IESO Engagement Update August 19 and 21, 2025

This engagement update provides a snapshot of all active IESO engagement activities. It also helps support a greater understanding of linkages between engagements, and a foundation for more comprehensive and integrated updates. For the most up-to-date information, visit the individual engagement links or the Engagement Initiatives web page.



Forecasting and Planning

Engagements to support provincial and regional electricity planning over the next 20 years.

Active Engagements

Current Status

Next Steps

<u>Bulk Planning – Northern Ontario</u> Bulk Study

This engagement will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the Northern Ontario Bulk Study initiative.

Engagement Lead: Abby Dancey Community Engagement Leads:

Nadia Mirabelli

 Engagement continues with interested members of the sector on the development of a

Northern Ontario Bulk Study.

- Feedback from these public sessions is posted on the engagement webpage.
- Final report will be posted in 2025.

Bulk Planning - North of Sudbury

The bulk plan will examine the capability of the bulk transmission system's ability to supply increasing levels of demand in the areas surrounding Timmins, Kirkland Lake, and Pinard. The study will also look at creating opportunities to potentially locate new non-emitting resources in the area, as well as the potential for

- The plan was introduced at the May 29th Quarterly Bulk Planning update.
- The IESO will continue to engage at the appropriate milestones.



new or upgraded interconnections with Quebec.

Engagement Lead: Abby Dancey

Northern Ontario Connection Study

This study will develop options to connect remote First Nations communities to the grid that currently rely on diesel generators for electricity, improve reliability for First Nation communities that are already grid-connected, support critical minerals mining development in the region, and enable the development of new hydro and renewable resources. The study was initiated in response to a request from the government of Ontario, and a final report will be released in the early Fall.

- On May 7th, a webinar was held to review the technical and economic option analysis; 75 participants in attendance.
- The IESO will provide responses to submitted feedback, and will include messaging for the rationale for no further engagement
- Final report is tracking for release in September.

Engagement Lead: Abby Dancey

<u>Bulk Planning – South and</u> Central Ontario Bulk Study

This engagement will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the South and Central Ontario Bulk Study initiative.

Engagement Lead: Abby Dancey

Community Engagement Leads: **Keir**

Johnston

- Engagement continues with interested members of the sector on the development of a South and Central Bulk Study.
- A webinar was hosted on May 29 to share updates about the study.
- Feedback from these public sessions will be posted on the engagement webpage.
- Engagement continues in 2025.

<u>Bulk Planning – Eastern Ontario</u> Bulk Study

This engagement will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the Eastern Ontario Bulk Study initiative. Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey** Community Engagement Leads:

Nadia Mirabelli

- Engagement continues with interested members of the sector on the development of an Eastern Ontario Bulk Study.
- A webinar was hosted on May 29 to share updates about the study.
- Feedback from these public sessions will be posted on the engagement webpage.

Engagement continues in 2025.

Regional Planning - Burlington to Nanticoke

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir

Johnston

- This engagement is complete.
 The IESO response to feedback and final IRRP report was posted on November 28 and shared via email with participants subscribed to receive updates.
- Engagement on the Hamilton Addendum will take place in 2025.

<u>Regional Planning – Ottawa Area</u> Sub-Region

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh Indigenous Relations Lead: Nadia

- This engagement is complete.
- The IESO response to feedback and final IRRP report was posted on July 31 and shared via email with participants subscribed to receive updates.
- This concludes the engagement initiative.

Mirabelli

Regional Planning – Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/ Guelph (KWCG)

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: Brooke Crewson Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir

Johnston

Regional Planning – Toronto

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: Samantha Polito Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir Johnston

- A webinar was held on May 27 to present identified electrical infrastructure with priority needs and potential options to address them.
- Feedback was accepted until June 17 and posted on the engagement webpage.
- A webinar was hosted on July 10 to share the screening of options and seek feedback.
- Feedback was accepted until July 25 and posted on the engagement webpage.
- A webinar will take place on August 21 to share the draft findings of the Toronto Local Achievable Potential Study.

- The IESO is preparing a written response to feedback and will post it shortly.
- As regional planning advances engagement will continue with respect to developing an IRRP for this region until Q1 2026.
- The IESO is preparing a written response to feedback from the July 10 webinar and will post it shortly.
- Feedback on the Toronto Local Achievable Potential Study will be accepted until September 11.
- Engagement for the Toronto area IRRP will continue through 2025 with an Options Evaluation and Draft Recommendations Webinar in September.

Regional Planning – GTA North (York Region)

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: Chiara Cozzi Indigenous Relations Lead: Nadia Mirabelli

- A webinar was hosted on July 8 to share the region's needs and the screening of options, and to seek feedback.
- Feedback was accepted until July 29 and posted on the engagement webpage.
- The IESO is preparing a written response to feedback and will post it shortly.
- Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2025.

