
IESO Regional Planning Information and Data Release Guideline

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1. Introduction and Purpose

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is committed to making regional planning information and data available to support constructive stakeholder and community participation in the process. This commitment is consistent with the IESO's engagement principles, and the recommendations from the OEB's Regional Planning Process Advisory Group.¹

This guideline document outlines the types of regional planning information and data that the IESO makes available as part of the Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP). The specific data provided may vary from IRRP to IRRP, as this can depend on factors such as the nature and characteristics of system needs, the magnitude of planning decisions to be made, interest shown from stakeholders and communities, as well risks related to exposing individual customer information (e.g., revealing their current or future expected electrical usage) and system security vulnerabilities.

This guideline document will be reviewed and updated from time to time, as required, to reflect stakeholder and community feedback as well as other matters such as evolving system security risks.

2. Making Regional Planning Information and Data Available

This section describes the approach used by the IESO to make regional planning information and data available, as well as the categories of information, formats, descriptions, and timing of availability. There is flexibility within this approach to respond to specific requests for planning information, provided that it relates to the context of the plan and helps communities and stakeholders to better understand the specific planning issues in the region. The IESO generally relies on the latest information available and provides sources of information and data with the IRRP report. As a general principle, the IESO strives to make useful information available throughout the development of an IRRP to enable meaningful feedback to the process and decisions to be made.

2.1 Process for Providing Regional Planning Information and Data

Each regional plan has its own dedicated engagement webpage that houses all of the information for an IRRP while the plan is in development. The Ontario Energy Board requires an IRRP to be completed within 18 months following the determination that an IRRP is necessary. Public engagements are typically carried out at three major junctures during an IRRP: during development of a draft engagement plan and the regional load forecast; a second engagement on the defined needs and potential options; and a third engagement on the options evaluation and draft recommendations.

Following completion of an IRRP, the full report including all accompanying appendices and associated datasets are archived on the IESO's regional plan webpage. Each planning region or sub-region has its own webpage where this information is archived.

¹ RPPAG Report to the OEB – Recommendations to Improve Ontario's Regional Planning Process, available at <https://www.oeb.ca/>

2.2 Regional Planning Information and Data

Table 1 describes the categories of regional planning information and data and the format and timing in which it is typically made available during an IRRP.

Table 1 | Summary of Regional Planning Information and Data and Timing of Availability

Category	Format	Description of Data/Information	Timing of Availability
Regional Planning Dashboard	PDF	Provides a comprehensive overview and status update of the various regional planning activities across Ontario, including the planned engagements for the next two quarters	Updated biannually and available for download on the IESO website
Engagement plan	PDF	Describes number of engagements and topics to be discussed at each engagement; opportunity for stakeholders and communities to provide feedback on information and data	Draft engagement plan posted prior to the first IRRP engagement, the final engagement plan is published following a comment period
Planning assessment criteria	PDF	Technical requirements and performance criteria used to determine needs, including load supply, load security, load restoration, etc.	Referenced in the IRRP report; and available in the IESO's Market Rules & Manuals Library and at the NERC and NPCC websites
Load forecast	PDF	LDCs' methodologies for forecast development; and IESO methodologies for considering the contribution of energy efficiency savings and embedded generation resources	High-level summary provided at the first engagement to solicit input on load forecast; detailed methodologies are published with the IRRP report
Load forecast	Spreadsheet	Forecast annual station peak electricity demand (in megawatts), power factor assumptions; information is subject to redaction and/or aggregation to protect against identifying specific customer electricity usage	Overview of preliminary forecast delivered with first IRRP engagement; draft data published following engagement comment period; final dataset published with IRRP report

Category	Format	Description of Data/Information	Timing of Availability
Load forecast – energy efficiency	Spreadsheet	Forecast of annual peak demand reductions from energy efficiency (in megawatts), at a level of granularity consistent with the forecast annual station peak electricity demand	Provided with the forecast annual station peak electricity demand (draft data after the first engagement, and final data with the IRRP report)
Load forecast – embedded generation	Spreadsheet	Forecast of annual peak demand reductions from embedded generation resources (contracted embedded generation, in megawatts), at a level of granularity consistent with the forecast annual station peak electricity demand	Provided with the forecast annual station peak electricity demand (draft data after the first engagement, and final data with the IRRP report)
Historical demand	PDF and/or spreadsheet	Historic electricity demand data (in megawatts) – may be summer, winter, or both depending on peak load characteristics of the region, and may include select years and/or focus on select stations/areas; information is subject to redaction and/or aggregation to protect against identifying specific customer electricity usage	Data posted prior to the first IRRP webinar to solicit input on load forecast; and published with the IRRP report
Transmission end-of-life (EOL) information	PDF	Asset age data for major transmission facilities owned by Hydro One; a ten-year outlook of other transmission asset owner EOL information to be provided as part of the Needs Assessment at the outset of each regional planning cycle	Hydro One data is updated every five years and is available to interested stakeholders via the IESO website; a consolidated list of EOL information for all transmission asset owners will be updated annually

Category	Format	Description of Data/Information	Timing of Availability
Transmission system assumptions	PDF	Includes transmission facilities assumed in the IRRP analysis, such as new facilities and expected in-service dates, transmission infrastructure ratings (e.g., line conductor, transformer ratings, etc.), seasonality, etc.; some information may be redacted to mitigate potential system security risks	Facilities in scope of the IRRP and expected in-service dates are published in the Scoping Assessment Outcomes Report that precedes the IRRP, with additional detail published with the IRRP report
Resource assumptions	PDF	May include operational assumptions such as hydroelectric output, capacity factor assumptions, power factor assumed in the analysis, etc. Operational performance of individual facilities may be deemed commercially sensitive	General and/or aggregate assumptions by resource type are published with the IRRP report
Planning scenarios	PDF	Planning contingencies studied in the analysis; some contingencies and extreme events are subject to redaction to mitigate potential system security risks	Summary published with the IRRP report
System needs	PDF	Summary of needs identified, timing and location of needs, including any applicable capacity requirements, EOL considerations, load restoration and supply security needs, etc.	Presented in material provided in advance of the second IRRP engagement about the needs identified in the region; and published with the IRRP report
Non-wires options evaluation	PDF	Energy efficiency potential for areas with system needs, if applicable as a feasible option (annual and/or cumulative potential, in kilowatts and/or megawatts); sources of energy efficiency information	Published with the IRRP report Preliminary information provided and discussed at the third engagement with opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback; and published with the IRRP report

Category	Format	Description of Data/Information	Timing of Availability
Non-wires options evaluation	Spreadsheet and/or PDF	Detailed characterization of system needs, i.e., load and energy not served, for areas with system needs where non-wires options are feasible (for select years within the study period, in megawatts); information is subject to redaction and/or aggregation to protect against identifying specific customer electricity usage	Summary provided with engagement materials prior to the third engagement, where options are presented and discussed; draft data provided following comment period; and final data published with the IRRP report
Economic assessment assumptions	PDF	Cost of each alternative considered, expressed in terms of Net Present Value; and including assumptions such as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year in which cash flows are expressed • Discount and inflation rates (in percent) • Life expectancy of the options considered (in years) • Exchange rates • Identification of the least cost resource for a region 	Preliminary information provided and discussed at the third IRRP engagement on solution options, with an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback; and final assumptions are published with the IRRP report

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