

Engagement Plan

Transmitter Selection Framework

Introduction

The development of a Transmitter Selection Framework (TSF) represents a step forward in response to the “[Powering Ontario’s Growth](#)” report. Recognizing the significant new investments in new transmission infrastructure needed to meet growing demand and enable the viability of new electricity generation and storage projects, the IESO’s objective is to develop a transparent and well-understood process for selecting transmitters to develop and own infrastructure will be crucial in the interests of improving efficiency and providing better ratepayer value.

The TSF aims to bring about a more predictable and transparent process that recognizes the significant new transmission investment needed to enable the actions and investments signalled within the Powering Ontario’s Growth report, while ensuring the perspectives of current transmitters, prospective proponents, stakeholders, communities, and First Nations are reflected in the TSF. As indicated in the July 10 Powering Ontario’s Growth Letter from the Minister of Energy, the IESO has been asked to report back on the progress towards development of a TSF by Summer 2024. This engagement plan outlines the objectives, approach, timeline and considerations for engaging with Indigenous communities, municipalities, transmitters and industry stakeholders during the development of the TSF and associated report-back to the Minister of Energy. This engagement plan may be subject to review and updates as the process evolves. All comments and enquiries on this engagement can be directed to engagement@ieso.ca

Communities and Stakeholders

The IESO encourages all interested parties to participate in this engagement through the different engagement activities described in the Approach section below. This multi-stream engagement approach aims to involve a diverse audience, including Indigenous communities, municipalities, prospective proponents, transmitters, financiers, and other interested parties. The engagement process recognizes the importance of stakeholders’ and communities’ roles in shaping the TSF, and aims to provide multiple forums for dialogue and feedback.

Engagement Objectives

The objectives of this engagement are to:

1. Inform and build awareness amongst stakeholders and communities regarding the IESO's work to develop a TSF which will support the future transmission work needed to enable the goals and actions described within the "Powering Ontario's Growth" report.
2. Facilitate dialogue with Indigenous communities to inform the development of the TSF and to ensure their perspectives are reflected within the proposed TSF design.
3. Consider input from municipalities in the design of the TSF, in a manner similar to the targeted outreach and engagement undertaken for generation-procurement engagements, as future transmission development will require participation and support from local governing bodies.
4. Enable stakeholders and communities to provide feedback on issues and considerations related to the development of a TSF to inform the Summer 2024 report back to government and the recommended approach to a TSF.

Approach

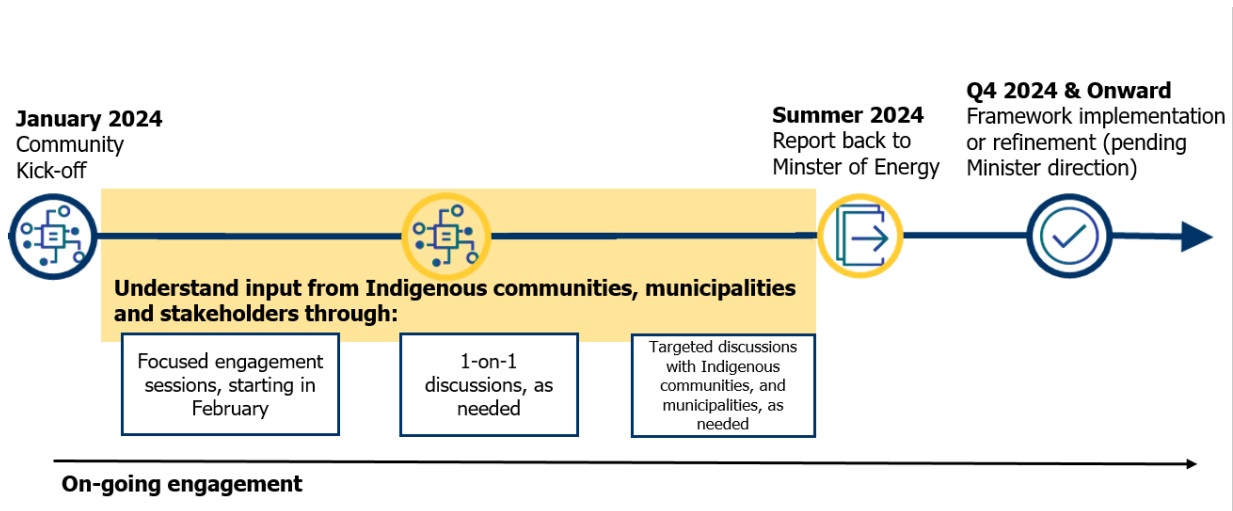
This engagement plan will be implemented in accordance with the [IESO's approved engagement principles](#).

This is a public engagement process. All relevant materials will be posted on the dedicated IESO engagement webpage, and any information/input supplied by interested parties will also be posted (with consent).

The IESO's intention through this process will be to engage with relevant external parties to inform them of the TSF development work, and enable them to provide input and feedback to help shape a TSF for future transmission projects in Ontario.

Engagement may be conducted through multiple forums and will be aimed at describing the TSF development work that the IESO is undertaking, in support of the report-back to the Minister of Energy due in Summer 2024. The TSF engagement strategy involves three potential streams of engagements: Focused Engagement Sessions, 1-on-1 discussion on an "as needed" basis and targeted outreach and engagement with Indigenous communities and municipalities. This inclusive approach aims to gather diverse perspectives, ensure transparency, and foster collaboration throughout the TSF development process. The proposed interaction between these different streams of engagement is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 – Proposed Engagement Approach



Focused Engagement Sessions

We will be holding Focused Engagement Sessions to facilitate effective engagement during the design process of the TSF. This will provide a flexible and collaborative platform, meeting on an “as needed basis” to delve into Technical, Policy, and Commercial topics. The Focused Engagement Sessions objectives include offering advice on practical decisions related to the framework and providing insights to facilitate effective dialogue on key design elements. Outcomes of these sessions will be shared publicly, where applicable, to support transparency.

Outreach and Engagement with Indigenous Communities and Municipalities:

Given the critical importance of engaging with Indigenous communities and municipalities in the design of the TSF, a comprehensive plan for targeted outreach and engagement is under development. This outreach, beginning in early 2024, aims to solicit feedback and complement the efforts of the proposed Focused Engagement Sessions. Meetings with Indigenous communities and municipalities will be structured to inform the design process effectively and ensure that their perspectives are reflected within the TSF development process.

Proposed Engagement Schedule

The anticipated timing for this engagement is presented below. Note that timing and information associated with upcoming activities are subject to change. Updates will be posted to the Transmitter Selection Framework engagement page, when available.

Timing	Engagement Activity
November 22, 2023	<p>Public Engagement Session to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise Awareness: Inform Indigenous communities and stakeholders about the importance of their input into the TSF• Solicit Feedback: Enable Indigenous communities and stakeholders to provide input regarding the TSF engagement approach
January – June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focused Engagement Sessions• Series of targeted outreach and engagement efforts to Indigenous communities and municipalities• 1-on-1 discussions, as needed
Summer 2024	Report back to the Minister of Energy

Additional Background and Resources

[Powering Ontario's Growth \(POG\) report](#)

[July 10 letter from the Minister of Energy](#)