



January 29, 2024

Iain Angus
Co-Chair – Northwest Energy Task Force
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Thunder Bay, ON
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Hydro One Networks Inc.

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Delivered via email

Mr. Angus,

Thank you for sharing the information and analysis regarding the need for new transmission infrastructure north of Dryden. We recognize the significant benefits new transmission can bring to Northern Ontario communities, particularly in meeting the needs of existing and future customers, supporting economic growth and connecting remote communities. We are committed to working closely with local communities to ensure both short-term and long-term benefits while also collaborating with various stakeholders, including the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), to develop plans for transmission improvements.

In 2024, we completed a feasibility study for the north of Dryden region in response to customer requests. The study recommended reinforcing the transmission system with a new 230kV infrastructure to support current and future needs, and improving reliability north of Dryden to the Ear Falls, Red and Pickle Lake areas. We have shared these findings with the IESO and expect their regional planning update by summer 2025. In the meantime, Hydro One is engaging with Indigenous communities and preparing for early development, so that work can begin as soon as decisions are made.

Additionally, after working closely with partner communities, including several First Nations, in November 2024, we completed a study for the Greenstone region, recommending the reinforcement of the transmission system with 230kV infrastructure to meet growing demand, connect renewable energy, and support future expansion. These findings have been shared with the IESO. As a result of this collaborative work, on January 28, 2025 Premier Doug Ford, Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development and Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation, and Aroland First Nation Chief Sonny Gagnon, signed a Shared Prosperity Agreement to drive economic growth and build and upgrade infrastructure in Northern Ontario.

Looking ahead, the next cycle of regional planning for the Northwest region will begin in mid-2025. We are open to discussing the needs outlined in your letter and aligning our efforts with the IESO's bulk transmission planning process. By focusing on areas north of Dryden, where the need is most urgent, we can ensure the right steps are taken to support both the immediate and long-term needs of the region.

Hydro One is dedicated to ensuring a reliable electricity system and supporting economic development in Northern Ontario. Alex Moskalyk, Director, Municipal and Community Relations will reach out directly to yourself to schedule a follow-up meeting. We look forward to working together to better understand the region's future needs and determine the best steps forward to support a better and brighter future for Northern Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Lebeter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Lebeter
President & CEO

CC: Alex Moskalyk, Director Municipal and Community Relations