

Wednesday February 12, 2025

Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)
1600-120 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 1T1
Via Email: engagement@ieso.ca

RE: REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK – TRANSMITTER SELECTION FRAMEWORK - JANUARY 22, 2025

Dear Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO);

Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) staff participated in your webinar session on the Transmitter Selection Framework on January 22, 2025. As stated in our previous correspondence, the participation of MFNM staff is for information gathering only and is not a substitute for direct engagement with our Matawa member First Nations who are the *Constitution Act*, 1982 Section 35 Indigenous and Treaty rights holders in their traditional territories and homelands.

With this understanding – the Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) submits the following comments to the material that was presented:

Firstly, the Transmitter Selection Framework (TSF) proposed has a direct impact on the rights, lands stewardship, and economic interests of Matawa member First Nations. The TSF process sets out how the IESO will require necessary qualifications of ‘transmitters’ or transmission companies to build new transmission projects in Ontario.

Secondly, the Transmitter Selection Framework (TSF) and Qualified Transmitter Registry (QTR) does not provide the framework necessary for the recognition of First Nations and First Nation direct ownership of new potential transmission projects in Ontario as a means of implementing significant terms of reconciliation. New transmission projects are a key aspect of addressing the urgent energy needs of the remote First Nations that are currently operating on diesel generating stations, the energy needs of road access communities, the development of future generation projects led by our First Nations, and the economic interests of our Matawa member First Nations. The TSF and QTR is designed for the advantage of industry, investors and corporations and does not recognize the unique Constitutional and government status of Matawa member First Nations.

Thirdly, the Transmitter Selection Framework (TSF) must be analyzed to address the corporate, economic, and financial barriers that First Nations face in order to meaningfully participate in new transmission projects in Ontario that are debt-heavy and financing reliant at the start.



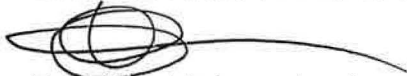
Finally, the Matawa Chiefs Council have been briefed on the passing of Bill 214, *Affordable Energy Act, 2024* which includes the revision of *Electricity Act, 1998* Section II.2 Planning, Procurement, Pricing to shift from long-term energy plans to “Integrated Energy Plans” that include a broader scope and mandate for the Minister of Energy and the IESO to deliver, plan and market Ontario’s energy resources from many different sources (electricity, natural gas, hydrogen and others).

MFNM specifically notes the new Integrated Energy Plans have a specific clause under 25.29 2 (h) *the advancement of reconciliation with Indigenous communities, including early engagement in project planning, consultation and support for Indigenous leadership and participation in the energy sector;*

The Ministry of Energy and Electrification and the IESO must meet the commitments made to First Nations in a substantive and meaningful way. Matawa member First Nations are not merely stakeholders such as municipalities, industry and investors. Please note that the Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) also requests further information on the Integrated Energy Plans process.

In closing, Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM) expects that our written comments provided here will be posted publicly on the IESO engagement website feedback site. It is important that there be transparency in communicating the urgent needs of Matawa member First Nations as they will decide, direct and lead energy projects in their traditional territories and homeland.

Sincerely,
MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MANAGEMENT



David Paul Achneepineskum
Chief Executive Officer

cc: *Matawa Chiefs Council*
Nishnawbe Aski Nation Executive Council
Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict, Chiefs of Ontario

