

Feedback Form

Long-Term 2 RFP | Engagement Webinar | July 4, 2024

Renewable Energy Co-operatives as proponents

Feedback Provided by:

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Following the July 4, 2024 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 [Future Clean Electricity Fund](#) web page.

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca. 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.

General Comments/Feedback

Introduction to OREC: The Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative (OREC) intends to engage as a co-proponent in LT2. OREC is an experienced creator/owner of DER projects, both solar and wind. OREC owns two wind turbines and 23 solar PV projects, including two 500KW ground mount PV projects that we created. We are in the process of partnering with a large and experienced developer.

OREC previously submitted comments regarding forthcoming energy procurements and we include copies with this submission.

The purpose of this submission is to underline concerns in certain areas and reiterate solutions as in our prior submissions. We made comments in today's session, and we were encouraged to forward our ideas in writing once again.

OREC is one of many other Renewable Energy cooperatives across Ontario and Canada that have similar capabilities and interests in citizen owned community scale clean energy generation projects. As a group we have a strong capability to build local support for the new energy assets that must be built across the province and country as we electrify our economy. Community Energy Cooperatives Canada (<https://www.cecooperative.ca/>) is our national association.

Concern 1:

We previously noted a qualification bias in LT2 material in favour of indigenous engagement, including indigenous participation as co-proponents. We wish again to request that community-based investment entities such as OREC will be granted equivalency to indigenous participation in terms of rated criteria points as well as set-asides, particularly if such set-asides will be structured to incentivise partnership with indigenous communities. Our question is, "why not community groups too?"

Concern 2:

Rural Ottawa is still reverberating from the process of approving large BESS contracts in LT1. Much negative feeling has grown since November 2023 when a plethora of Open House events were held in Ottawa's rural areas and developers were not ready with adequate answers about appropriate project scale and risks to communities. OREC is monitoring continuing conversations among opponents and their municipal representatives, and we anticipate greater opposition to LT2 projects. OREC believes a development model involving multiple small projects on distribution lines, funded by community investors, will attract significant interest within municipalities. This approach will attract municipal councils to the benefits of local economic activity, and the virtuous loop of generating energy locally, thereby relying less on large energy sources from outside community boundaries. OREC believes that scaling generation and BESS units such as OREC is proposing, meaning smaller, more widely distributed locally owned projects will attract positive attitudes, especially within rural areas, to what is effectively another form of farming. OREC recommends to the IESO that future energy procurements accommodate smaller scale projects, particularly clusters of small projects that have commonality of ownership and regional proximity. Clustered projects on different but proximate

distribution feeder lines could be considered as single projects. OREC further recommends that the IESO include rating criteria that reward developers who partner with community-based organizations, similar to indigenous engagement criteria.