East Lake Superior Regional Electricity Planning Webinar – December 11, 2025

Response to feedback received

The IESO hosted a public webinar for the East Lake Superior electricity plan or Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) on December 11, 2025. During the webinar, the IESO provided the detailed analysis of East Lake Superior's emerging needs and an overview of the wire and non-wire options that will be considered to meet them. The presentation materials, including the webinar recording, are available on the Engagement Webpage.

The IESO appreciates the feedback received, which will be considered by the Technical Working Group, consisting of the IESO as the lead, the local transmitters (Hydro One Networks Inc. Hydro One Networks Sault Ste. Marie LP., and PUC Services Inc.) and the Local Distribution Companies (Algoma Power Inc., Hydro One Networks Inc., and PUC Services Inc.), to develop the IRRP. Feedback was received from the following parties; the full submission can be viewed on the Engagement Webpage:

- M'Chigeeng First Nation
- Ontario Rivers Alliance

The sections below summarize feedback received related to energy priorities and community considerations that should be considered in the East Lake Superior IRRP.

Electricity Demand Forecast Considerations

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
Share more information regarding the forecast development and assumptions specifically: • M'Chigeeng First Nation suggested sharing more information and data on the Algoma Steel Foundry electrification to fully understand the project's impact on the region's needs and reduce uncertainty. • Ontario Rivers Alliance shared the IESO should separate reference versus high forecast scenarios, identify what assumptions are driving commitments and acknowledge their uncertainty.	Thank you for this feedback. As a first step, the Technical Working Group developed two electricity demand forecast scenarios for the region: • **Reference Scenario** – based on confirmed or highly likely drivers such as known industrial activity, community growth plans, and municipal energy and electrification plans. • **High scenario** – reflects additional potential load growth from industrial developments and broader electrification that are not yet firm but plausible. A key assumption driving both scenarios is the expected load increase from Algoma Steel's Electric Arc Furnace, which is the dominant contributor to demand growth between 2026 to 2030. Under the high scenario, additional industrial projects and higher-than-expected electrification adoption further elevate demand beyond the reference case. Additional information on projections for the Electric Arc Furnace is available in the Data Tables for Tagona West, the transmission station expected to enter service in 2027 to support those needs. These assumptions carry uncertainty, particularly regarding the timing and scale of new industrial connections and the pace of electrification. Recognizing this, the Technical Working Group assessed the capability of existing and already-committed transmission investments (including the (Northeast Power Line) and transmission facilities developed by PUC Services Inc.) to meet both scenarios. Based on the current analysis, existing and committed infrastructure can meet forecast demand under typical conditions; however, localized and contingency-driven needs have been identified and are being addressed through ongoing options analysis.

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There are concerns that planning assumptions are inconsistent with observed or documented local needs, specifically: • Ontario Rivers Alliance shared the Scoping Assessment Outcome Report did not identify a need for new generation in the region, yet current planning language assumes ongoing growth that does not align with demonstrated local demand. • Ontario Rivers Alliance shared that the wire and non-wire options are being advanced based on overconfident demand projections rather than contingent scenarios.	The Technical Working Group appreciates this feedback. Since the study began in December 2024, the Technical Working Group has hosted three webinars, each sharing the latest information available at that time. In December 2024, the Scoping Assessment webinar presented a very preliminary screening, which identified emerging needs, and confirmed a full Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) was required. As the IRRP kicked off, the Technical Working Group shared updates at key milestones. In July 2025, the demand forecast was shared, noting that industrial activity and broader electrification was expected to drive significant growth in the region. In December 2025, four needs were identified. The Technical Working Group shared the types of options that are considered as part of the regional planning process to meet needs. The examples were intended to illustrate the range of options typically considered; further analysis is underway to determine which solutions are most appropriate based on system needs and constraints. Once the options analysis is complete, the Technical Working Group will share the Options Analysis and Draft Recommendations in a public engagement webinar. All interested parties will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on these findings prior to completion of the IRRP.
Ontario Rivers Alliance shared that demand forecasting for East Lake Superior is relying on historical demand patterns rather than forward-looking climate risk projections.	Thank you for this feedback. The Technical Working Group understands the importance of accounting for temperature trends in the forecasting development. As such, forecast scenarios have been developed based on known drivers, including Climate Change Action Plans and accounts for extreme weather adjustments. For more details about extreme weather methodology please read more here.

Scope and Planning Approach

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Given the needs in the region, options that should be considered include: • M'Chigeeng First Nation shared Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) should be the primary option to resolve the supply issues, including renewables (wind, solar and hydro) and battery storage. • M'Chigeeng First Nation shared electricity demand side management (eDSM) may not reduce power consumption in a reasonable manner when the load is expected to increase significantly and quickly. • M'Chigeeng First Nation suggested a line from the Sudbury/Algoma region that could be powered by DERs along the north shore that can be used to support distribution-level load transfers in the future. Similar plans in the Northeast have recommended a new line from Hanmer TS to Mississagi TS and Mississagi TS to Third Line TS. • Ontario Rivers Alliance shared given the 1,200 MW of installed generation and no shortfall in generation capacity, transmission management and system resilience should be prioritized. • Ontario Rivers Alliance shared the importance of aligning regional planning with affordability.	Thank you for this feedback. The IRRP's recommendations will be informed by an evaluation of wire and non-wire options, including new transmission and generation, that will meet the needs and consider reliability, cost, technical feasibility, maximizing the use of the existing electricity system (where economic), and feedback from communities and other interested parties, including projects, reports and insights on DER opportunities to consider. In other studies, such as the Northeast Bulk Plan, new transmission lines were recommended due to the needs being significantly larger and broader in scope than those identified through this regional planning process. That said, transmission options will not be excluded and will be evaluated alongside other alternatives as part of the IRRP. The East Lake Superior region has a significant amount of generation installed, and these facilities have been included in the assessment of the region's electricity needs. Using the final demand forecast, the Technical Working Group confirmed how this existing generation interacts with the existing and already committed transmission infrastructure in order to evaluate whether the area can meet future growth within safe operating limits. Detailed options analysis of all feasible wire and non-wire options, including Distributed Energy Resources, are currently underway. This analysis will include planning-level estimates, capacity and magnitude of the asset. Once completed, this information will be shared in an upcoming public engagement webinar. All interested parties will have an opportunity to provide feedback on these findings prior to completion of the IRRP.

