



St. Lawrence Region

Scoping Assessment Outcome Report

April 13, 2026



Introduction

To keep pace with the rapid growth and economic development in the St. Lawrence region, the St. Lawrence Technical Working Group (TWG) is implementing a streamlined regional planning process. Specifically, the Scoping Assessment stage, which has traditionally taken 90 days to complete, will be conducted in an accelerated manner, enabling the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to move directly into the next phase of the planning process. This approach reflects feedback received through stakeholder engagement and aligns with the government priorities around economic development.

Engagement continues to remain central to the regional planning process. We are committed to working collaboratively with Indigenous communities, municipalities, economic developers, and consumers, each bringing unique perspectives and expertise to shaping Ontario's energy.

The process will be initiated with the release of this Scoping Assessment Outcome Report, which concludes that a single Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) covering the entire St. Lawrence region will be undertaken, commencing on April 14, 2026.

Technical Working Group (TWG)

The Scoping Assessment was carried out with the TWG, which consist of planning representative/s from the following organizations:

- Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)
- Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One Transmission)
- Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One Distribution)
- Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.
- Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.
- Fortis Ontario Inc.

Strategic Context and Rationale

The St. Lawrence region is experiencing robust electricity needs, driven by:

- Connection request across the region.
- Economic development across the region.

In response, the IESO expedited transition to an IRRP for the St. Lawrence region, enabling faster response to the emerging needs and aligning with stakeholder expectations and government objectives.

Commitment to Engagement

Engagement continues to remain central to the IESO's planning process. We are committed to working collaboratively with Indigenous communities, municipalities, economic developers, and consumers, each bringing unique perspectives and expertise to shaping Ontario's energy.

The IRRP process will continue to include:

- Webinars and targeted meetings
- Broad communications
- Ongoing opportunities for feedback and dialogue

The IESO acknowledges that the St. Lawrence region is the traditional territory of many nations, and is committed to ongoing, meaningful dialogue with Indigenous communities to inform long-term planning in the St. Lawrence region and across Ontario. To raise awareness about the regional planning cycle in the St. Lawrence region, and invite participation in the engagement process, the IESO's engagement efforts include outreach to Indigenous communities throughout the development of the plan, including:

- Alderville First Nation
- Algonquins of Ontario
- Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation
- Beausoleil First Nation
- Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation
- Chippewas of Rama First Nation
- Curve Lake First Nation
- Hiawatha First Nation
- Huron-Wendat Nation
- Kawartha Nishnawbe First Nation
- Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
- Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte First Nation
- Métis Nation of Ontario.

