



EarthCare Thunder Bay
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December 21, 2020

Independent Electricity System Operator
1600-120 Adelaide Street West
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engagement@ieso.ca

RE: Regional Electricity Planning – Northwest Ontario

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has launched engagement for the regional electricity planning underway in Northwest Ontario. EarthCare Thunder Bay staff participated in a public webinar on December 8, 2020 and reviewed the draft Scoping Assessment Outcome Report provided in advance of the webinar. The following comments are based on the presentation materials from Dec. 8 and the draft report.

Future initiatives that may inform the electricity forecast in the northwest region:

The City of Thunder Bay is currently developing a municipal energy plan (Community Energy and Emissions Plan; CEEP) with a community-wide target of net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. The draft CEEP is scheduled to be completed January 2021. The CEEP will include 32 actions to reduce energy use and GHG emissions across community sectors. The actions include targets for the electrification of personal vehicles, public transit, and residential space heating, as well as local renewable energy generation.

Following Council endorsement of the CEEP (anticipated Q1 2021), a copy will be made available to the IESO. At this time, a 5-year implementation cycle is proposed for the CEEP. This cycle will allow for regular updates regarding specific projects and future initiatives that may impact the electricity forecast for the Thunder Bay sub-region.

Other factors that should be considered when structuring the scoping assessment:

To support local and provincial climate commitments the study should consider opportunities for low-carbon solutions and non-wires options to address any system needs. A climate lens should be applied during the assessment and evaluation of options for confirmed needs. This climate lens should explicitly address the GHG emissions associated with each proposed option in addition to the standard analysis that includes technical feasibility, economics, and reliability.

Additional comments:

EarthCare Thunder Bay would like to be included in future engagement related to the Thunder Bay sub-region. EarthCare Thunder Bay is a partnership between the City of Thunder Bay and the community to work together on issues of community sustainability, climate adaptation, and greenhouse gas reduction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Summer Stevenson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Summer Stevenson
A/ Sustainability Coordinator
EarthCare Thunder Bay – City of Thunder Bay