

Toronto Scoping Assessment Webinar

Feedback

The IESO hosted a public webinar for regional planning in Toronto, on February 16, 2023. The purpose of the webinar was to seek input on the draft Scoping Assessment Outcome report and the most appropriate planning approach going forward to meet the needs. The presentation material and recorded webinar are available on the [engagement webpage](#).

This document summarizes feedback received under the following key themes:

- Study Considerations
- Future Engagements

The IESO appreciates the input, which will be considered as the Toronto Region Scoping Assessment Outcome report is finalized. Feedback was received from the following parties and the full submissions can be viewed on the engagement webpage:

Feedback Received

- [City of Toronto](#)
- [DGG5 Advising](#)

Theme 1- Study Considerations

Feedback Provider: City of Toronto

Feedback: The IESO and LDCs should consider future modelled extreme weather driven by climate change when upgrading components of the electricity grid, such as transformers to ensure future robustness and resiliency. The costs of the climate change adaptation measures will need to be understood and approved by the OEB. The IESO could increase the attention placed on climate adaptation matters.

IESO Response: Thank you for the feedback, the IESO recognizes the importance of incorporating the impacts of climate change into the regional planning processes. The IESO is investigating how to incorporate the impacts of climate change into our planning of the electricity grid. We would be pleased to further discuss climate adaptation strategies and how this can be incorporated into the IRRP and to share with you more detail on some of the initiatives underway at the IESO to better understand the risks of climate change. As the regional planning process moves forward, the IESO looks forward to engaging with stakeholders and communities in seeking input and sharing information sources, such as the ones provided through this feedback submission.

The Toronto IRRP Technical Working Group (TWG), led by the IESO, will consider how extreme weather will impact demand over time. In late 2022, the OEB, with input from the IESO among other utilities, published the [Load Forecast Guideline for Ontario](#). This document provides guidance to the IESO, transmitters and LDCs in the development of the demand forecasts used in the various phases of the regional planning process including the IRRP. The IRRP TWG will use this guideline to form the load forecast for the upcoming Toronto IRRP. Note that variations to the posted approach could be deployed by the TWG. Any such variations will be documented and appropriately shared for input with stakeholders and communities.

Feedback Provider: City of Toronto

Feedback: The IESO should consider results of the relevant Downsview Airport site and the Port Lands electricity demand studies and distributed energy resource analyses as part of the demand forecasts and non-wires alternatives scenarios in the IRRP.

IESO Response: The TWG has identified both the Downsview Airport site and Port Lands as areas of focus in the upcoming Toronto IRRP. The TWG understands that both areas are expected to undergo significant growth in electricity demand as new communities are developed, and this will be considered in developing the demand forecasts for these areas. The IRRP engagement process will provide the City of Toronto, and other stakeholders and communities, an opportunity to offer feedback on the demand forecast for these areas.

Thank you for providing the references for the studies underway in these areas of the Toronto region. The TWG will consider the results of the study and how they can be incorporated into the IRRP work and look forward to further discussions with the City of Toronto and other interested parties to understand objectives and plans for these future developments.

Feedback Provider: City of Toronto

Feedback: This cycle of regional planning should consider opportunities to increase the short circuit capacity of Toronto Hydro’s restricted feeders to facilitate DERs to allow for additional customer connections. The IESO should also consider the risks associated with infrastructure system interdependencies and cascade failure. These issues are becoming increasingly important with increasing population, a large infrastructure state of good repair deficit, and more frequent extreme weather.

IESO Response: As part of the regional planning process, the IESO will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the impacts to demand as a result of community growth, infrastructure age, and climate patterns. The IESO also adheres to both Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards in our planning studies to ensure that the Ontario electricity system is reliable, including reducing risks of cascading outages on the bulk power system. The IESO also sets the standards, through the Ontario Resource and Transmission Assessment Criteria (ORTAC), for load security and restoration; ensuring that supply to local areas (such as the City of Toronto) remains reliable.

Comments from Toronto Hydro: Toronto Hydro includes a range of considerations in its electricity planning and load forecasting activities that reflect amongst other drivers, the impact of climate change. Over the last several years, Toronto Hydro has completed a number of climate change adaptation initiatives to address climate change risks and ensure resilience of the distribution grid, including:

- A Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment;
- Evaluating and revising equipment specifications, design practices, and construction standards; and,
- Introducing new and more resilient equipment into the grid.

Toronto Hydro also supported Electricity Canada in developing its climate change adaptation guidelines.

Theme 2- Future Engagement

Feedback Provider: City of Toronto

Feedback: The IESO should engage with large post-secondary and healthcare institutions as part of the IRRP, especially where decarbonization/electrification plans may have regional implications (e.g., University of Toronto, York University, Sick Kids, University Health Network).

IESO Response: Engaging with local customers in order to gain a better understanding of load growth for the system is a priority within regional planning. Decarbonization and/or electrification strategies and implementation plans are keys area of discussion that will help inform the demand forecast. Thank you for the suggestions. The IESO will continue to work with the Technical Working Group, stakeholders and communities to ensure that our engagement and targeted outreach efforts include discussions with the necessary customers, including institutions suggested, and topics and that their input is taken into consideration for the IRRP.

Feedback Provider: DGG5 Advising

Feedback: The IESO should continue to provide information about system capacity forecasts, regional electricity needs, transmission planning requirements, substation locations, and connection designs. Further information about opportunities for requirements for storage, solar, and wind resources would be beneficial.

IESO Response:

The IESO is committed to enhancing transparency and increasing data sharing efforts throughout the IRRP process, including clearly presenting any opportunities for storage, solar and wind resources to meet the needs identified. For example, as part of the engagement on the demand forecast, we have begun providing a breakdown of electricity demand at the station level. Beginning with this round of regional planning, including Toronto, we will also be updating our engagement plans content to include information on the type of data to be shared and the timing of sharing this data.

For further information about future opportunities for resources such as storage, solar and wind, we would also encourage you to participate in the Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Market Vision and Design Project engagement. To get involved, visit the IESO's dedicated engagement [webpage](#).