

How can the IESO streamline relevant processes (i.e. community engagement, municipal support) to the benefit of Proponents and municipalities?

- Consider providing best practice guidelines that municipalities use as a guideline to create their own processes. This may ensure a somewhat consistent approach to energy projects while still allowing municipalities the flexibility to introduce criteria that is important to the community. This could include specific criteria that municipalities should consider requiring from each project and the timing of when this information is required.
- Provide a public consultation framework, including information that is required to be made available.
- Indigenous Participation Points – what does Indigenous Participation include? Is there are requirement for Proponents to engage and consult with neighbouring Indigenous communities or are the points simply for involving an Indigenous community in the project as a partner?

How can the IESO better support municipalities to make decisions about proposed projects?

- Municipalities may lack the expertise to fully understand the impact of a project to a community (positive and negative), the correct siting for a project (i.e. appropriate setbacks from residential development), preferred locations for battery storage projects etc.
- An IESO resource (human) that municipalities can reach out to ask technical questions about projects would be appreciated and beneficial.
- Councils may have questions that are specific to their municipalities and it would be beneficial if there was an opportunity for IESO representatives to come to Council meetings to answer questions in a public forum
- Develop and provide an inventory of professional consultants that municipalities can access for particular technical ('peer') reviews.

What key considerations are there from a municipal perspective related to Agricultural Impact Assessment?

- Most municipalities may not have the expertise in-house to appropriately review and approve an Agricultural Impact Assessment and will need to seek external expertise. Doing so will incur additional costs that will need to be passed on to the proponent through cost recovery.
- The timing of the AIA will be important. If the AIA is not required to be completed until 18 months after a contract has been awarded and the AIA determines that the location specified is not suitable what is the course of action? The AIA should be developed and

submitted early in the process and be used as a key part of the project location decision making. The AIA is a critical determinant in suitability of land use and should not be relegated to the technical (site plan) review stage.

- What constitutes evidence of a satisfactorily completed AIA, will there be specific guidelines established to ensure all AIAs are completed to the same level of expertise? An AIA guideline document should be produced to establish baseline requirements such that all studies are developed to a consistent standard.

What feedback or municipal perspectives can be shared on the new LT2 RFP proposed municipal requirements and engagement approach?

- Our municipality appreciates the ability to determine how to proceed with community engagement and municipal support and the requirement that the Proponent work with the municipality. This should ensure a more hands-on approach to the projects to ensure the community is informed within a timeline that is appropriate instead of last minute.
- A condition of the IESO's approvals should be the development and submission of a detailed decommissioning plan. The plan should be informed by other decommissions standards that have been established by the Province (e.g. restore site to pre-development conditions)