Regional Planning – GTA East Regional electricity planning is underway this region. Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir Johnston Regional Planning – GTA West	 A webinar was hosted on July 16 to share the draft demand forecast and engagement plan, and to seek feedback. Feedback was accepted until August 6 and posted on the engagement webpage. The IESO held a webinar on 	 The IESO is preparing a written response to feedback and will post it shortly. Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2025. The IESO is preparing a
Regional electricity planning is underway this region. Engagement Lead: Samantha Polito Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir Johnston	 June 2 to share the draft demand forecast. Feedback was accepted until June 23 and posted on the engagement webpage. 	 written response to feedback and will post it shortly. Engagement will continue in 2025 with a public webinar to share the Options Screening.
Regional Planning – East Lake Super Regional electricity planning is underway this region. Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir Johnston Regional Planning – Peterborough to Kingston Regional electricity planning is underway this region. Engagement Lead: Brooke Crewson Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir Johnston	 to share the draft demand forecast and engagement plan, and to seek feedback. Feedback was accepted until July 30 and posted on the engagement webpage. 	 The IESO is preparing a written response to feedback and will post it shortly. Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2025. Engagement on this IRRP will continue through to Q4 2026.
Regional Planning – London Area Regional electricity planning is underway this region. Engagement Lead: Chiara Cozzi Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir Johnston	 The final Scoping Assessment Outcome Report and IESO's response to feedback received was posted on April 28. 	Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2025.
Regional Planning — North of Dryden Addendum Regional electricity planning is underway this sub-region. Engagement Lead: Samantha Polito Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir	 A webinar was held on July 30 to share the options analysis and draft recommendations. Feedback was accepted until August 13 and will be posted on the engagement webpage. 	The addendum and IESO response to feedback will be posted in Q3 2025.

Indigenous Relations *Lead*: **Keir**

Johnston

Resource Acquisition

Engagements to ensure we have the tools and processes to acquire the resources we need to maintain a reliable and efficient system.

Active Engagement

Capacity Auction Enhancements

The annual Capacity Auction is one of the procurement mechanisms included in the IESO's Resource Adequacy Framework and serves as the short-term balancing mechanism in the framework, securing the capacity required to meet Ontario's short-term resource adequacy needs.

Engagement Lead: Maia Chase Related Engagements:

- Resource Adequacy
- Demand Side Vision

Current Status

 A public engagement session was held on June 26 to provide an update on the tie-break methodology and proposed market rule changes.

Next Steps

session has been posted and the IESO Response will be posted by the end of August.

Transmitter Selection Framework

The IESO is developing a Transmitter Selection Framework (TSF) to align with the Powering Ontario's Growth report's actions and plans, with a progress report due to the Minister by Summer 2024. Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun Community Engagement Leads: Nadia Mirabelli and Andreea Nicoara

- on June 25 to summarize feedback from the April 22 session and to present the final TSF Registry program rules and next steps for the registry launch.
- Stakeholder feedback received following the session was posted on the engagement webpage.
- TSF Registry was successfully launched on July 31, 2025.

Next engagement session will be scheduled for October.

Current Status

Next Steps

<u>Distributed Energy Resources (DER)</u> <u>Roadmap</u>

The IESO is seeking feedback on the development of a roadmap to set out approaches and expected timing for enhancing DER participation in the IESO-administered markets for the products/services they are technically capable of providing.

Engagement Lead: Jason Grbavac

Related Engagements:

- Joint Study of DER Incentives
- DER Market Vision & Design Project
- DER Potential Study
- Enabling Resources Program
- Hybrid Integration Project
- <u>IESO York Region Non-Wires</u> Alternatives Demonstration Project
- Resource Adequacy

 The DER Compensation Study is now posted on the website. The next public information session will take place on August 22.

Enabling Resources Program

The revised Enabling Resources Program (ERP) is an integrated set of projects that will enable emerging resources to provide required system services and contribute to the safe and reliable operation of the bulk power system in Ontario. The first ERP project will incorporate electricity storage, and hybrid generation-storage pairings into the IESO-administered markets, tools, and processes.

Engagement Lead: Jason Grbavac Related Engagements:

<u>ERP - Storage and Hybrid Integration</u>
 Project

- ERP is comprised of two projects which will be engaged on separately to provide the appropriate level of focus and technical discussion for each design.
- The two projects are Storage and Co-located Hybrid and Distributed Energy Resource Integration.
- An engagement webinar took place on July 24 to provide an update on the ERP's Storage and Co-located Hybrid Integration Project

Feedback for the ERP
 Storage and Co-located
 Hybrid Integration
 Project session is due
 on August 21.

Long-Term RFPs

The IESO is engaging stakeholders and communities on the development of a series of Long-Term RFPs that will seek resources to address needs.

