

IESO Engagement Update

September 16-17, 2026

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
<u>Bulk Planning – North of Sudbury</u> 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 new or upgraded interconnections with Quebec. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Abby Dancey <i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Nadia Mirabelli	The final report with IESO recommendations is now available on the North of Sudbury engagement page.

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.

Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Sonia Fazari**

- Final report is in development.

Bulk Planning – South and Central

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

Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey**

Indigenous Engagement Leads: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- The final report with IESO recommendations is now available on the [South and Central engagement page](#).

Bulk Planning – Eastern Ontario

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

Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- The final report with IESO recommendations is now available on the [Eastern Ontario engagement page](#).

Bulk Planning – Niagara

This engagement will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the Niagara Bulk Plan.

Engagement Lead: **Jessica Singh**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- An engagement webinar was held on July 15, 2026, to provide an overview of the Niagara Bulk Plan and solicit feedback on the proposed scope of work. Feedback was accepted until August 5, 2026. All submissions, along with the IESO's response will be posted on the engagement webpage.
- Engagement on this bulk plan will take place through 2026.

Regional Planning – Burlington to Nanticoke (Hamilton Addendum)

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: **Chiara Cozzi**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- The IESO response to feedback was posted on the engagement page on August 31, 2026.
- Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.

<u>Regional Planning – GTA East</u> Regional electricity planning is underway in this region. <i>Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh</i> <i>Indigenous Engagement Leads: Nadia Mirabelli</i>	• The IESO response to feedback was posted on the engagement page on September 8, 2026. • An engagement webinar will take place on September 14, 2026, to share the detailed options analysis and draft recommendations. Feedback will be accepted until October 5, 2026.
<u>Regional Planning – St. Lawrence</u> Regional electricity planning is underway in this region. <i>Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh</i> <i>Indigenous Engagement Leads: Nadia Mirabelli</i>	• The IESO published the Scoping Assessment Report on April 13, 2026. • Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.
<u>Regional Planning – GTA West</u> Regional electricity planning is underway in this region. <i>Engagement Lead: Sari Gerwitz</i> <i>Indigenous Engagement Leads: Nadia Mirabelli</i>	• An engagement webinar was held on August 20, 2026, to present and seek feedback on the detailed options analysis. Feedback was accepted until September 4, 2026. All submissions, along with the IESO’s response will be posted on the engagement webpage. • Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.
<u>Regional Planning – Peterborough to Kingston</u> Regional electricity planning is underway in this region. <i>Engagement Lead: Samra Amir</i> <i>Indigenous Engagement Lead: Nadia Mirabelli</i>	• An engagement webinar was held on July 29, 2026, to present and seek feedback on needs and screening of potential options. Feedback was accepted until August 12, 2026. All submissions, along with the IESO’s response will be posted on the engagement webpage. • Engagement on this IRRP will continue through Q4 2026.
<u>Regional Planning – London Area</u> Regional electricity planning is underway in this region. <i>Engagement Lead: Chiara Cozzi</i> <i>Indigenous Engagement Lead: Nadia Mirabelli</i>	• An engagement webinar will be held in Q3 2026 to present and seek feedback on electricity needs and screening of potential options.
<u>Regional Planning - Northwest</u> Regional electricity planning is underway for this region. <i>Engagement Lead: Samra Amir</i> <i>Indigenous Engagement Lead: Nadia Mirabelli, Sonia Fazari</i>	• The IESO published the Scoping Assessment Report on September 19, 2025. • A webinar was held on June 11, 2026, to share the draft electricity forecast scenarios for the Northwest electrical region and seek early feedback. Feedback was accepted until July 2, 2026, and the IESO’s response have been posted.

Regional Planning – South Georgian Bay Muskoka

Regional electricity planning is underway for this region.

Engagement Lead: **Chiara Cozzi**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- An engagement webinar was held on July 27, 2026, on the draft demand forecast. Feedback was accepted until August 10, 2026, and submissions have been posted on the engagement webpage.
- Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.

