GTA East Regional Electricity Planning Webinar – September 14, 2026

Response to feedback received

The IESO hosted a public webinar for the GTA East Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) on September 14, 2026. During the webinar, the IESO shared the region's detailed options analysis and draft recommendations for input. The presentation materials, including webinar recording, are available on the Engagement Webpage.

The IESO appreciates the feedback received, which will be considered by the Technical Working Group developing the IRRP, consisting of the IESO as the lead, the local transmitter (Hydro One Networks Inc.) and the Local Distribution Companies (Elexicon Energy Inc., Hydro One Distribution and Oshawa Power Utilities Corp.). Feedback was received from the following parties, whose submissions in full can be viewed on the Engagement Webpage:

- Averon Energy Group Inc.
- Climate Justice Durham
- Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
- Municipality of Clarington
- Power Workers' Union
- Regional Municipality of Durham
- Town of Ajax
- Town of Whitby

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Options Analysis and Draft Recommendations

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
Participants support the proposed draft recommendations, including: • Averon Energy Group Inc. supports the proposed Clarington 230/44 kV DESN and targeted electricity demand side management. • Power Workers' Union supports the development of three forecast scenarios. • Regional Municipality of Durham, Municipality of Clarington, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and Town of Whitby generally support the proposed approach of targeted electricity demand side management and new station infrastructure. • Town of Ajax appreciates a combination of recommendations that includes electricity demand side management.	The Technical Working Group appreciates this feedback.
Participants requested additional information on the options analysis, including: • Averon Energy Group Inc. inquired if the proposed Clarington DESN could create additional connection capacity for distribution-connected BESS or future opportunities for 4.99—20MW resources. • Averon Energy Group Inc. inquired if the infrastructure in the region will be able to support a 5-10MW BESS project in the Clarington area and if the GTA East IRRP, non-export or limited export could improve feasibility. • Averon Energy Group Inc. requested the GTA East IRRP clarifies that the draft recommendations do not exclude smaller, locally targeted BESS projects.	The Technical Working Group appreciates this feedback. The electricity demand forecast for the GTA Region was developed collaboratively by the IESO, the transmitter (Hydro One Networks Inc.) and the Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) Elexicon Energy Inc., Hydro One Networks Inc., and Oshawa Power Utilities Corp. The Technical Working Group understands the importance of accounting for temperature trends in the forecasting development and has developed three forecast scenarios based on known drivers including including growth and land-use plans, customer growth plans, community energy plans, emerging loads, Climate Change Action Plans, accounts for extreme weather adjustments, and more. More information on the development of the LDC forecast can be found in the methodology document sharing during the demand forecast milestone. The forecast accounts for impacts of existing demand side management programs, planned distributed generation and extreme weather conditions.

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• Climate Justice Durham inquired about the screening out of distributed energy resources and storage in the near-term. • Regional Municipality of Durham requested more information on whether non-wire solutions can fully replace a transformer station. • Regional Municipality of Durham and Municipality of Clarington requested the IRRP provide greater clarity on timing, including when additional renewable generation, storage and other DERs could connect as new capacity becomes available. • Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation inquired about climate resilience and reliability will be included in the IRRP. • Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation requested early engagement on potential options that have been identified for monitoring. • Municipality of Clarington and Power Workers' Union sought clarification on what is included in the draft forecast. • Regional Municipality of Durham and Town of Whitby shared smaller-scale and community energy projects should have opportunities to contribute and reduce peak demand. • Town of Ajax requested more information on the dispatchable resource considered to meet future needs to help stakeholders understand potential impacts.	The Technical Working Group used the electricity demand forecast to assess if the existing transmission and supply resources can meet the forecasted growth within safe operating standards identified through NERC, NPCC and ORTAC. This includes 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. The shortfalls were identified as stations capacity, supply capacity and load supply security needs, each with its own need traits, timing and characteristics, driving the types of wire and non-wire options screened in to meet the identified needs. For more details on the analysis of non-wire alternatives during IRRPs, the IESO has developed a guide to the current general approach for evaluating non-wires alternatives (NWAs). In the September webinar, a detailed options analysis on the technical feasibility, ability to address identified need, lead time, and high-level planning costs was shared and an integrated approach of targeted electricity demand-side management, two new 230kV transformer stations (each with a wire tap connection) were recommended as they can provide the region with capacity to meet the identified near-term needs. Non-Wires Alternatives were assessed on its ability to meet the identified electricity needs but were found to be technically unfeasible in the near-term due to insufficient available capacity on the existing system to accommodate the scale of resources required. A high-level medium-and long-term approach was presented to illustrate how the draft near-term recommendations can meet the identified near-term needs while also creating the system capacity and flexibility that could enable non-wire alternatives to meet medium- and long-term needs. The specific mix, characteristics and timing of resources that could meet medium- and long-term needs, including the potential role of non-wire alternatives, will be further studied

