

Integrated Regional Resource Plan: Greater Toronto Area West Engagement Plan

I. Introduction

This Engagement Plan outlines the background, objectives and proposed time lines to inform and seek input from communities on the development of the 2021 Greater Toronto Area (GTA) West Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP). The GTA West Region roughly encompasses the regional municipalities of Halton and Peel, and consists of the local municipalities of Brampton, Caledon, Halton Hills, Mississauga, Milton, Burlington and Oakville (see Figure 1).

The GTA West IRRP Technical Working Group is led by the IESO, and is responsible for establishing the Terms of Reference for the IRRP, gathering data, identifying needs, developing integrated options, recommending preferred plans, and developing an implementation plan. The group consists of representatives of the six local distribution companies (LDCs) that deliver electricity to the region including Alectra Utilities, Burlington Hydro, Halton Hills Hydro, Hydro One, Milton Hydro and Oakville Hydro and the local transmitter, Hydro One.

Input into the IRRP will be invited on:

- Population and growth rate forecasts and information on local economic development, projected growth and future plans, especially around areas of intensification to determine the electricity demand forecast and needs for the region



Figure 1 – Map of GTA West Region

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- Potential options to address local needs identified through the planning process over the near (up to five years) to medium term (up to 10 years)
- Opportunities to align community energy plans, community-based energy solutions, and other economic development plans, for implementation in the medium to long term (up to 20 years), with the IRRP

As part of the engagement, the IESO will also conduct targeted outreach to specific communities in the areas in which localized needs and issues have been identified. The content and outcome of these discussions will be shared more broadly through other activities that will be undertaken as part of this engagement initiative.

The IESO encourages all parties with an interest in this initiative to participate in this engagement. All comments and inquiries in this engagement initiative can be directed to engagement@ieso.ca

This engagement plan may be subject to review and updates as the process evolves.

II. 2021 GTA West Integrated Regional Resource Plan

Through the development of an IRRP, the Technical Working Group will assess the adequacy and security of the electricity supply to GTA West, and will recommend an integrated set of actions required to meet the needs of the region. This work will focus on the following priority areas:

1. Ability of the local transmission network to deliver reliable supply of electricity customers in the area:
 - Supply capacity needs on T38/39 B circuit that supplies four transmission facilities in the region (Halton TS, Trafalgar TS, Meadowvale TS and Tremaine TS) with coordinated consideration of Halton TS #2 timing and loading
2. Need to replace aging transmission assets and potential opportunities to better align investments with evolving power system priorities:
 - End of life decisions for Palermo TS that facilitates the delivery of electricity to customers in Burlington, Milton and Oakville
3. Ability of the electricity system to restore power to those affected by a major transmission outage within reasonable timeframes:

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- Restoration needs in six pockets in Brampton, Mississauga, Oakville and Brampton/Kleinberg border as described in section 3.3.2 of the [GTA West Scoping Assessment Outcome Report and ToR](#)
4. Ability to supply specific geographic pockets of growth that are far removed from existing electricity infrastructure:
- Potential long-term system and station capacity needs affecting northern sections of the GTA West region

Engagement will inform the Technical Working Group in identifying and addressing needs, the goal of the IRRP is to illustrate the integration of forecast electricity demand growth, CDM with transmission and distribution system capability, relevant community plans, other bulk system developments, and the potential of DERs. Both non-wires and wires will be examined as possible solutions, and communities and stakeholders will be engaged on the options throughout the IRRP process.

As mentioned above, the long-term need for a new transmission corridor to serve high growth in the Brampton and south Caledon areas is being examined through the [Northwest GTA Transmission Corridor Identification Study](#). While this is a separate initiative, the need for this corridor will continue to be studied as part of the GTA West IRRP with a focus on needs, timing and other potential solutions. For more information on this study visit: <http://www.ieso.ca/Get-Involved/Regional-Planning/GTA-and-Central-Ontario/GTA-West>

Further background on the regional electricity planning process and the previous planning cycle in the GTA West region can be found in the Appendix.

