

# Feedback Form

## Northeastern Ontario Electricity Planning Webinar #2 – September 13, 2022

### Feedback Provided by:

Name: Carl A. Huslig

Title: Sr. Consultant

Organization: Grid Reliability Consulting, LLC

Email: [REDACTED]

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

Following the September 13, 2022 engagement webinar, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the options considered to meet emerging needs and provide a foundation for future growth in Northeast Ontario and draft recommendations. The webinar presentation and recording can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).

**Please submit feedback to [engagement@ieso.ca](mailto:engagement@ieso.ca) by October 4, 2022.** If you wish to provide confidential feedback, please submit as a separate document, marked "Confidential". Otherwise, to promote transparency, feedback that is not marked "Confidential" will be posted on the engagement webpage.

Topic	Feedback
<p>What feedback do you have regarding the draft recommendations?</p>	<p>Grid Reliability Consulting are technical consultants to Canada Nickel Company for providing a cost-effective transmission solution to what will be the world’s fourth largest nickel mine. As we have interacted with the IESO planning staff, we have concluded that the Northeast Ontario transmission grid is not robust. We have to design for Load Rejection Schemes which are designed to keep the transmission grid reliable when it is not robust.</p> <p>Grid Reliability Consulting has over 100 years of experience in the transmission industry. We have participated in plans that work and we have participated in plans that were defeated by stakeholders due to costs or the lack of robustness. As we have participated in the Northeast Ontario planning processes, we would like to recommend the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 500 kV solutions between Porcupine and Wawa</li> <li>2. 500 kV from Hanmer to Porcupine</li> <li>3. 500 kV from Porcupine and Pinard.</li> </ol> <p>A robust 500 kV network will provide the transmission system that all Ontarians are seeking. It will provide transmission capacity for new renewable generation resources, meet the reliability needs of all Ontarians, and be robust for future load growth.</p>
<p>What other information should be considered in finalizing the recommended solutions and final report?</p>	<p>Consistent with our comments pertaining to other planning initiatives, Grid Reliability Consulting would recommend that the IESO focus on recommending solutions (transmission projects) that build a robust high voltage transmission grid for Ontario. Proposing solutions that are not robust but are recommended just because of a perception that the industry cannot meet expected deadlines is very short sided. If a solution is needed by a certain date, propose the robust solution and let the industry react. Ontarians deserve a robust but cost-effective transmission grid. Constructing lower voltage solutions when higher voltage solutions are available is not cost-effective in the long haul.</p>

Topic	Feedback
How can the IESO continue to engage with the community as these recommendations are implemented, or to help prepare for future bulk and regional planning work?	Grid Reliability Consulting has been impressed with how the IESO planning staff performs its engagement with the IESO stakeholders. As the number of stakeholders increases, this outreach and communication will be critical for successful planning initiatives.

## General Comments/Feedback

1. **QUESTION:** In the most recent webinar, there is a specific reference to the fact that “*The recommended solutions can improve the reliability to supply to loads located around the Timmins area*” yet we fail to understand how this plan satisfies that objective.

During periods of low output from the northern hydroelectric facilities and when the 500 kV line between Sudbury and Timmins is unavailable, how will the new 230 kV line between Timmins and Wawa be able to supply the substantial load in the Timmins area when the existing transmission facilities between Mississagi and Wawa are apparently fully committed to supplying the East-West Tie?

**COMMENT:** Grid Reliability Consulting believes that the IESO’s plan for the reinforcement of the northeast system should include a new 500kV line between Sudbury and Timmins to **properly** secure the load in the Timmins area. Anything less is essentially a band-aid solution.

The long-overdue reinforcement of the 500 kV system into Timmins would then provide the basis for a strong and direct transmission corridor to connect with the East-West Tie.

2. **COMMENT:** For the Indigenous Communities in Northeast Ontario, one of the stated objectives of the IESO’s plan for Northeast Ontario is the “Enablement of economic growth and development (as) a key priority”. Yet the development of new, sustainable generation in the north is currently prohibited because of the lack of transmission capacity on the 500 kV transmission lines between Fraserdale (Pinard) and Sudbury.

We are therefore very disappointed that the IESO’s plan does not include an additional 500 kV transmission line between Fraserdale and Sudbury to allow the development of these resources and also to improve the reliability of the supply to our communities.

3. **QUESTION:** The IESO in its presentation has indicated that the schedule for completing the new construction is challenging [*“There (is) a risk that the required expansion (cannot) be built in time to supply the expected growth scenario by the expected timeline of 2029”*]

With the possibility of a near-term economic downturn and an associated reduction in growth, will the IESO maintain its current schedule for completing the components of this plan to ensure that the system will be able to meet the inevitable increase in growth that will follow in the long-term?

4. **QUESTION:** The stated rationale for building a new 500 kV line between Hanmer TS and Mississagi TS rather than upgrading the existing 230 kV line to 500 kV operation is that it will be a “challenge to take the necessary outages to implement the conversion of circuit X74P”.

Rather than building a brand new 500 kV line between Hanmer TS and Mississagi TS, wouldn't it be much better to build a second line between Porcupine TS and Wawa TS where it would be much more effective? And once a second line is in service, wouldn't it then be much easier to obtain the necessary outages to convert X74P to operation at 500 kV, should this be required?