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	through future regional planning cycles, which include engagement opportunities. The draft recommendations do not preclude the development of smaller distribution-connected storage or generation projects. Participants interested in developing distribution-connected resources and other clean energy solutions are encouraged to engage with their local distribution company to explore potential opportunities. To support these conversations, key resources include: • The OEB's DER hosting capacity for guidance – this information is developed with the LDCs. • The IESO's LT2 Connection Guidance Document found here. • The connections process – includes early-stage preparation guidance on connecting new facilities including conducting a technical feasibility study to identify suitable locations for a facility.
Participants requested more information on next steps, including: • Municipality of Clarington and Town of Whitby encouraged early engagement and continued transparency regarding siting, implementation timelines, environmental assessment requirements and opportunities for municipal input. • Regional Municipality of Durham requested greater clarity on the ownership and delivery of the proposed new station in the Oshawa-Clarington area, as Oshawa Power has expressed interest in exploring ownership based on projected growth within its service territory. • Regional Municipality of Durham inquired about additional funding for eDSM to increase participation. • Regional Municipality of Durham, Municipality of Clarington and Town of Ajax	Thank you for this feedback. The GTA East Technical Working Group is recommending an integrated approach of electricity demand-side management (eDSM) at four transmission stations, which will help manage peak demand in the interim as two new 230kV transformer stations and wire tap connections are built. The eDSM recommendations will have support through the new Electricity Demand Side Framework including a $10.9 billion, 12-year funding commitment. The framework enables LDCs to design, propose and deliver localized conservation programs that meet regional electricity system needs. The IESO encourages municipalities to engage with their LDC on the potential design and outreach of these programs. At this stage, the recommendations establish the need for two new transformer stations, however, details such as the station's sizing, connection configuration, implementation approach and future ownership remain to be determined.

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recommended the IESO continue to engage and communicate on the progress of implemented recommendations and municipal growth forecasts. • Town of Whitby inquired on next steps to ensure the timely delivery of infrastructure in order to not constrain growth.	As the next step in the regional planning process, Hydro One Networks Inc., in its role as the regional transmitter, will lead the development of a Regional Infrastructure Plan (RIP). The RIP will assess and develop a detailed plan on how the new transformer stations and associated transmission connections can be implemented to meet the identified needs, ownership and deliverability responsibilities. The RIP will be posted on Hydro One's GTA East webpage. Once an asset owner or project proponent is identified that organization will be responsible for undertaking any required permitting, environmental assessment, consultation and engagement activities including public engagement. While regional electricity planning is undertaken on a cyclical basis, local distribution companies continue to update their local-level data to capture any new developments and projects. The Technical working Group appreciates municipalities, Indigenous Communities and customers keeping their LDC up to date on any new local developments to ensure electricity planning in the GTA East region remains aligned.