Engagements targeted to communities and the broader public are underway.

Engagement Leads: Trisha Hickson

Community Engagement Leads: Sonia

Fazari and Abby Dancey

Related Engagements:

- Resource Adequacy
- <u>Hybrid Integration Project</u>
- Market Renewal Program (MRP)
 Implementation

Stakeholder Engagement:

- A webinar was held on May 21st to review the updates to the contracts and RFP.
- Feedback was requested by May 29, and all feedback is posted on the LT RFP webpage. A response to feedback was posted on July 9.

Community Engagement:

- On July 17, a 2-part webinar for municipalities and communities was held to build understanding about the relevant RFP process that require their involvement. The first part provided a general overview; part two provided targeted meetings for both groups, allowing for detailed discussion and questions; MEM, MECP, OMAFA and MMAH partipated to help answer questions.
- A follow up webinar focused on a Q&A session is scheduled for September 25.

Stakeholder Engagement:

- A joint engagement webinar was held on June 25 with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFA) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to provide an overview of key requirements ahead of proposal submission deadline.
- An engagement
 webinar was held on
 July 10 to provide an
 update following the
 posting of the final
 RFPs, Contracts, and
 Prescribed Forms.
 Additional questions
 will be accepted via a
 formal Question and
 Comment period.

Community Engagement:

The RCE team has developed an engagement strategy to support municipalities through the first window of the RFP (opened at the end of June, closes in October and December); the strategy for subsequent engagements for the next RFP windows will be developed based on learnings from Window

Active Engagement

Current Status

Next Steps

Medium-Term RFP

The IESO is engaging stakeholders on the development of a second Medium-Term RFP (MT2) aimed at re-committing resources with contracts expiring between 2026-2029 to secure Ontario's future energy needs.

Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun Related Engagements:

- Long-Term RFP
- Resource Adequacy

- The IESO has now concluded the evaluation of Proposals for the MT2 RFP.
- Additional information is provided in the Results Table.
- The IESO has now concluded the second medium-term procurement and has executed a total of 46 Energy and Capacity contracts.

<u>Request for Information – Resource</u> Adequacy Framework

The IESO is requesting information from existing resource owners whose contracts expire within the next ten years, as well as developers interested in future projects.

Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun Related Engagements:

- Long-Term RFP
- Resource Adequacy
- Medium-Term RFP

- An information session was held during September engagement days to explain how the IESO will gather insights to help inform future energy supply procurements in Ontario.
- RFI closed on November 1.
- A summary of RFI findings was posted on the engagement webpage on April 16.
- The closing summary for this engagement will be posted in September.

Long Lead-Time Resource Procurement

The IESO is engaging on the proposed Long Lead-Time Resources procurement. This procurement is part of the IESO's broader Resource Adequacy Framework – an enduring approach to identifying the type of acquisition activity to use to resolve system needs.

Engagement Lead: Trisha Hickson

Community Engagement Leads: Abby Dancey

 The IESO hosted an engagement session on June 5 to discuss considerations related to the design of a LLT resource procurement

- Feedback was accepted until June 17 and is posted to the LLT webpage. Response to feedback will be posted in July.
- Community Engagement: A
 webinar was held on May 27,
 2025, for Indigenous Communities
 and municipalities to introduce the
 Long Lead-Time Resource
 Procurement and understand
 feedback. Feedback was accepted
 until June 17, 2025 where we
 received three submissions from
 Indigenous Communities.
- Next public
 Engagement session
 will be determined
 following the report
 back to government
 due in July.

Current Status

Next Steps

Local Generation Program

The IESO is engaging stakeholders on a proposal to establish a program that will enable re-contracting of existing resources, and consider opportunities for expansions and new build facilities

 A public engagement session was held on June 5 to provide a summary of the feedback received and continue discussions on the design of the program. stakeholder feedback from the session along with IESO response will be posted on the IESO website by the end of August.

Engagement Lead: Maia Chase

Related Engagements:

- Long-Term RFP
- Request for Information Resource
 Adequacy Framework

<u>Electricity Demand Side</u> <u>Management (eDSM) Framework</u>

The IESO is engaging on the new 12year electricity Demand Side Management Framework, the first 3-year plan and future program opportunities

Engagement Leads: Jamie Jang

Related Engagements:

• Resource Adequacy

- A public engagement session was held on June 24 to provide an overview of the proposed program design elements of the new Commercial HVAC Demand Response Program.
- The IESO's response to feedback will be posted shortly.
- The next public engagement session will focus on the Industrial Program Evolution and take place on August 21.

Operations

Engagements to ensure that Ontario's electricity resources are operating reliably within the IESO-administered market, while also undertaking continuous market improvements.