Regional Planning – Sudbury/Algoma

Regional electricity planning is underway for this region.

Engagement Lead: **Sari Gerwitz**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- A webinar was held on July 16, 2026, to share the draft electricity forecast scenarios for the Sudbury/Algoma electrical region and seek early feedback. Feedback was accepted until July 31, 2026. All submissions, along with the IESO's response will be posted on the engagement webpage.
- Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.

Capacity Accreditation for IESO Procurements

The IESO is undertaking evaluation of capacity accreditation approaches for Ontario's evolving electricity system. Through this engagement, the IESO will share information on different accreditation approaches, discuss the trade-offs associated with each method, and share results. Feedback received will help inform future assessment of capacity accreditation in support of Ontario's long-term planning and procurement.

Engagement Lead: **Josh Acosta**

Related Engagements:

- [Resource Adequacy Engagement](#)
 - [Technical Paper Webinars: Electricity System Planning Considerations](#)
 - [Long Lead-Time RFP](#)
 - [Long-Term RFP](#)
 - [Medium-Term RFP](#)
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- An engagement webinar is scheduled for September 17, 2026.

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

Current Status

- A webinar was held on August 20, 2026, to present the IESO's proposed list of Capacity Auction Enhancements for
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Active Engagement	Current Status
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. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Josh Acosta <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Resource Adequacy • Demand Side Vision	2027 while also highlighting upcoming critical milestones for participation in this year's Capacity Auction. • Deadline for stakeholder feedback was September 3, 2026, IESO Response to Feedback expected to be posted late September/Early October. • The next engagement session is expected for Q4 2026.
Transmitter Selection Framework The IESO is developing a Transmitter Selection Framework (TSF) to establish a transparent and competitive approach for selecting future transmission projects identified for competitive procurement. The framework is intended to support the timely and cost-effective expansion of Ontario's transmission system while creating opportunities for innovation and Indigenous participation. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Fatema Khatun <i>Community Engagement Leads:</i> Nadia Mirabelli and Sari Gerwitz <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Toronto Third Line	• The Transmitter Selection Framework continues to provide the foundation for competitive transmission procurements in Ontario. • The Toronto Third Line (TTL) competitive procurement is currently applying elements of the TSF and has a dedicated engagement stream. • Future competitive transmission project will have dedicated engagement processes tailored to their specific procurement requirements.
Toronto Third Line The IESO is advancing the Toronto Third Line (TTL), a new transmission project identified through the Toronto Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP), to support growing electricity demand and system reliability in the Toronto region. The Government of Ontario has directed the IESO to undertake a competitive procurement process to select a transmitter to design, build and operate the line. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Fatema Khatun <i>Community Engagement Leads:</i> Nadia Mirabelli and Sari Gerwitz	• Public engagement session was held on August 20, 2026 to discuss the draft AC functional requirements, and an update to the engagement • Deadline for stakeholder feedback is Sept 10, 2026.

Active Engagement

Enabling Resources Program

The 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. The second project within ERP is to further enable and integrate Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) into the IESO Administered Markets.

Engagement Lead: **Jason Grbavac**

Related Engagements:

- [ERP - Storage and Hybrid Integration Project](#)
- [ERP – Distributed Energy Resource \(DER\) Integration Project](#)

Current Status

- ERP is comprised of two projects: Storage and Co-located Hybrid (S/H) Integration and Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Integration.

Storage and Co-located Hybrid (S/H) Integration:

The ERP Storage Integration Project hosted an additional session on August 6, 2026, to finalize the Settlements design memo. Further engagement on the Make-Whole Payments for Energy-Limited Resources will take place in October.

Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Integration:

The DER Integration Project conducted an engagement session in July and is targeting three additional sessions between September and January to continue the discussion on the DER Integration Project design.

Long-Term RFPs

The IESO is engaging stakeholders and communities on the development of a series of Long-Term RFPs that will procure resources to address needs. Engagements targeted to communities and the broader public are underway.