III. Engagement Goal, Objectives and Scope

This engagement will aim to ensure that all interested parties understand the objectives of this initiative and are informed in order to provide input on the development of the IRRP for the region.

The IESO is seeking input to ensure the IRRP is comprehensive, aligned with community perspectives on local needs, incorporates options to meet the growing electricity demand in the GTA West region, and ensures a reliable source of electricity over the next 20 years.

Through this engagement, the IESO will seek input on the following:

- Population and growth rate forecasts
- Local economic development

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- Future plans and projects that may have an impact on local growth rates and electricity demand (e.g. regional transit expansion, electrification, large incremental loads connecting to the system, significant DER projects, etc.)
- Future potential options for addressing local electricity needs, including non-wires alternatives (such as conservation and demand management and DERs) and local support and interest for developing those options in the near- (five year), medium (10 year) and long-term (20 year)
- Information from municipal plans including plans for project implementation with the potential to impact electricity use, specifically from community energy plans, Energy Reporting/CDM Plans, Official Plans and Secondary Plans

Topics out of scope for discussion include:

- Projects and plans already underway as determined in the previous planning cycle
- Related bulk system transmission studies being carried out in parallel as described in Section 3.3.4 of the [GTA West Scoping Assessment Outcome Report](#)
- Existing energy contracts
- Policy-level decisions or direction
- Existing program rules

IV. Interested Parties

Input from community engagement activities will be considered in the development of the IRRP, and the IESO encourages all interested parties, or their representatives, to participate in this engagement. Parties that may have particular interest in this initiative include but are not limited to:

- Municipalities (particularly planning, sustainability, climate change and economic development staff)
- Indigenous communities
- LDCs
- Consumer groups and associations (e.g. community/resident associations, Business Improvement Areas, home builders associations, etc.)
- Local Boards of Trade and/or Chambers of Commerce
- Academia and research organizations (e.g. colleges and universities)

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- Environmental groups and associations
- Other public sector organizations (e.g. hospitals and school boards)
- Energy service providers
- Generators
- Private entities

V. Approach and Methods

This engagement initiative will be conducted in accordance with the IESO [Engagement Principles](#).

This is a public engagement process. Materials will be posted on the dedicated webpage: <http://www.ieso.ca/Sector-Participants/Engagement-Initiatives/Engagements/Regional-Planning-GTA-West>. In addition, any information/input supplied by interested parties will be posted (with consent).

The approach for this engagement initiative includes opportunities for interested parties to provide input through various channels such as face-to-face meetings, webinars, information sessions, conference calls and/or written feedback. The IESO will consider all relevant input and illustrate how feedback was considered to shape the stated objectives.

This engagement initiative will be supported by the following:

- Broader public engagement – All interested parties will have an opportunity to provide input at various stages throughout the development of the GTA West IRRP, and details will be posted on the engagement webpage
- Direct community outreach where necessary after which a summary of discussions will be shared within broader

VI. Proposed engagement schedule for GTA West IRRP

Date	Action/Materials	Expected Actions
Q1 2021	Final GTA West IRRP	Posted with IESO responses to feedback received

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Date	Action/Materials	Expected Actions
Q4 2020	Feedback on Public webinar #3 due	Posted
Q4 2020	Public webinar #3 Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="557 642 870 905">• Overview of IRRP and recommendations, including details on evaluation of alternatives <li data-bbox="557 951 870 1268">• Discuss considerations for communities and interested parties to consider in their medium- to long-term planning 	Presentation and recorded webinar posted Seek input on further discussions needed to initiate near-term projects
Q3 2020	IESO response to feedback	Responses to feedback posted including rationale
Q3 2020	Feedback on public webinar #2 due	Feedback posted

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Date	Action/Materials	Expected Actions
Q2 2020	Public webinar #2 Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of options screening • Overview of range of potential solutions to be examined • Outline of next steps, timelines and considerations for broader engagement 	Presentation and recorded webinar posted Seek input on options screening and range of potential solutions to be examined
April 13, 2020	IESO response to feedback	Finalize engagement plan and response to feedback posted, including rationale
March 26, 2020	Feedback on public webinar #1 due	Feedback posted
March 12, 2020	Public webinar #1 Presentation	Presentation and recorded webinar posted

