

# Memorandum

To: Stakeholder Advisory Committee

From: Jordan Penic, Senior Manager, Customer, Stakeholder and Community Engagement

Date: February 4, 2020

**Subject: IESO Business Update – Stakeholder & Community Engagement**

This memorandum provides an update on recent IESO engagement initiatives, including regional and community engagement, First Nation and Métis relations and stakeholder engagements that are not otherwise captured through SAC agenda item updates.

Updates on all active engagement initiatives can be found on the [active engagements webpage](#).

## **Regional & Community Engagement**

### Regional Electricity Networks

Outreach efforts continue to focus on municipalities and the communities that they serve to help prepare them for future regional planning engagement. With membership close to 2,000 individuals across Ontario, the five Regional Electricity Networks launched late last year are emerging as an effective foundation to build informed communities and stakeholders for participation in IESO decision-making.

Network forums have been held in northwestern and northeastern Ontario late last fall and forums in the remaining regions are scheduled as follows:

- Central/GTA network (Mississauga) – February 12, 2020
- East network (Belleville) – March 11, 2020
- Southwest network (Cambridge) – March 24, 2020

The purpose of these forums is to convene the newly established networks and seek information to support and build upon an ongoing dialogue on issues of interest to the communities within each of the network regions. In addition to forums, members can expect continuous engagement through newsletters (twice annually), webinars and other communications as needed.

More information about the Networks and meetings can be found at [www.ieso.ca/regionalelectricitynetwork](http://www.ieso.ca/regionalelectricitynetwork)

## Community Outreach

The IESO participated in a conference exhibits during the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association and the Economic Developers Council of Ontario events this year to engage with communities attract membership in the networks and other IESO initiatives. Over the next quarter, the IESO will participate at conferences hosted by the Northern Ontario Municipal Association (Fort Francis), Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (Brantford) and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (Timmins).

## Regional Planning Engagement

The following is an update on regional planning engagement activities. To subscribe to receive regional planning updates for a specific region, please visit <http://www.ieso.ca/subscribe>

- Windsor-Essex: An engagement webinar is expected in Q1 2020 to provide an overview of the IRRP Addendum to study 115 kV system in Kingsville and seek input on the recommendations as a result.
- GTA North (York): Engagement will conclude shortly with a final public webinar in early February to discuss the options and recommendations within the IRRP. Written feedback along with IESO responses will be posted and the final IRRP will be published end of February.
- Greater Bruce/Huron: An IRRP will be developed for the Southern Huron-Perth sub-region with outreach and engagement activities planned to begin in early Q2 2020.
- East Lake Superior: An IRRP will be developed for this region with outreach and engagement activities planned to launch in early Q2 2020.
- Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph: Engagement is underway to develop an IRRP for this region. The first meeting was held with municipalities last November followed by a public webinar in December to discuss the electricity demand forecast and seek input on the engagement plan
- Ottawa: The final IRRP is expected to be published in early March. Engagement activities including stakeholder and community input and IESO responses are available on-line.
- GTA West: Meetings were held last fall with municipalities to begin discussions and provide an overview of engagement activities for the development of an IRRP. Broader engagement will commence late Q1 2020 with a public webinar and subsequent meetings with municipalities.

Regional planning is expected to commence with a scoping assessment in regions including Peterborough to Kingston and GTA West in Q2 2020.

## **First Nation and Métis Relations (FNMR)**

### Indigenous Energy Support Programs (ESPs)

The IESO will be engaging with Indigenous stakeholders to review whether current Indigenous ESPs are meeting the needs and interests of communities and will review options to improve the programs. These include the [Education and Capacity Building](#), [Community Energy Champion](#), [Indigenous Community Energy Plan](#) and [Indigenous Energy Projects Programs](#). A

survey was sent in mid-January to solicit feedback from past program participants. The IESO will host webinars at the end of February and in April for additional feedback and discussion. Finalized programs informed by this feedback will be launched in early summer of this year.

