

Northwest Energy Task Force

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ENERGY TASK FORCE

Andreea Nicoara

December 3, 2024

Supervisor, Regional and Community Engagement
Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)
120 Adelaide Street West, Suite 1600, Toronto, ON M5H 1T1

Re: Identified new loads in the North of Dryden Sub-Region

Dear Ms. Nicoara

Further to our recent exchange with your team during the virtual meeting with the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association we are pleased to advise you that we have completed our analysis of the anticipated increase in load for the North of Dryden sub-region.

As in the past we have relied on the public documents submitted by each mining interest in which they identify a range of details about the proposed mine including the electrical load they will require power for.

Unlike previous reports which solely focused on the needs of the sub-regional planning area this time we have identified the specific grid services that the mines would connect to. We believe this approach provides a more realistic indication of the load demands that need to be met.

We have attached a spreadsheet that contains all of the proposed mines for the Dryden sub-regional planning area.

However, it is important that we summarize the projected load by the line or TS that the mine would prefer to connect to:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Ear Falls-Red Lake via E2R by 2028 | 232.7 MW |
| Pickle Lake via E1C by 2030 | 87 MW |
| Sioux Lookout by 2032 | 180 MW |
| Dryden TS by 2029 | 72.6 MW |

The projected total for the Dryden area and its north is 612.3 MW by 2032.

We note with interest that the IESO's current projected increase by 2032 is approximately 175 MW¹ over the existing load. We are clearly far apart!

It is clear that the best solution to the impending and significant load in the North of Dryden area is the extension of the 230V Waasigan Power bulk transmission line further North to Ear Falls. This will not only ensure that the capacity is there to support the future growth but will also ensure greater supply stability for the communities of Red Lake and Ear Falls.

It is important that the IESO proposes a solution that will ensure that the necessary new transmission lines and/or modifications to existing lines are in place to meet the new load demands in a timely manner (or distributed generation facilities constructed adjacent to the proposed mines).

In addition, we are now concerned that the soon to be constructed Wassigan Bulk Transmission line may not have sufficient capacity to meet the significant amount of new load North of Dryden.

We are also concerned that the Watay Power line will not have sufficient capacity to provide power to the anticipated Frontier Lithium- Pakeagama Lake mine, without creating a reduction in power to the communities it was designed to serve.

Finally, we are concerned with the proposed schedule for determining how best to meet the needs of the area. As noted in our attached spreadsheet, it is crucial that a decision on improvements to this area are made quickly. Waiting for a year will push back and development for a number of years and may force the proposed mines to opt for other forms of energy including carbon-based fuels which would go against Ontario's desire to be a 100% carbon free energy system.

We look forward to your responses to the above issues as well as our continuing engagement with you on the North of Dryden IRRP Addendum.

Respectfully submitted

Yours truly



Iain Angus

Co-Chair



Jim Vezina

Co-Chair

Copy to Wendy Landry, President, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association

¹ Slide 13 IESO Presentation to NOMA November 27, 2024