

Project Need

The Changing Landscape for Electricity Planning in Ontario's Northwest

Northwestern Ontario (the Northwest) is an expansive region with substantial resource development and other growth potential. New and expanded industrial activities are expected to drive electricity demand growth in the region in the coming decades. At the same time, recent changes to the electricity supply in the region, including the transition away from coal-fired generation, mean that there is a need to ensure reliable and adequate electricity supply in the next 10-20 years and for decades to come.

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), formerly the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), is responsible for long-term electricity planning in the province. Currently, the IESO forecasts a need for around 150 megawatts (MW) of new supply in northwestern Ontario by 2020, with additional supply needed over the subsequent decade. To meet this need, the IESO has recommended development of the East-West Tie Expansion Project.

The East-West Tie Expansion Project will reinforce the link between northwestern Ontario and the rest of the province, providing reliable and cost-effective electricity supply to support future growth and development in the Northwest.

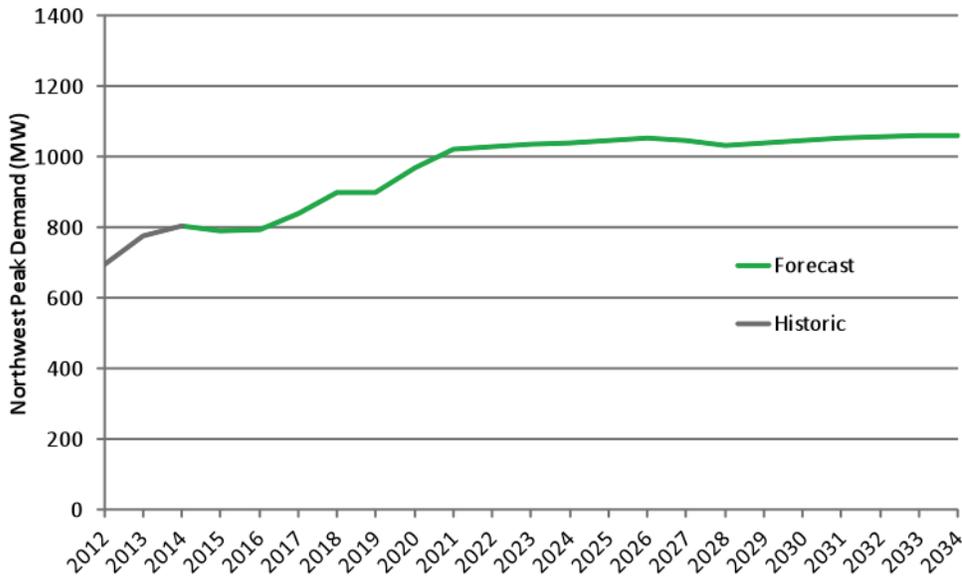


Source: IESO

Future electricity demand growth in the Northwest is expected to be driven by:

- Growth in the mining industry
- Revitalization in the forestry industry and pipeline conversions
- Connection of remote communities

Forecast Electricity Demand Growth in the Northwest



Source: IESO

The East-West Tie Expansion Will Provide:

- Capacity to meet expected electricity demand growth in northwestern Ontario
- Two-way power flow across the tie, allowing more efficient use of generation resources
- Improved electricity system reliability, flexibility and operation

How we got here

2010

- Government of Ontario identifies the East-West Tie Expansion as a priority project

2011

- Ontario Power Authority (OPA) report identifies the need and recommends the East-West Tie Expansion
- Ontario Energy Board begins process to select a transmitter to develop the project

2013

- NextBridge Infrastructure designated to develop the project
- NextBridge kicks off project development
- OPA report updates the need and continues to recommend EWT Expansion

2014

- NextBridge initiates Environmental Assessment (EA)
- OPA report further updates the need and continues to recommend EWT Expansion
- MOECC approves EA Terms of Reference
- OPA letter to OEB recommends revising the project in-service date from 2018 to 2020

2015

- OPA merges with IESO*
- OEB approves revised schedule targeting 2020 in-service date
- IESO report updates the need and continues to recommend the East-West Tie Expansion

2016

- On March 2, Ontario declares that the construction of the East-West Tie Line Project is needed as a priority project

* On January 1, 2015, the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) merged with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to create a new organization that combines the OPA and IESO mandates.