### First Nation Conservation Programs

The IESO will launch the [First Nation Conservation Program](#) in 31 communities in 2020 under the interim energy efficiency framework. Chief, Council, and staff from each community have already been engaged to begin scheduling community program launches for February-April, 2020.

Under the 2020 framework, the IESO is also working with four communities on a Remote First Nations Energy Efficiency Pilot Program targeted at residential consumers and small businesses in communities that are/or are soon to be connected to the provincial electricity grid. The objective of this pilot will be to promote energy efficiency, reduce costs for community members and improve home comfort. The IESO visited all four communities earlier this year with staff from NAN and Ecofitt to launch the program and meet with Chiefs, Councils and key community members.

In late Q1, the IESO will begin soliciting feedback from past participants in the First Nations conservation programs to determine what these programs should look like following the 2019-2020 interim framework.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

### Technical Panel

The IESO Board of Directors recently appointed Mr. Rob Coulbeck from Nexus Energy Canada to the Technical Panel (TP). The TP held its first meeting of 2020 on February 4 and reviewed the following items:

- **Technical Panel Review:** TP has voted in favour of recommending proposed changes to the panel's terms of reference which include enhancements to both the member composition and process. The Board of Directors will review the proposed changes to the TP terms of reference later this month. The draft terms of reference are available for review on the TP webpage.
- **Capacity Auction – June 2020:** Proposed market rule amendments to enable the June 2020 Capacity Auction were reviewed. The TP voted in favour of posting the proposed rules for broader stakeholder comment and is expected to review any feedback at the next panel meeting in March.
- **Technical Panel Education Items:** Three education items were presented. These included information on the progress and work underway with storage resources through the Energy Storage Advisory Group, an update on the Market Rules and Manuals framework as well as information on the timing and scope of changes being considered to the Transmission Rights Clearing Account review.

For more information on these and other Technical Panel items, please visit the [Technical Panel](#) webpage.

## Energy Payments for Economic Activation of Demand Response Resources

The December 10 Energy Payments for Economic Activation of Demand Response (DR) Resources stakeholder engagement meeting included discussion on stakeholder feedback and associated changes to the decision framework, including the problem statement and criteria, as part of the scope of research and analysis that will be carried out to inform the IESO's decision on this issue.

Following the OEB's decision on the capacity auction market rule amendments, the IESO will continue the Energy Payments for Economic Activation of Demand Response (DR) Resources stakeholder engagement with a meeting on February 13. The agenda will include discussion on stakeholder feedback and next steps for this engagement, including consideration of other non-energy payment related options.

For more information, please visit the [energy payments](#) engagement webpage.

## Demand Response Working Group (DRWG)

The next Demand Response Working Group (DRWG) meeting will take place on February 25 and will include discussion on the final 2020 work plan, an update on IESO testing protocols for DR resources, and an update on the IESO's discussions with stakeholders on future DR potential in Ontario. Following the November 12, 2019 DRWG meeting, stakeholders provided valuable feedback to help finalize the 2020 work plan and information on LDC meter data authentication and hourly demand response (HDR) baseline methodologies from other jurisdictions.

For more information, please visit the [DRWG](#) engagement webpage.

## Improving Accessibility of Operating Reserve

The IESO launched a stakeholder engagement in 2019 and held three engagement sessions to look at ways to improve the accessibility of operating reserve (OR). In the most recent engagement meeting in December, the IESO reviewed stakeholder feedback on the three potential solutions, presented its evaluation of these potential solutions and provided details on the high level design of the IESO recommended solution. Following this meeting, stakeholders provided valuable feedback on the IESO's recommended solution which includes a settlement claw-back for any inaccessible OR and measuring OR activation performance based on incremental energy delivered. The IESO is currently reviewing the stakeholder feedback and will provide a response to this feedback to stakeholders by February 10.

For more information on this stakeholder engagement, please visit the [Improving Accessibility of OR](#) engagement webpage.