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Community-identified priorities need to be clearly reflected in how options are developed and evaluated, specifically: • M'Chigeeng First Nation shared that community led/owned options and local solutions should be considered as a priority since they can improve local energy resilience. • Ontario Rivers Alliance requested information on how Indigenous, municipal and stakeholder feedback is influencing option selection.	The Technical Working Group acknowledges the importance of community preferences during the options development and requests feedback throughout the IRRP development. The options analysis of all feasible wire and non-wire options are currently underway, and the results will be shared in an upcoming public engagement webinar. To ensure that the IRRP reflects the needs of the East Lake Superior region, all municipalities, Indigenous communities, community members and interested parties will have an opportunity to share feedback, reports and insights on these findings prior to completion of the IRRP. A summary of feedback received throughout the IRRP development will be published in the IRRP report.
M'Chigeeng First Nation suggested acknowledging the needs and constraints of nearby regions, such as Sudbury/Algoma, could enable a single, coordinated solution to address multiple grid challenges.	Thank you for this feedback. In Ontario, planning takes place at multiple levels. Bulk planning examines electricity infrastructure across regions, typically at the 500 kV level, and in some cases the 230 kV system, whereas regional planning looks at electricity infrastructure within a defined region at the 115 kV and 230kV levels. While there can be overlap in this infrastructure at the regional and bulk levels, the needs identified for East Lake Superior are currently assessed to be geographically and electrically localized; however, coordination with bulk and neighbouring regional planning processes will continue as analysis progresses. As the Sudbury/Algoma IRRP progresses, it will assess the infrastructure for electricity needs and identify if there are overlaps at the regional and bulk level. To stay informed, subscribe to receive updates or visit the engagement webpage.
Ontario Rivers Alliance strongly encouraged the incorporation of the Ontario Climate Change Impact Assessment (OCCIA) in the options analysis	The Technical Working Group appreciates this feedback. The Technical Working Group understands the importance of accounting for

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as it provides region-specific projections. This can ensure the IRRP is not locking ratepayers into long-lived transmission assets that may be underutilized, climate-vulnerable or misaligned with actual future load.	temperature trends throughout the development of the IRRP. Technical studies have been undertaken to identify specific needs arising on the system, including location, magnitude and timing, and the system's ability to respond to disturbances, such as the loss of a transmission line or transformer, which may be caused by extreme weather events. In the near term, the approach will focus on exploring the risks associated with increased temperatures and what that would mean from an infrastructure perspective. In the long term, the IRRP will focus on building flexibility and ensuring sufficient conditions have been explored to ensure an affordable and reliable system. For more details about extreme weather methodology please read more here. The Technical Working Group will also take into consideration community support expressed for climate resiliency and durable infrastructure as part of the options evaluation process. If wire options are recommended, the transmitter will lead to the development of a regional infrastructure plan, which assesses and develops a detailed plan on how wire options can be implemented. Routes are then studied further through an environmental assessment process, which will consider all characteristics and impact of the proposed corridor and surrounding environment.
M'Chigeeng First Nation appreciated the opportunity to engage in this planning process.	The Technical Working Group appreciates this feedback and remains committed to engaging throughout the planning process. Input from the many voices and various perspectives across the electricity sector is essential to the IESO's decision-making process. The IESO continuously strives to develop new and meaningful relationships while strengthening

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	existing ones through purposeful, transparent outreach. Under the External Relations Engagement Framework and the Indigenous Engagement Framework, the IESO is charting a collective path forward for stakeholders, municipalities and Indigenous communities to plan for the energy transition while remaining reliable, affordable and sustainable.

General Feedback

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Ontario Rivers Alliance shared the importance of thoughtful planning to avoid creating stranded assets, underperforming facilities, and leaving financial burdens and responsibility to municipalities and conservation authorities, specifically: • Hydropower continues to be treated as a firm, dependable, and climate-resilient resource in long-term planning despite growing evidence that summer low-flow conditions and winter variability will increasingly limit generation when demand is the highest. • There is an absence of decommissioning provisions for hydropower infrastructure, which transfers long-term liability onto municipalities and Conservation Authorities that did not approve the projects or have the fiscal capacity to remediate them.	Thank you for this feedback. Wires and non-wires such as additional electricity Demand Side Management (eDSM) and resources including Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), solar or wind generation, or any combination, are being explored as options to meet the region's electricity needs. Hydropower is generally not considered an option in regional planning as the lead-time required to plan and build the facility does not align with the timing of the needs identified in the study. The consideration of additional factors in hydropower has been noted and shared with the Long-Lead Time engagement, which focuses on procurement opportunities for hydroelectric facilities and other electricity generation resources that can take 5-8 years to develop.