

# Toronto Third Line

## FAQ

April 2, 2026

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Project Overview

#### **1. Why is a new transmission line needed for Toronto?**

Toronto is growing rapidly, with increasing electricity demand from new housing, businesses, transit expansion, and electrification. By 2044, electricity use in the city is expected to double. The Toronto Third Line is a key part of ensuring reliable, cost-effective electricity supply to support this growth.

#### **2. What is the Toronto Third Line?**

The Toronto Third Line is a proposed new transmission connection that would bring additional electricity into downtown Toronto. The current preferred option is an underwater high-voltage direct current (HVDC) line, which would enhance reliability, increase supply diversity, and support long-term growth.

### Procurement Approach

#### **3. Why is the project being competitively procured?**

A competitive procurement process allows multiple qualified developers to propose solutions, which can:

- Encourage innovation
- Promote cost-effectiveness for ratepayers
- Attract experienced developers with specialized expertise
- Provide accountability for cost, schedule, and project commitments

#### **4. How is this different from traditional transmission development?**

Unlike traditional approaches where a transmitter may be designated, this project is being designed as a competitive process to better reflect its complexity and scale. The approach is tailored to the project's unique characteristics while incorporating best practices from other jurisdictions.

#### **5. How does this relate to the Transmitter Selection Framework (TSF)?**

The TSF is a broader approach for competitive transmission procurement in Ontario. While the Toronto Third Line has unique requirements, it will incorporate key TSF elements such as pre-registration of proponents and structured evaluation processes. Insights from this project will help inform future applications of the TSF.

#### **6. Who can participate in the procurement?**

Only entities that are registered on the TSF Registry will be eligible to submit a proposal. Additional eligibility requirements for a successful proposal will be outlined as part of the Request for Proposals (RFP).

#### **7. Why do proponents need to be registered on the TSF Registry?**

The TSF Registry is used to ensure that only proponents with technical, financial, and delivery capabilities are eligible to participate in competitive transmission procurements.

For the Toronto Third Line, the Registry supports a fair, transparent, and efficient procurement process.

### **Cost, Timing and Delivery**

#### **8. How much will the project cost?**

At this early stage, costs are still being refined. Preliminary estimates for the recommended option are in the range of \$1.5 billion, but final costs will depend on detailed design, procurement outcomes, and market conditions.

#### **9. Will a competitive process delay the project?**

While competitive procurements require careful design and execution, they are intended to improve overall outcomes. Taking the time to structure the process properly can help ensure strong proposals, better cost certainty, and improved delivery performance.

## **10. When will the project be built?**

The procurement process is expected to launch in 2027, with timelines for construction and in-service dates to be determined based on procurement outcomes and regulatory approvals.

## Environment and Community Impacts

### **11. What are the environmental impacts of the project?**

Environmental impacts are not yet known. The selected proponent will be required to complete an environmental assessment and obtain all necessary approvals. These processes will evaluate potential impacts and identify mitigation measures.

### **12. Will the project affect recreational use of Lake Ontario?**

Potential impacts will be assessed through environmental and permitting processes. Any effects on recreational use will be evaluated and addressed through those regulatory reviews.

## System Reliability and Planning

### **14. What does this mean for existing generation, such as the Portlands Energy Centre?**

Existing facilities will continue to play an important role in maintaining system reliability. Over time, as new infrastructure and resources are developed, the system will evolve based on changing needs and conditions.

## Indigenous Engagement and Participation

### **15. How are Indigenous communities being engaged?**

The IESO is committed to ongoing, meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities. This includes providing information, seeking feedback on procurement design, and offering opportunities to participate in engagement activities related to the Toronto Third Line.

### **16. What is the Indigenous Engagement and Participation Plan (IEPP)?**

As part of their proposals, proponents will be required to submit an Indigenous Engagement and Participation Plan (IEPP) outlining how they will engage with

Indigenous communities and support meaningful economic participation opportunities.

The IEPP is intended to demonstrate how proponents have considered:

- Engagement approaches
- Community participation opportunities
- Long-term economic benefits

Proposals will be evaluated, in part, on the content of these plans.

### **17. Will Indigenous communities be supported to participate in the process?**

The IESO recognizes the importance of supporting Indigenous participation in engagement activities and is exploring approaches to provide capacity support, with further details to be shared as they are confirmed.

Proponents will also be expected to support engagement with Indigenous communities as part of proposal development, with additional details to be outlined in the RFP.

### **18. Who is responsible for Indigenous consultation?**

The duty to consult Indigenous Communities rests with the Crown. The IESO's role is to engage with communities on procurement design and project-related information. Any further consultation responsibilities will be defined by the Ministry of Energy and Mines as the project progresses.

## **Economic and Market Considerations**

### **19. Will there be opportunities for Ontario or Canadian businesses?**

The procurement process is being developed in coordination with government policy, including consideration of opportunities to support Ontario and Canadian businesses. More details will be provided as the procurement framework is finalized.

### **20. How will proponents be held accountable?**

The procurement process will include evaluation criteria and contractual requirements designed to ensure accountability for:

- Project delivery timelines
- Cost management

- Indigenous engagement and participation commitments
- Technical performance

## Engagement and Next Steps

### **21. How can Indigenous communities and stakeholders provide input?**

Indigenous communities and stakeholders can participate in engagement sessions, review materials posted on the IESO website and submit feedback through [Engagement@ieso.ca](mailto:Engagement@ieso.ca) or [IndigenousRelations@ieso.ca](mailto:IndigenousRelations@ieso.ca). The engagement teams also welcome the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Indigenous communities and stakeholders to gather feedback and perspectives that will help inform procurement design and project development.

### **22. What are the next steps?**

The IESO will continue engagement activities throughout 2026 to refine the procurement design. A formal Request for Proposals (RFP) is expected to be launched in 2027.

