders and interested parties, the IESO will seek input on:

- Economic development, growth and expansions
- Plans and projects that may have an impact on electricity demand (e.g. electrification, large incremental loads connecting to the system, significant energy projects such as a large transmission-connected battery storage facility, etc.)
- Options for addressing emerging electricity needs, including non-wires alternatives (e.g., Distributed Energy Resources) and local support and interest for developing those options in the near- (five year), medium- (10 year) and long-term (20 year)
- Recommendations to be implemented following plan completion

Topics out of scope for discussion include:

- Projects and plans already underway as part of other electricity planning initiatives
- Policy-level decisions or direction
- Existing program rules

INTERESTED PARTIES

Input into the development of the Northeast Bulk Plan is encouraged and welcomed from any community member or interested stakeholders, however, those that may be particularly interested include:

- Municipalities (e.g., planning, sustainability, climate change and economic development staff)
- Indigenous and Métis communities
- Local Distribution Companies
- Consumer groups and associations (e.g., community/resident associations, business improvement areas, home builders' associations, etc.)
- Industry associations (e.g. Ontario Mining Association)
- Academia and research organizations (e.g., colleges and universities)
- Environmental groups and associations
- Other public sector organizations (e.g., hospitals and school boards)
- Energy service providers
- Generators

The IESO will also conduct targeted outreach to specific communities and stakeholders where specific local needs and issues need further investigation. The content and outcome of these discussions will be shared through the other activities that will be undertaken as part of this engagement initiative.

APPROACH AND METHODS FOR DEVELOPING THE PLAN

Any engagement with the community and interested stakeholders will be conducted in accordance with the IESO's [Engagement Principles](#).

This is a public engagement process. Materials will be posted on the [dedicated webpage](#). In addition, any information/input supplied by interested parties will be posted (with consent).

Input will be collected from interested parties through a number of different channels, including face-to-face meetings, webinars, information sessions, conference calls and/or written feedback. The IESO will consider all relevant input and illustrate how feedback was considered in the production of the final recommendations.

This engagement will be supported by:

- Public engagement to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to provide input in the development of the Northeast Bulk Plan. Details will be posted on the engagement webpage
- Targeted outreach and discussions with specific communities and stakeholders, where necessary. A summary of any discussions will be shared as part of the final report.

PROPOSED ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE

Date	Event/Objective	Expected Actions/Notes
March 31, 2022	Launch Northeast Bulk Plan engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register to attend public webinar #1
April 26, 2022	Public Webinar #1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide update on planning activities underway • Summarize study scope, identified needs and potential solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek input on key considerations and additional factors in studying needs and potential options • Post feedback and IESO response to feedback, including rationale
May 17, 2022	Feedback due for Public Webinar #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback posted
Q3 2022	Public Webinar #2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of options analysis and draft plan recommendations • Discuss considerations for medium- to long-term planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek input on options analysis and draft plan recommendations • Post feedback and IESO response to feedback, including rationale
Q3 2022	Finalize Northeast Bulk Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post final report • Close engagement • Conduct survey on engagement process

Appendix

Northeast Ontario is comprised of several local municipalities, Indigenous and Métis communities:

Local municipalities:

- District of Algoma: Blind River, Bruce Mines, Dubreuilville, Elliot Lake, Hilton Beach, Hilton, Hornepayne, Huron Shores, Jocelyn, Johnson, Laird, MacDonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Add'l, Plummer Additional, Prince, Sault Ste. Marie, Spanish, St. Joseph, Tarbutt & Tarbutt Additional, North Shore, Thessalon, Wawa and White River
- District of Cochrane: Black River-Matheson, Cochrane, Fauquier-Strickland, Hearst, Iroquois Falls, Kapuskasing, Mattice-Val Cote, Moonbeam, Moosonee, Opatatika, Smooth Rock Falls, Timmins and Val Rita-Harty
- District of Manitoulin: Assiginack, Billings, Burpee & Mills, Central Manitoulin, Cockburn Island, Gordon/Barrie Island, Gore Bay, Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands and Tehkummah
- District of Nipissing: Bonfield, Calvin, Chisholm, East Ferris, Mattawa, Mattawan, North Bay, Papineau-Cameron, South Algonquin, Temagami and West Nipissing
- District of Sudbury: Baldwin, Chapleau, Espanola, French River, Greater Sudbury, Killarney, Marstay-Warren, Nairn & Hyman, Sables-Spanish Rivers and St. Charles
- District of Temiskaming: Armstrong, Brethour, Casey, Chamberlain Charlton and Dack, Cobalt, Coleman, Englehart, Ewanturel, Gauthier, Harley, Harris, Hilliard, Hudson, James, Kerns, Kirkland Lake, Larder Lake, Latchford, Matachewan, McGarry, Temiskaming Shores and Thornloe

Indigenous communities:

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Attawapiskat First Nation, Aundeck-Omni-Kaning, Batchewana First Nation, Brunswick House First Nation, Chapleau Cree First Nation, Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation, Constance Lake First Nation, Dokis First Nation, Flying Post First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Garden River First Nation, Henvey Inlet First Nation, Kashechewan First Nation, M'Chigeeng First Nation, Matachewan First Nation, Mattagami First Nation, Michipicoten First Nation, Missanabie Cree, Mississauga No. 8 First Nation, Moose Cree First Nation, Nipissing First Nation, Sagamok Anishnawbek, Serpent River First Nation, Sheguindah First Nation, Sheshegwaning First Nation, Taykwa Tagamou First Nation, Temagami First Nation, Thessalon First Nation, Wahgoshig First Nation, Wahnapiatae First Nation, Whitefish River First Nation, Wikwemikong Unceded Territory and Zhiibaahaasing First Nation

Métis Communities:

MNO Chapleau Métis Council, MNO Greenstone Métis Council, MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council, MNO Mattawa Métis Council, MNO North Bay Métis Council, MNO North Channel Métis Council (Blind River), MNO Northern Lights Métis Council (Cochrane), MNO Sudbury Métis Council, MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council (Terrace Bay), MNO Temiskaming Métis Council and MNO Timmins Métis Council