



Meeting Date: May 22, 2024

Prepared By: Michael Di Lullo, CAO

Submitted by:

Report No: CAO-19-2024

Subject: IESO Central-West Bulk Plan Findings

Recommendation:

THAT Report CAO-19-2024 re: IESO Central-West Bulk Plan Findings be received for information.

Purpose:

To provide council the findings from the report prepared by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) for the central-west corridor region.

Background:

This document attached to this Report describes the results of the Central-West Bulk Plan (the “Plan”) that the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has undertaken to assess the reliability of the bulk transmission system in the Central-West area.

This area stretches roughly from the Region of Waterloo and City of Hamilton in the east, to the City of Sarnia and City of Windsor in the west and Middlesex Centre/County fall within this catchment area.

The Central-West area encompasses a large portion of southwestern Ontario, including the West, Southwest, Niagara and Bruce electricity Zones,¹ and contains all the high voltage levels that operate in Ontario: 500 kV, 230 kV and 115 kV.

Analysis:

The purpose of the Central-West bulk study is to:

- Ensure continued, reliable bulk supply to the London Area region, in light of the Firm Load and potential economic development in the region, including consideration of the load connection configuration as it impacts the bulk system – the focus of this Plan;
- Proactively investigate a range of potential growth scenarios, across the five regions of interest² within southwestern Ontario, to inform future plans and possible system reinforcements if/when large new loads materialize – considered in this Plan, with further bulk or regional analysis identified, as required.

The Report outlines growth scenarios, recommendations and constraints based on service demands from now until 2030. For the London-Middlesex Region, it is noted that more service requirements are needed to fulfill energy demands as we continue to experience economic growth to this area.

Proposed solutions are noted that are cost-effective to mitigate the demand growth risk and preserve system capability in the future. These may include investing in reconstructing transmission circuits of dynamic voltage devices for the London-Middlesex region.

Financial Implications:

N/A

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Sustainable Infrastructure and Services

Informing Council of findings related to energy / utility is important as the Municipality continues to plan for future growth and economic opportunities. Having a general understanding will assist as we move forward with our infrastructure plans in Middlesex Centre.

Attachments:

Appendix – IESO Central-West Bulk Plan, dated April 18, 2024