Engagement Lead: **Trisha Hickson**

Community Engagement Leads: **Sonia**

Fazari and Alyssa Sarkis

Related Engagements:

- [Resource Adequacy](#)
- [Hybrid Integration Project](#)
- [Local Generation Project](#)
- [Long Lead-Time](#)

- An engagement session was held on August 20, 2026, to continue discussion on key design elements of LT2 Window 2.
- Feedback is posted on the engagement webpage.
- The next engagement is scheduled for October.

Active Engagement	Current Status
<u>Long Lead-Time Resource Procurement</u> The IESO is engaging on the proposed design of the 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. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Trisha Hickson <i>Community Engagement Lead:</i> Sari Gerwitz <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Resource Adequacy • Long-Term RFP	Stakeholder Engagement: • Engagement on the Long Lead-Time contracts and RFP has concluded. Prospective proponents are invited to join a session on September 16 to discuss best practices ahead of the submission window. Community Engagement: • A Q&A session for municipalities and Indigenous communities was held on June 24, 2026.
<u>Local Generation Program</u> 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 <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Jamie Jang <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Long-Term RFP • Request for Information – Resource Adequacy Framework	• Engagement is anticipated to resume in 2026.
<u>Electricity Demand Side Management (eDSM) Framework</u> The IESO is engaging on the new 12-year electricity Demand Side Management Framework and future program opportunities. <i>Engagement Leads:</i> Jamie Jang <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Resource Adequacy	• An engagement session on Expanded Energy Management (EEM) program enhancements is scheduled for September 16, 2026.

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
<u>Enforcement Modernization</u> The IESO's Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD) is seeking input from market participants, consumers, community representatives and other stakeholders with respect to modernizing the enforcement processes to support reliability, market efficiency and market integrity. <i>Engagement Lead: Jamie Jang</i>	• A public engagement session was held on May 22, 2026, to share proposed design changes to IESO's Market Assessment and Compliance Division's (MACD) enforcement processes. • Feedback and response to feedback have been posted on the engagement page.
<u>Technical Requirements for Large Computational Loads Connecting to the Ontario Power System</u> The IESO posted a draft Technical Requirements document for connecting Large Computational Loads to the IESO-controlled grid. <i>Engagement Lead: Josh Acosta</i>	• An engagement session was held on July 23, 2026. • Non-confidential feedback and IESO response to feedback have been posted to the engagement webpage. • Subsequent engagement session anticipated in Q4.
<u>Changes to Governance of Approval of Market Parameters</u> The IESO is proposing a minor market rule amendment to remove a legacy requirement that the IESO Board directly set certain technical market parameters used in the calculation engines. <i>Engagement Lead: Josh Acosta</i>	• An engagement session was held on June 18, 2026. • Feedback and IESO response to feedback have been posted to engagement webpage.

Updates to Connection Process

Deposit

The IESO will provide an overview of proposed updates to the connection deposit structure for projects connecting to the IESO-Controlled Grid.

- An engagement session was held on July 23, 2026.
- First Baseline comment period closed on August 7, 2026.
- Second Baseline comment period closed on September 2, 2026.
- IESO Response to Baseline 56.0 Comments posted on the engagement page.

Engagement Lead: Josh Acosta

Ramp Rates for Battery Energy Storage System Facilities

The IESO is proposing formal market rule changes to standardize energy ramp rate requirements for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities to address rapidly increasing capacity of BESS resources with fast-ramping capabilities and associated operational challenges.

- An engagement session was held on July 22, 2026.
- Non-confidential feedback received has been posted to the engagement webpage, IESO response to feedback will be posted shortly.
- Subsequent engagement anticipated for mid-October 2026.

Engagement Lead: Josh Acosta

Intertie Offer Guarantee - Adjustments to Payment Conditions

The IESO is proposing changes to the Intertie Offer Guarantee (IOG) framework to better align compensation with periods when imports provide a demonstrated reliability or adequacy benefit to Ontario's electricity system. The proposal follows a recommendation from the Ontario Energy Board's Market Surveillance Panel (MSP) to review the continued need for real-time IOG payments following implementation of the Market Renewal Program and the introduction of the Day-Ahead Market.

