East Lake Superior Regional Electricity Planning Public webinar #2 – November 17, 2020

Responses to feedback received

The IESO hosted a public webinar for the East Lake Superior long-term electricity plan – Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) – on November 17, 2020 to seek input on the defined electricity needs and potential options being examined to meet those needs. The presentation material and recorded webinar are available on the engagement webpage.

Feedback was received from the following parties and posted on the engagement webpage:

- Uplight
- N-Sci Technologies

The section below summarizes the themes that emerged from the feedback received and IESO responses. The IESO appreciates the feedback received, which has been considered by the East Lake Superior IRRP Technical Working Group[1] as potential options to meet the region's future electricity needs continue to be evaluated.

Options Development

1. Feedback provider: Uplight Inc.

   Feedback: Inquiry on whether other forms of non-wires alternatives (NWAs) such as software, residential demand response (DR) through connected smart thermostats, water heaters and electric vehicle chargers are being considered as an opportunity to achieve DR capacity.

   IESO response: The IESO considers NWAs as potential options to address identified needs. However, the types of NWAs considered depends on a number of factors including, but not limited to, the characteristics and timing of the needs, the customer types in the area of the need, costs, as well as implementation mechanisms. While the IESO is in the process of assessing options, it is likely that a solution consisting only of residential DR will not be feasible at this time given the magnitude and timing of the needs and the current levels of participation from residential DR. However, DR continues to be a valuable resource to help offset electricity load.

[1] The East Lake Superior IRRP Technical Working Group consists of the IESO, Algoma Power Inc., Chapleau PUC, Hydro One (Transmission and Distribution), Sault Ste. Marie PUC, and Hydro One Networks Sault Ste. Marie LP

A comparison of options considered in this IRRP will be provided in the final report including planning-level estimates of expected costs of each option.

2. Feedback provider: N-Sci Technologies

   Feedback received: The screening and analysis of potential solutions to meet the future electricity needs of the East Lake Superior region should consider NWAs as equivalent to wires. A thorough analysis of all options should be provided and included in the IRRP.

   IESO response: The IESO is considering NWAs in determining the best way to meet the needs identified in the East Lake Superior region, and this work is ongoing. The feasibility of NWAs to meet a particular need depends on a number of factors including, but not limited to, the characteristics and timing of the needs, the customer types in the area of the need, implementation mechanisms and the expected cost.

   A comparison of wires and non-wires options considered in this IRRP will be provided in the final report including planning level estimates of expected costs of each option. All interested parties will have an opportunity to provide feedback on these findings through the engagement initiative prior to completion of the IRRP.

3. Feedback provider: N-Sci Technologies

   Feedback: Longer-term planning should consider industrial growth in Northern Ontario in order to identify system capacity and upgrades required. Load forecasting from customers, developers, consultants should be considered instead of only using the transmitters and distributors.

   IESO response: As discussed in the webinar, the IESO is in the process of considering high industrial growth scenarios outside of the IRRP given the potential impact to the broader electricity system. In developing electricity load forecasts, the IESO seeks input from local distribution companies and the transmitter given their relationships with the communities and customers that they serve. Through this engagement initiative, all interested parties including existing customers, prospective customers, developers, municipalities and communities were invited to provide input on growth and/or expansion plans for consideration into the electricity demand assumptions.

Future Engagement

1. Feedback provider: N-Sci Technologies

   Feedback: Access to bulk system information would be useful and should be explored.

   IESO Response: While this is outside of the scope of the East Lake Superior IRRP, the IESO appreciates this feedback and will take it into consideration.

2. Feedback provider: N-Sci Technologies

Feedback: The following information would be useful to provide to market participants and developers and should be updated on a regularly basis particularly for high growth areas:

- Available capacity at each Network node and key transmission/distribution interfaces
- Investment required to increase capacity in reasonable increments (e.g. $1M gets 2% increase, $50M gets 100% increase, etc.)
- Operating diagrams that include Network and Connection assets

IESO Response: In general, the IESO understands that stakeholders are interested in more information and data with respect to capacity on the transmission system. Much of the information and data that is used in planning by the East Lake Superior Technical Working Group is confidential data and therefore presents challenges in making this information public. The IESO makes best efforts to provide information and data that is used in planning and will take this feedback into consideration for the next phase of this engagement.