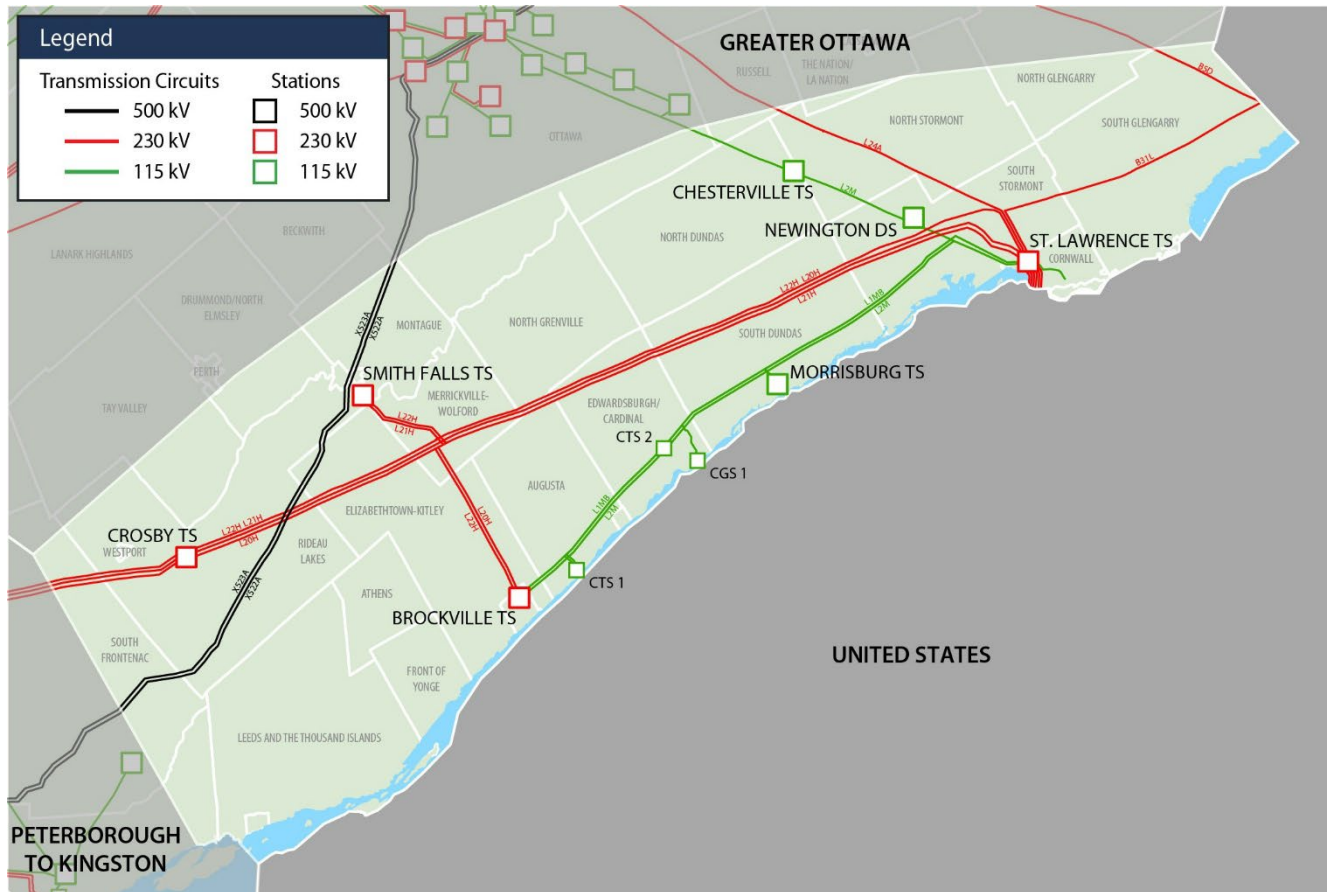
Overview of the Region and Background

The St. Lawrence region covers the southeastern part of Ontario bordering the St. Lawrence River. The region starts east of Gananoque and extends to the inter-provincial boundary with Quebec in the East as shown in **Figure 1**.

A project was recently completed to help improve reliability in the region:

1. St. Lawrence Phase Shifting Transformers (PS33 and PSR34) Replacement – Completed and in service in August 2023.

Figure 1 | St Lawrence Region Map



Scoping Assessment Outcome Report Details

This Scoping Assessment Outcome Report is part of the Ontario Energy Board’s (OEB or Board) regional planning process. The Board endorsed the Planning Process Working Group’s Report to the Board in May 2013 and formalized the regional planning process and timelines through changes to the Transmission System Code and Distribution System Code in August 2013.

The third cycle of regional planning for the St. Lawrence region was accelerated and began with the Needs Assessment (NA) phase in January 2026. The Needs Assessment (NA) is the first step in the regional planning process and was carried out by the Technical Working Group (TWG) led by Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One). The Needs Assessment¹ was finalized on March 30, 2026.

As part of the Scoping Assessment, the TWG reviewed the nature and timing of all the known needs specified during the NA phase in the region to determine the most appropriate planning approach to address them. The planning approaches considered include:

- **An Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP)** led by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) – through which a greater range of options, including non-wires alternatives, are to be considered and/or closer coordination with communities and stakeholders is required;
- **A Regional Infrastructure Plan (RIP)** led by the transmitter – which considers more straightforward wires only option with limited engagement; or
- **A local Plan (LP)** undertaken by the transmitter and affected Local Distribution Company (LDC) – for which no further regional coordination is required.

Some of the needs identified through the Needs Assessment were determined not to require further regional coordination and will instead proceed to local planning, as shown in **Table 1**. However, most of the identified needs were found to have interdependencies with other system assets or needs, or to present potential opportunities for solutions involving a combination of wires and non-wires alternatives. As a result, the needs identified in **Table 2** will be included in the scope of the IRRP.

Table 1 | Needs determined in the NA that Do Not Require Further Regional Coordination

#	Need	Need Type	Need Description
1	St. Lawrence TS	Asset Renewal	115kV breaker replacement based on asset condition
2	Brockville TS	Asset Renewal	T1/T2 transformer like-for-like replacement based on asset condition
3	Brockville TS	System Reliability and Operation	Installation of new LV Capacitor bank to mitigate the voltage issues on 44 kV bus

¹ 2026 St. Lawrence Needs Assessment, Hydro One ([link](#))

Table 2 | Needs Determined in the NA as Requiring Further Regional Coordination

#	Need	Need Type	Need Description
1	Chesterville TS	Station Capacity	Projected to reach capacity in 2035 under normal growth and in 2033 under high growth scenario
2	Brockville TS	Station Capacity	Projected to reach capacity in 2032 under high growth scenario
3	L2M	Supply Capacity	Projected to reach capacity in summer 2034, and in 2031 under summer high growth scenario for the loss of L1MB
4	LxH	Supply Capacity	Under certain generation patterns and dispatch scenarios, some sections of the circuit may result in overload based on existing loading conditions
5	Voltage on L2M	System Reliability and Operation	Voltage issues identified for high growth scenarios under L1MB contingency in mid-term
6	L20H/L22H	Load Restoration	Loss of both L20H and L22H result in a complete loss of supply to Brockville station
7	L2M/L1MB	Load Restoration	Loss of both L2M and L1MB result in a complete loss of supply to Chesterville TS, Morrisburg TS, Newington DS, CTS-1, and CTS-2

Conclusion

This Scoping Assessment concludes that a single IRRP covering the entire St. Lawrence region will be undertaken, with work commencing on April 14, 2026. The IRRP is expected to be completed within an 18-month timeframe, enabling timely identification and resolution of electricity needs across the region. As technical studies and engagement progress, additional needs may be identified and incorporated. The expedited planning approach enables the IESO to respond more quickly to regional and provincial electricity needs, supporting economic development and aligning with stakeholder and government priorities.

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