

# Niagara Region Electricity Planning Public Webinar #3 – October 18, 2022

## Response to feedback received

The IESO hosted a public webinar for the Niagara Region long-term electricity plan – Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) – on October 18, 2022 to seek input on the options analysis and draft recommendations. The presentation material and recorded webinar are available on the [engagement webpage](#).

Feedback was received from [Welland Hydro](#) and the full submission can be viewed on the engagement webpage. The section below summarizes feedback received and the IESO's responses.

**Feedback:** There should be procedures to alter the implementation of plan recommendations should changes occur in the region.

### **IESO Response:**

Thank you for your feedback – the IESO agrees that the IRRP recommendations should be made with consideration for their flexibility to accommodate changes. This is achieved in a few ways for the Niagara Region. A high forecast was developed for the Niagara IRRP to support the options evaluation and understand another potential long-term scenario. Most of the recommendations are also a flexible portfolio of integrated solutions (i.e., load transfers and a new station, new station plus targeted energy efficiency and an existing circuit uprate) rather than one single large investment.

After completion of the IRRP, Hydro One will lead the development of a Regional Infrastructure Plan (RIP) as the next stage of the regional planning process. The RIP will assess and develop a detailed wires plan to address the identified needs for the region as studied in the IRRP, provide the status of projects already underway or completed, identify investments in transmission and/or distribution facilities to be developed and implemented on a coordinated basis. There is an opportunity during this step to consider any updated information, particularly as it pertains to the wires recommendations.

Annual Technical Working Group<sup>1</sup> meetings are also held between cycles to help monitor the region and keep apprised of new developments and track progress of previous recommendations. Should underlying assumptions change significantly, plans may be revisited through an amendment, or by

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<sup>1</sup> The Niagara Region IRRP Technical Working Group is led by the IESO and includes the region's Local Distribution Companies (LDCs): Alectra Utilities, Canadian Niagara Power Inc., Grimsby Power Inc., Hydro One Networks Inc., Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc., Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro Inc., and Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp. and lead transmitter (Hydro One Networks Inc.).

initiating a new regional planning cycle ahead of the five-year schedule mandated by the Ontario Energy Board.

**Feedback:** The IESO should keep lines of communication open and reach out for feedback.

**IESO Response:**

A key priority that was identified for Niagara Region through outreach with local municipalities and broader public engagement is the importance of alignment with significant planned growth across the region. This feedback enabled the IESO and Technical Working Group to build a holistic understanding about local growth that was instrumental in developing the most accurate demand forecast possible, studying emerging needs, and developing solutions to ensure an adequate and reliable electricity supply for Niagara Region over the long-term. In order to keep a pulse on local developments between planning cycles and keep communities and interested parties informed about plan implementation and other relevant electricity sector initiatives, ongoing discussions will continue through the IESO's Southwest Regional Electricity Network. Parties interested in joining the Network and participating in future discussions can sign up on the IESO website: <https://www.ieso.ca/en/Get-Involved/Community-Engagement/Regional-Electricity-Networks/Join-a-Network>