

Final Engagement Summary Report

Date: May 2021

Regional Planning Process Review

Engagement Initiated: May 2018

Engagement Description:

In 2017, the Ontario government directed the IESO to review and report on the regional planning process, taking into account lessons learned from the first regional planning cycle, and provide options and make recommendations for improvement. In response to the 2017 directive, the IESO established the Regional Planning Process Review (RPPR) stakeholder engagement and formed the Regional Planning Review Advisory Group (RPRAG) to assist in this review. The RPRAG membership was made up of regional planning process participants and industry stakeholders and provided context, advice, and support throughout this engagement initiative.

The IESO also established the Transmission Asset end-of-life (EOL) Working Group to identify opportunities to better consider the replacement of transmission assets reaching EOL. This working group was composed of transmitters, distributors who own transmission assets, and the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) as an observer.

Engagement Objective:

Through the Review, the IESO worked with stakeholders to identify recommendations regarding:

- key areas in the process for enhancement
- potential barriers to implementing non-wires solutions in regional planning
- opportunities for potential coordination between bulk system planning, community energy planning, regional planning, and market renewal
- a coordinated, cost-effective, long-term approach to replacing transmission assets at EOL

Engagement Approach:

This stakeholder engagement was a public engagement process and was conducted in accordance with the IESO's approved [engagement principles](#). The approach for this engagement initiative

included opportunities to provide input through various channels such as in-person meetings, webinars, and written feedback. All materials, including feedback and commentary from stakeholders, and IESO responses to feedback were posted on the dedicated IESO engagement webpage for this initiative.

Conclusion:

In February 2021, the IESO posted the RPPR Final Report which summarized the work the IESO undertook to develop recommendations to improve the regional planning process, with the support of stakeholders. Following the posting of the report, the IESO held a webinar to summarize the recommendations within the report and outline future activities for implementation of the recommendations that are within the IESO's responsibility. Stakeholder feedback received following this webinar was summarized with a corresponding IESO response in a document posted to the RPPR engagement webpage.

The RPPR Final Report details recommendations to improve the regional planning process. While implementation of these recommendations will require collaboration amongst the various participants of the regional planning process, the IESO and OEB are the primary leads for implementation of these recommendations. In response to stakeholder feedback, the IESO and OEB collaborated to identify the organization responsible for the review and implementation, if appropriate, of each recommendation contained in the Final Report in a [document](#) posted to the RPPR engagement webpage.

The IESO used stakeholder feedback from the RPRAG, Transmission Asset EOL Replacement Working Group, Non-emitting Resources Sub Committee (established as part of the Market Renewal Working Group), and public webinars to develop recommendations aimed at improving process efficiency and flexibility, better coordinating transmission asset EOL needs in planning, and addressing barriers to non-wires alternatives (NWAs). Specifically, stakeholder feedback used to inform these recommendations was gathered through:

- A review of the existing regional planning process and recommendations from the OEB's Regional Planning Process Advisory Group
- Research via questionnaires and in-person interviews with IESO staff, and with distributors and transmitters
- In-person interviews and targeted engagement with industry stakeholders
- Establishment of the Regional Planning Review Advisory Group and facilitated discussion in group meetings
- Establishment of the EOL Working Group and facilitated discussion in group meetings
- Public engagement webinars
- Written submissions

The IESO will publicly share its progress on implementation of regional planning process improvements through future planning-related engagement activities, which could include written

communications and webinars. The IESO will aim to provide an update on these process improvements in Fall 2021.

This concludes the RPPR stakeholder engagement. Thank you to all stakeholders for your participation. All materials including the Final Report, will continue to be available on the IESO website under [Completed Engagements](#).