

# Transmitter Selection Framework: Municipal Feedback and IESO Response

## Information Session for Municipalities – May 14, 2024

Following the Municipal Information Session and discussion held virtually on May 14, 2024, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) invited feedback on the presentation materials and how the IESO can support municipal input into this initiative.

The presentation materials and recordings of the sessions are available on the dedicated [Community Engagement webpage](#).

Written feedback was received from the following parties and posted:

- [Chris Vajda](#)
- [Harold Harkonen](#)
- [Town of Petawawa](#)

### **Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Response**

The IESO appreciates the written feedback received from municipalities and other interested parties. The table below responds to the written feedback received and is organized by each topic. This document is provided for information purposes only. It does not constitute, nor should it be construed to constitute, legal advice or a guarantee, offer, representation or warranty on behalf of the IESO.

## Transmitter Selection Framework

Feedback	IESO Response
<p><b>Ensuring consistency across transmitters will be key, including those regarding siting/routing, engagement, development and operating/maintenance.</b></p>	<p>The IESO acknowledges the importance of consistency as more transmitters enter the electricity landscape in Ontario and participate in project development.</p> <p>The IESO's regional and bulk electricity plans may provide recommendations including transmission in a specific area to meet needs identified through its technical studies; however, specific routes are not typically determined at this stage. Under a future Transmitter Selection Framework, transmitters selected through a new competitive process will still be required to follow all applicable laws, permitting requirements, regulations and local approvals, including those that pertain to development and operation of the infrastructure.</p> <p>The feedback we receive through engagements, including those regarding the importance of consistency across projects, will help to inform the IESO's report back on the Transmitter Selection Framework to the Ministry of Energy this summer. The report back will describe the considerations around an effective Transmitter Selection Framework, which would be expected to evolve Ontario's current approach to selecting transmitters for transmission projects identified in the interests of fostering competition and innovation.</p>
<p><b>Engaging unorganized rural residents and mining/forestry is an important part of planning and development of future projects, especially given siting in unorganized areas and crown lands.</b></p>	<p>The IESO acknowledges the importance of engaging a wide range of communities and stakeholders as part of planning and development of future projects. The feedback we receive through engagements will help to inform the IESO's report back on the Transmitter Selection Framework to the Ministry of Energy this summer.</p> <p>The IESO is committed to helping to ensure that interested parties are kept informed and are provided with opportunities for purposeful engagement to contribute to electricity planning initiatives. We are continuously striving to enhance our engagement practices to increase opportunities for input. The IESO regularly communicates with communities and stakeholders and interested parties through emails, IESO weekly Bulletin, public webinars, and targeted outreach meetings to help these groups stay up-to-date on the IESO's work and opportunities for engagement participation. We</p>

Feedback	IESO Response
	<p>encourage any interested parties to visit the IESO website to <a href="#">subscribe</a> to receive updates on key initiatives of interest.</p> <p>Under a future Transmitter Selection Framework, selected transmitters will still be required to follow all applicable laws, permitting requirements, regulations and local approvals, including those pertaining to engaging potentially impacted individuals or groups as determined through the Environmental Assessment process.</p>

## General Feedback/Comments

Feedback	IESO Response
<p><b>Concerns were shared regarding developing a plan to meet electricity needs within a year.</b></p>	<p>The IESO appreciates participation and engagement during the May 14 webinar. The purpose of the webinar was to solicit early feedback around considerations from municipalities to develop a competitive Transmitter Selection Framework. The feedback we receive through engagements will help to inform the IESO's report back to the Ministry of Energy this summer.</p> <p>To set context and build an understanding about the drivers for the framework development, the IESO provided a short overview of the multi-pronged efforts to meet our province's growing electricity needs during the webinar. Meeting Ontario's growing needs will take years to achieve and includes a range of actions from procuring new supply resources to building new nuclear and enhancing conservation and demand management programs.</p> <p>To learn more about planning the electricity system, please <a href="#">click here</a>, and to learn more about the IESO's plan to secure new supply, please <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Additional information was requested regarding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting on redundancies of the distribution system</li> <li>• Transmitters position on ability of the distribution system to handle growth</li> </ul>	<p>The IESO strives to make information available to session participants where possible. While the purpose of the session was to solicit early feedback around considerations from municipalities to develop a competitive Transmitter Selection Framework, below are a few resources to learn more:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provincial Planning:</b> Provincial electricity planning, referred to as bulk planning, focuses on province-wide needs. Bulk planning considers the location of large power plants, the capacity of high-voltage transmission</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effectiveness, safety, impact and cost of battery storage systems</li> <li>Impacts of maintenance, operation and removal (this is not the right word) of battery storage systems</li> <li>Role of hydro power generation to meet the growing needs</li> </ul>	<p>lines and Ontario's grid connections with neighbouring jurisdictions. Learn more <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Regional Planning:</b> Ontario is divided into 21 regional electricity planning zones. The IESO assesses each zone's electricity needs during the regional planning process, considering energy efficiency, electricity generation, infrastructure and opportunities for innovation. The IESO leads the regional planning process, working closely with Local Distribution Companies (local hydro companies) and transmitters. Learn more <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li><b>Distribution System:</b> Local Distribution Companies are responsible for forecasting and planning for their communities, and of course maintaining their infrastructure. Currently, the IESO does not have a role in local distribution planning, please engage your Local Distribution Company to understand redundancies in the system and the distributions systems ability to handle growth.</li> <li><b>Battery Energy Storage Systems:</b> After years of stable supply, Ontario is entering a period of need with demand expected to increase by 2 per cent per year over the next twenty years due to electrification, decarbonization and economic growth. Energy storage is well positioned to help support this need, providing a reliable and flexible form of electricity supply that can underpin the energy transformation of the future. Learn more on the <a href="#">IESO website</a> and <a href="#">Backgrounder</a>.</li> <li><b>Securing hydro generation:</b> Given the growing electricity needs, the IESO has outlined a multi-pronged effort to secure new generation and infrastructure, this includes securing new hydro. To learn more please visit <a href="#">the IESO website</a>.</li> <li><b>Upcoming engagements:</b> Stakeholder and community engagement is integral to the IESO's decision-making process. The IESO regularly communicates with communities and stakeholders and interested parties on a range of topics, including planning and procurements, through emails, IESO weekly Bulletin, and public webinars to help these groups stay up-to-date on the IESO's work and opportunities for engagement participation. Participation</li> </ul>

**Feedback****IESO Response**

is encouraged, to learn more please visit the [IESO website](#).