Planned Engagement

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Participants inquired about insights received during the IRRP process, including: • Climate Justice Durham inquired how the Durham Region District Heating Project was incorporated in the GTA East IRRP. • Town of Ajax requested the IESO clearly communicate how stakeholder feedback was considered and incorporated into the development of the IRRP.	The IESO acknowledges the importance of community input during the development of the IRRP and appreciates this inquiry. The regional planning process considers the unique needs of each of the 21 regions and evaluates conservation, generation, transmission, and innovative resources to meet those needs. The Technical Working Group, comprised of the IESO, the local distribution companies, and transmitter, developed three forecast scenarios, unique to the GTA East region, informed by official plans, secondary plans, energy goals, eDSM initiatives and other relevant information. These draft forecast scenarios were shared through a public engagement webinar

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	and targeted meetings to solicit input before finalizing the GTA East demand forecast. Through feedback and engagement on the GTA East IRRP, the Technical Working Group learned about the District Energy project as part of the Courtice Transit Oriented Community underway in the region. Expected impacts of the project have been incorporated into the reference demand forecast used for the IRRP. As a result, the timing and energy savings currently anticipated from this project are reflected in the timing of the draft recommendations. If the project achieves greater energy savings than currently projected, electricity demand in the area could be reduced further, possibly delaying the timing of future station capacity needs. As a next step, the Technical Working Group will continue to engage with the Regional Municipality of Durham on the progress, timing and expected impacts of this and other energy projects in between and during future planning cycles. The Technical Working Group used the electricity demand forecast to assess whether existing transmission and supply resources can meet the forecasted growth within safe operating standards. The resulting needs were identified as station capacity, supply capacity and load restoration needs. The IRRP's draft recommendations were informed by a detailed evaluation of wire and non-wire options that can meet the identified needs considering reliability, cost, technical feasibility, opportunities to maximize the use of the existing electricity system (where economic) as well as input from communities and other interested parties. The Technical Working Group appreciates the engagement and input received throughout the development of the IRRP as it helps identify local priorities, opportunities, concerns and information that may not otherwise be available through the planning study. Input received at key milestones throughout the development of the IRRP as well as the IESO's Response to Feedback are available on the GTA East

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	engagement webpage and was carefully considered alongside planning studies, forecast information, reliability requirements, technical assessments and economic factors in the development of the draft recommendations.
Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation shared the importance of embedding Indigenous engagement, rights and participation into the implementation stage of the IRRP, specifically to ensure: • Engagement before potential station sites, transmission connections, access roads or expanded rights-of-way are narrowed or preferred. • Establishing an Indigenous economic participation framework before projects proceed to procurement. • Establishing a bilateral engagement process.	Thank you for this feedback. At this early stage of system planning, the IESO has undertaken a high-level options screening to identify a range of technically feasible pathways capable of meeting the identified electricity system need. This work is limited to assessing potential solutions from a system planning perspective and is not an environmental assessment, project approval process, or detailed project evaluation. As a result, options have been considered at a conceptual level, without detailed route selection, facility design, or site-specific environmental and socio-economic studies. Matters such as potential environmental effects, impacts on Indigenous rights, lands, interests and communities, and project-specific mitigation measures are outside the scope of the IESO's planning assessment and will be addressed in subsequent stages of project development. When the IRRP is published, the transmitter, Hydro One, will lead the development of a Regional Infrastructure Plan (RIP) which will assess and develop a detailed plan on how the two 230kV transformer stations and wire tap connections can be implemented to address the needs. The report will be posted on Hydro One's GTA East webpage and will identify the future asset owners of the proposed infrastructure. The asset owner will be responsible for applicable permitting and environmental assessment processes, and any applicable consultation requirements.

