Hydrogen Innovation Fund: Draft Application Guideline (Program Rules) and Materials Webinar—February 22, 2023

Feedback Provided by:

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Date: March 7, 2023

Following the February 22, 2023 engagement webinar, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback from stakeholders on the items discussed during the webinar. The webinar presentation and recording can be accessed from the engagement web page. For more details on the Hydrogen Innovation Fund, please see the Low-Carbon Hydrogen Strategy engagement page.

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by March 8, 2023. If you wish to provide confidential feedback, please submit as a separate document, marked “Confidential”. Otherwise, to promote transparency, feedback that is not marked “Confidential” will be posted on the engagement webpage.
Funding Requirements

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<td>Do you have any general feedback on the funding requirements?</td>
<td>Please confirm that stacking of funding sources is allowed. Please confirm whether the minimum 25% cash to be contributed by project applicants and partners can be sourced from any non-IESO funding program.</td>
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Evaluation Criteria

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<td>Are the evaluation criteria clear and complete?</td>
<td>See comments below.</td>
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General Comments/Feedback

The Draft Program Rules state that applicants will be notified of outcomes in early Q3 2023. Research/feasibility studies are then required to be complete by Dec 31, 2023. We would suggest that feasibility studies should be given at least nine months from the date of the funding being awarded, for the study to be completed.

Intellectual Property

What are the IP arrangements for the three categories of projects (Existing, New and Feasibility). Are the findings of the feasibility studies to be made public?

Potential Feasibility Followed by Project Option

Carlsun suggests that there be a mechanism by which a proponent could apply for a feasibility study and a new facility project concurrently. In this case, a proponent would receive funding for a feasibility study and be “pre-approved” for funding for the project pending a successful outcome of the feasibility study.

Comments on Criteria

Emissions Impact Criteria: Is the emissions impact to be quantified according to an established method? How does the emissions impact criteria apply to feasibility studies which are generally desktop exercises? Carlsun would suggest that for feasibility studies, the emissions impact points are re-distributed between the Market Capability Building Impact and the Market, Program or Technical Advancement categories since these are the elements that feasibility studies are ideally suited to address.