Active Engagement	Current Status	Next Steps
Market Renewal Program (MRP)	A public information session	The next public engagement
<u>Implementation</u>	was held on June 4 to provide	session will go over market
The Implementation phase of the	an update on the transition to	performance and provide an
Market Renewal Program will begin	and initial operation of the	operational overview. This
by codifying the design into the	renewed market.	session will take place on
Market Rules and Market Manuals,		August 21.
and then proceed onto creating		
tools, testing, training, and readiness		
for bringing the renewed market to		
life.		
Engagement Lead: Jamie Jang		
Related Engagements:		
Resource Adequacy		

- Enabling Resources
- <u>DER Market Vision & Design</u>
 <u>Project</u>
- Hybrid Integration

IESO Market Rule Amendments, Chapter 3, Confidentiality, Dispute Resolution and Enforcement

The Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD) of the IESO is proposing amendments to Chapter 3 of the Market Rules. The purpose of these proposed changes is to modernize and clarify rules related to some of MACD's enforcement processes, including confidentiality and how it handles disputes under the IESO Dispute Resolution Process.

Engagement Lead: Trisha Hickson

- A webinar was held in February 2024 to discuss the proposed market rule amendments and feedback received from the November 2023 session.
- Feedback following the February 6 engagement webinar is available on the engagement webpage.
- MACD is continuing to undertake stakeholder engagement and outreach to seek further feedback.

<u>Updates to IESO Monitoring</u> Requirements Phasor Data

The IESO proposes to update Market Rule Appendices 4.15 and 4.16 to clarify requirements for generators and transmitters to install phasor technology infrastructure and provide phasor data to the IESO. The proposed changes are intended to align with requirements in other North American ISOs and RTOs. The IESO is seeking feedback from stakeholders on these proposed updates in Market Rule Appendices 4.15 and 4.16.

Engagement Lead: Maia Chase

An engagement session was held on June 26 to present a proposal to amend Market Rules to expand the requirement for synchrophasor data to include Electricity Storage facilities. It also covered the associated changes to the Market Manual and update on the current PMU registration and connection process.

 The IESO Response to Feedback was posted on July 15.

Sector Evolution

Engagements that look to the future to see how innovation, innovative technologies and new collaborations can improve how we conduct our business.

Active Engagement

Current Status

Next Steps

Future Clean Electricity Fund

Proceeds from the sale of IESO-owned Clean Energy Credits on the Ontario's Clean Energy Credit Registry will be directed to Ontario's Future Clean Electricity Fund. The IESO has been tasked by the Ministry with developing insights and recommendations for a Future Clean Electricity Fund (FCEF). **Engagement Leads: Fatema Khatun** Community Engagement Leads: Sonia **Fazari and Andreea Nicoara**

Related Engagements:

Clean Energy Credits

- Outreach meetings were held in October and November with municipalities to understand insights and recommendations to develop the Fund.
- The IESO recommendations report was submitted to the Ministry of Energy in December 2023.
- The IESO will work with the Ministry of Energy and Mines to determine how proceeds from the Future Clean Electricity Fund will be applied to upcoming procurements and infrastructure projects, as outlined in Ontario's Integrated Energy Plan. More information will be shared soon.

Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot The Minister of Energy asked the IESO to submit a report by September 15, 2023, outlining a plan for the Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot tailored specifically for hydrogen producers and developers in Ontario.

Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun Related Engagements:

Interruptible Rate Pilot

- The IESO is currently holding one-on-one meetings with hydrogen developer organizations that expressed interest in the pilot and soliciting feedback on pilot design features that would support participation and leverage the flexibility of electrolyzer-based hydrogen production facilities.
- IESO to submit report back to the Minister of Energy and Mines by September 30, 2025.

Updates on the Strategic Advisory Committee, **Technical Panel and Transmission-Distribution Coordination Working Group**

Group Current Status Next Steps

<u>Strategic Advisory Committee</u> (SAC)

The Committee is a forum for its members to be informed of IESO activities and to provide timely policy advice and feedback both broadly on behalf of the electricity sector and their constituency, directly to the IESO Board and Executive with respect to the IESO's mandate.

 A public SAC meeting was held on July 16, 2025. A recording of the meeting has been posted on the website. The next public meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2025.

Engagement Lead: Megan Doner

Technical Panel (TP)

The Technical Panel's mandate is to review amendments to the Market Rules for Ontario's electricity market and provide recommendations to the IESO Board of Directors.

Engagement Lead: Trisha Hickson

- held on July 15 to discuss
 Capacity Auction
 enhancements related to the
 tie-break methodology and the
 panel voted to recommend
 other enhancements brought
 forward for 2025. In addition,
 the IESO provided updates
 related to the Technical Panel
 Terms of Reference.
- The next Technical Panel meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2025.