General Feedback

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Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation requested enhancing the regional planning process and subsequent siting, routing, environmental and procurement processes by: • Considering Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation's Aboriginal and treaty rights, traditional land and water use, harvesting activities, cultural heritage, archeological interests, and intergenerational stewardship responsibilities. • Identifying opportunities to avoid disturbance. • Developing a regional cumulative effects assessment and a transparent comment-tracking table on existing and planned transmission corridors and projects. • Establishing Indigenous rights and interests as distinct evaluation criterion. • Including opportunities for capacity funding, Indigenous-led demand management and distributed energy resources.	The IESO recognizes that Indigenous engagement and economic participation are critical to the success of electricity infrastructure projects in Ontario. Should a transmission project proceed, the responsibility for undertaking project-specific environmental assessment, consultation, and regulatory approvals rests with the designated project proponent (for example, Hydro One or another eligible transmitter). For projects subject to Ontario's approved Class Environmental Assessment ("Class EA") for Transmission Facilities, the proponent must carry out the requirements of the Class EA process in accordance with the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and the approved Class EA document. The Class EA for Transmission Facilities mandates consideration of cumulative effects. This process is separate from the IESO's system planning activities and includes detailed environmental studies, consultation and engagement with Indigenous nations and other potentially affected parties, evaluation of alternatives, assessment of potential impacts, and the development of appropriate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring, and documentation measures prior to project implementation. The IESO is subject to policy direction from the Ministry of Energy and Mines with respect to the inclusion of requirements related to Indigenous economic participation in any IESO programs or procurements. The IESO offers funding support through the Indigenous Energy Support Program (IESP). The IESP promotes broad equitable participation in Ontario's energy sector for Indigenous communities and organizations, including by offering funding to support assessment and development of opportunities for partnerships and participation in new or existing energy infrastructure projects. The IESO Indigenous Engagement Team encourages Indigenous

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	communities to reach out with any questions that they may have regarding the IESP at iesp@ieso.ca.
Municipality of Clarington how recommendations in GTA East are being coordinated with the Peterborough to Kingston region.	The IESO appreciates this feedback. The electricity needs identified for GTA East are currently assessed to be geographically and electrically localized to the GTA East region; however, coordination with neighbouring regional planning processes will continue. As the Peterborough to Kingston IRRP progresses, it will evaluate various wire and non-wire options that can meet the identified electricity needs in the Peterborough to Kingston area. Should any draft recommendations impact the Municipality of Clarington, the IESO will engage. To stay informed on the development of the Peterborough to Kingston IRRP, subscribe to receive updates.
Participants shared ways to enhance the regional planning process, including: • Climate Justice Durham encouraged the IESO to engage with MMAH on energy efficiency opportunities. • Climate Justice Durham encouraged the IESO to support more energy efficiency measures and district heating programs with Darlington and Pickering nuclear generating stations. • Climate Justice Durham encouraged the IESO to revise the Municipal Energy Planning process and provide greater funding to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. • Climate Justice Durham shared the IESO's planning process should work with LDCs to include, encourage and help coordinate a scale-appropriate process for identifying smaller, local generation opportunities. • Power Workers' Union recommended expanding electricity infrastructure,	Thank you for this feedback. The IESO is continuing to work to accelerate and expand deployment of innovative solutions through programs and initiatives. As these initiatives are being led through separate engagement processes, participants with specific questions are encouraged to engage directly through the respective program webpages linked below: • Grid Innovation Fund, which has funded projects such as the Microgrid community in Pickering; • Hydrogen Innovation Fund; • Local Generation Program; • Enabling Resources Program Storage and Co-located Hybrid Integrated Project; and, • Long Lead Time. The GTA East draft recommendations do not preclude the development of smaller distribution-connected storage or generation projects. Participants interested in developing distribution-connected resources and other clean energy solutions are encouraged to

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including Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (NGS), Darlington NGS and 500kV and 230kV transmission lines and stations. • Regional Municipality of Durham requested district energy and waste-heat recovery be more clearly recognized as non-wire solutions. • Regional Municipality of Durham and Climate Justice Durham requested clearer mechanisms and incentives that recognize electricity-system benefits from district heating. • Town of Ajax encouraged a broader range of innovative low-carbon energy solutions including offshore wind development in Lake Ontario, utilization of waste heat from nearby nuclear generating stations, floating solar installations and other emerging technologies.	engage with their local distribution company to explore potential opportunities. As part of the regional planning process, offshore wind generation is not considered to address regional electricity needs due to the provincial moratorium on offshore wind development in Ontario. Planning decisions regarding nuclear also fall outside the scope of the regional planning process. The Ministry of Energy and Mines provides policy direction on these matters.