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Date	Action/Materials	Expected Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on planning activities underway • Summary of preliminary regional demand forecast and needs and draft engagement plan 	Seek input on draft engagement plan, electricity demand forecast and preliminary needs identified
February 20, 2020	Launch GTA West IRRP engagement initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Draft Engagement Plan 	

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Appendix: Background

Ontario's Regional Planning Process and Community Engagement

Regional electricity system planning is a process for identifying and meeting local electricity needs to ensure a reliable electricity supply is contemplated within 21 electricity regions across the province. Regional planning is part of a broader planning context, which includes bulk and distribution system planning, with the objective of maintaining a reliable and cost-effective electricity supply. Each region's unique needs and characteristics are looked at from a 20-year outlook, and conservation and demand management (CDM), generation, transmission and distribution, and innovative resources such as distributed energy resources (DERs) and energy efficiency are taken into consideration as options to meet those needs.

In each region, the IESO works with the local distribution companies (LDCs), the transmitters and communities to ensure that regional issues and requirements are effectively integrated into the electricity planning process.

Regional planning is a continual process, with electricity reliability evaluated at a minimum of every five years in each region.

Community engagement plays a key role throughout the process, and the IESO encourages all interested parties to join this discussion to:

- Learn more about the regional planning process, who is involved, and the local electricity needs
- Provide input into shaping the region's electricity future by discussing options for meeting local needs, including applicable and cost-effective non-wires alternatives (such as CDM and DERs), and discussing the local community's preferences and support for different options
- Share perspectives for future growth in the area, and how to work together to shape the area's future electricity supply
- Determine opportunities for coordinating and aligning local planning activities and initiatives with the regional planning process

For more information, visit the Regional Planning Process webpage at:

<http://www.ieso.ca/en/get-involved/regional-planning/about-regional-planning/how-the-process-works>

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For more information on the GTA West IRRP engagement initiative visit:
<http://www.ieso.ca/Sector-Participants/Engagement-Initiatives/Engagements/Regional-Planning-GTA-West>

2015-2016 GTA West Regional Planning Process

The first cycle of regional planning was completed with the release of an [IRRP](#) in 2015 and [Regional Infrastructure Plan \(RIP\)](#) in 2016, specifically for the Northwest GTA sub-region. Three transmission projects were recommended to meet local needs and ensure that an adequate and reliable supply of electricity continues to be provided to the region:

1. Near-term need for two step-down transmission facilities in the Halton Hills and Milton service areas, one of which has been in services as of May 2019, and the second expected to be in operation in 2022
2. Medium-term need for a transmission line upgrade in the Pleasant transformer station (TS) service area to address emerging needs in central Brampton. This project has not been initiated but continues to be closely monitored.
3. Long-term need for a new transmission corridor to serve anticipated growth in the northern sections of this sub-region (Brampton and southern Caledon), currently being studied in a separate parallel initiative, the Northwest GTA Transmission Corridor Identification Study.

Current GTA West Regional Planning Process

The current regional planning cycle began with the [Needs Assessment](#) report published by Hydro One in May 2019, which identified areas of needs requiring further assessment and coordinated regional planning. Following the Needs Assessment, the IESO led the development of the [GTA West Scoping Assessment Outcome Report and IRRP Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#) that was published in August 2019. It was determined that an integrated approach is required in order to address the needs identified and that an IRRP be completed for the entire GTA West region for this planning cycle.

The GTA West Technical Working Group, led by the IESO and comprised of the transmitter and LDCs serving the region, is responsible for developing the IRRP. The IRRP will include a set of recommended actions to maintain reliability of supply to the region over the next 20 years (2019-2038). To inform the IRRP development, the group will work to gather data, identify needs and issues, examine integrated options, recommend actions, and develop an implementation plan.

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The GTA West Technical Working Group, comprised of the LDCs and transmitter in the region, will meet throughout the duration of the engagement initiative and provide updates and reports through various engagement opportunities.

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