- An engagement webinar was held on August 18, 2026 to discuss the proposed amendments
- Feedback following this webinar is posted to the engagement webpage.
- The next engagement webinar is scheduled for September 16, 2026.

Engagement Lead: Trisha Hickson

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
<u>Hydrogen Innovation Fund</u> The 2025 Hydrogen Innovation Fund (HIF) is a \$30 million program that supports innovative hydrogen projects driving Ontario's clean energy transition, economic growth, and job creation. It builds on the 2023 program by expanding eligibility and funding two streams focused on grid integration and broader industrial and transportation applications, with applications opened in November 2025. <i>Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun</i> <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot	• An engagement session was held on October 1, 2025, to provide an overview of program streams, eligibility, and application requirements ahead of the November 4, 2025, application window. • Feedback and response to feedback were posted on the engagement webpage. • Hydrogen Innovation Fund's 2025 Call window is now closed as of February 11, 2026. Successful projects to be announced shortly (Q3 2026).
<u>Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot</u> The Minister of Energy and Mines directed the IESO to submit a report by September 15, 2025, outlining a plan for the Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot tailored specifically for hydrogen producers and developers in Ontario. <i>Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun</i> <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Interruptible Rate Pilot	• The IESO submitted a report back to the Minister of Energy and Mines on September 30, 2025. • A communication update was posted on the engagement page on October 4, 2025.
<u>2026 Provincial eDSM Achievable Potential Study</u> The Ministry of Energy and Mines issued a Directive to the IESO to conduct an Achievable Potential Study by December 31, 2026. <i>Engagement Lead: Jamie Jang</i> <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Electricity Demand Side Management (eDSM) Framework • 2019 Conservation Achievable Potential Study	• A public engagement webinar was held on April 22, 2026, to present draft modelling input assumptions for the 2026 Achievable Potential Study and solicit feedback. • Written feedback and the response to feedback have been posted on the engagement page.

Active Engagement	Current Status
<u>Grid Innovation Fund</u> The IESO is working with the Ministry of Energy and Mines to review the Grid Innovation Fund (GIF) to enhance governance and determine future innovation-focused funding. <i>Engagement Lead: Jamie Jang</i>	• Virtual roundtable discussions were held on December 9-12, 2025, to seek recommendations from across the sector to enhance the GIF governance. • Written feedback and a written summary of the feedback have been posted. • Engagement continues in 2026.
<u>Adding De-Rates to the Real-Time Lost Cost Economic Operating Point</u> The IESO is proposing a correction to the formulas in Economic Operating Point (EOP) Market Rules and related tools to ensure continued accuracy and consistency of Real-Time Make Whole Payments (RT MWP) <i>Engagement Lead: Trisha Hickson</i>	• An engagement webinar was held on August 19, 2026. • Feedback following the webinar is posted on the engagement webpage. • A response to the feedback will be posted shortly. • An education session is scheduled for the IESO Technical Panel on September 15, 2026.

Updates on the Strategic Advisory Committee and Technical Panel

Group	Current Status
<u>Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC)</u> The Strategic Advisory Committee is a forum for its members to be informed of IESO activities and to provide strategic 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. <i>Engagement Lead: Stephanie Rodrigues</i>	• A public SAC meeting will be held in Q4 2026. Meeting details will be posted on the IESO website in advance.

Group

Current Status

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**

- A Technical Panel meeting was held on July 14, 2026, to discuss Changes to the Establishment and Publication of Market Parameters, as well as vote to post for stakeholder comment, the 2026 Capacity Auction amendments, and the Chapter 3 Market Rule Amendment Process Refresh. Meeting materials are posted on the website.
 - The next Technical Panel meeting will take place on September 15, 2026.
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