

NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Northwest Region

September 3rd, 2025

Northwest Region

Technical Working Group Members



Disclaimer

This Needs Assessment (“NA”) Report was prepared for the purpose of identifying potential needs in the Northwest and to recommend which needs a) do not require further regional coordination and can be directly addressed by developing a preferred plan as part of the NA phase and b) require further assessment and regional coordination. The results reported in this NA are based on the input and information provided by the Technical Working Group (“TWG”) for this region at the time. Updates may be made based on the best available information throughout the planning process.

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Summary

This is the 3rd cycle of Regional Planning for the Northwest Region. The previous Regional Planning cycle was completed in August 2023 with the publication of the Regional Infrastructure Plan (“RIP”) report. The Technical Working Group (“TWG”) consists of Atikokan Hydro Inc., Fort Frances Power Corp., Hydro One Transmission & Distribution, Independent Electricity System Operator, NextEra Energy Canada, Sioux Lookout Hydro, Synergy North, and Wataynikaneyap Power.

Based on load forecasts provided by Local Distribution Companies (“LDC”), existing directly connected customers, recent customer connection applications, information provided by regional municipalities, proactive groups, and existing government initiatives and strategies, the TWG recommends a comprehensive electrical plan for the region. In recognition of the distinctive, urgent and ever evolving demands of customers in the Northwest region – such as mining operation, data centers, forestry companies and large industrial manufacturers, and in accordance with the Transmission System Code (“TSC”), the TWG has agreed to begin the Scoping Assessment (“SA”) phase promptly, which will then lead into development of the Integrated Regional Resource Plan (“IRRP”) and finally completing the regional planning cycle with a RIP. To support this, the LDCs have already provided their respective 20-year forecast.

Broadly speaking, the needs are capacity and reliability in nature for all Northwest sub-regions. The IRRP will review the results of Waasigan Phase 1 & 2 against future system needs and will decide if further bulk studies are needed. The IRRP will also analyze wires and non-wires alternatives such as transmission, distribution, traditional generation, new energy resource technologies including Battery Energy Storage System (“BESS”), and demand side management strategies to meet the capacity and reliability needs in the region.

In summary, by starting the Scoping Assessment and advancing toward the IRRP, the TWG is taking critical, coordinated steps to ensure that the Northwest region’s growing and evolving energy needs are met with reliable, sustainable, and forward-looking solutions.

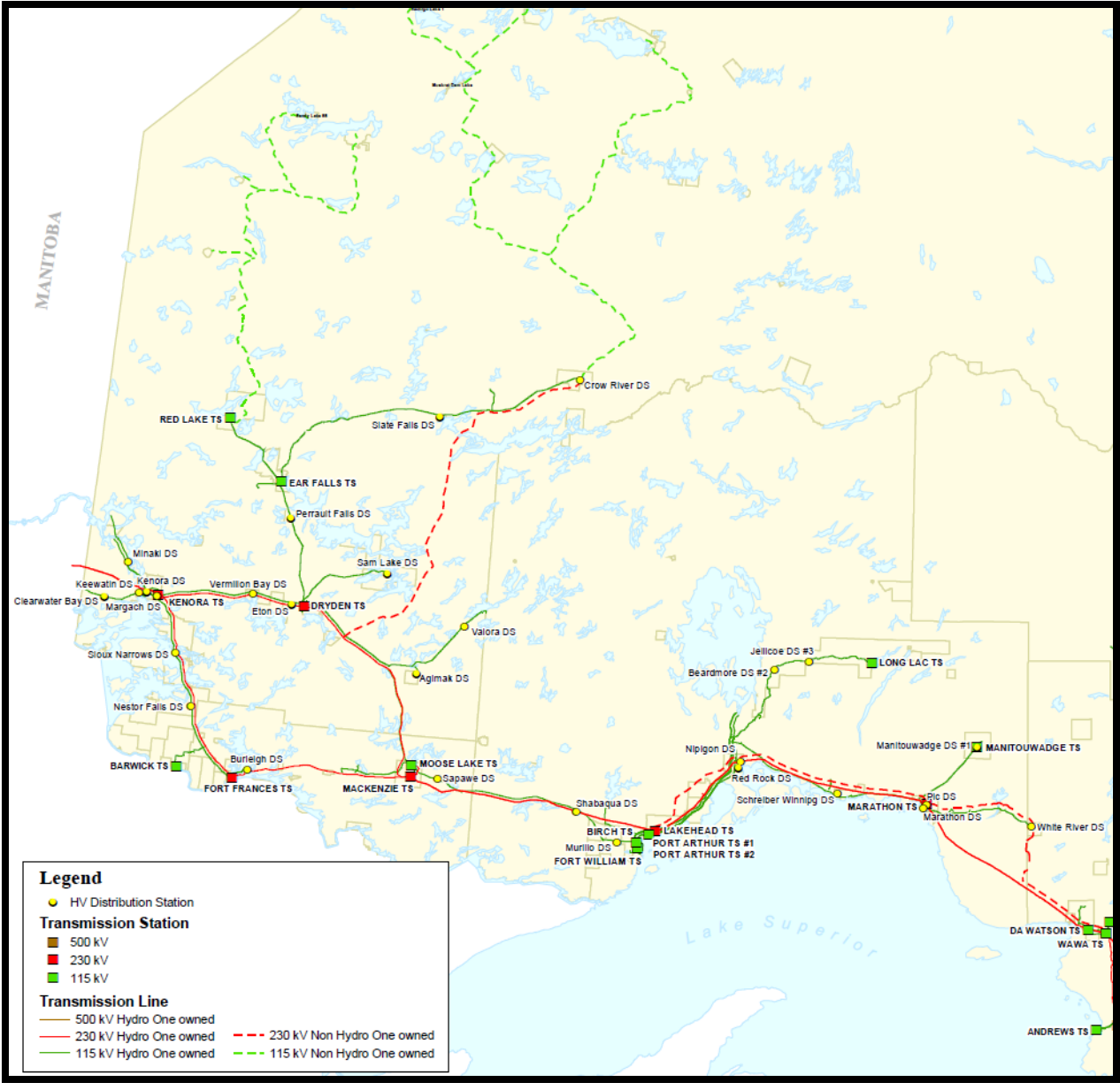


Fig. 1 – Overview of Northwest Region