

Regional Electricity Planning Northwest Ontario December 8, 2020 Public Webinar

Feedback Form

Regional electricity planning for Northwest Ontario is underway and the IESO is seeking input from communities and stakeholders to better understand local issues, priorities and identifying future needs.

The IESO will provide an update on current electricity planning activities underway in Northwest Ontario during a public webinar on December 8, 2020. Input will be sought on the draft Scoping Assessment Outcome Report, to help shape and inform the next steps in electricity planning for this region. This feedback form is provided to help facilitate your input. The questions below are simply a guide to the type of information sought, so please feel free to share any feedback that you may have.

The webinar presentation and recording will be posted on the [Regional Electricity Planning – Northwest Ontario \(ieso.ca\)](#) engagement webpage afterwards.

Please provide your feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by **December 24, 2020**. In keeping with the IESO's commitment to transparency, all feedback will be posted to the IESO website and all comments will be considered and responded to by the IESO.

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Date: January 6, 2021

- 1. Please provide details about specific projects or future initiatives that your business or community is developing within the northwest region to inform the electricity forecast.**

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout has been working diligently over the past seven years to attract commercial and industrial businesses development opportunities. Currently, we have two large commercial developments:

Hillcrest Property – South of Sioux Lookout

- **Office complex 157 employees**
- **60 bed long-term suites/hotel**
- **2 – franchise restaurants**
- **1 – convenience/gas station**

Bigwood Property – East of Sioux Lookout

- **3 – 40 unit apartment buildings**
- **1- up to 200 rooms hotel and conference centre**
- **1 – residential subdivision**
- **1 Industrial site for processing biomass**
- **Transload facility for the Far North – Morgan Fuels, Noront Resources, CN Rail study completed**

First Nation Partnerships

- **Hydro / Co-generation Distribution company**
- **Watay Power – transmission line**

- 2. What other factors should be considered when structuring the study? For example: timing, information needed, interested parties, etc.**

It is important to note that by electrifying 17 Far North communities (Watay) the growth and distribution of power will grow through the attraction and development of industry. Sioux Lookout Hydro, the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and the Friendship Accord communities require IESO to understand the importance that Sioux Lookout will play in these future developments. Billions of dollars is going to be spent in the Far North to attract industry and socio and economic opportunities. Redundancy will be a major

component to the success of this investment as we have seen numerous times in the region (Red Lake and Musselwhite). Therefore, consideration should be given to partnering with Sioux Lookout and the area First Nations to develop a cohesive plan for the future. CIMA engineering has conducted a system analysis of Sioux Lookout Hydro and have predicted that the power requirement in Sioux Lookout will double by 2030. This is based on the need for power up the line and to develop Canada’s next largest industrial region, the Ring of Fire.

3. Please identify any additional issues/opportunities for consideration in this scoping assessment process.

The Northwestern Ontario Scoping Assessment noted that Sam Lake DS which serves the Municipality of Sioux Lookout “is already at capacity. Due to the significant load increase, additional voltage support will also be required at this station. The Needs Assessment recommended that Sioux Lookout Hydro, Hydro One Distribution and Hydro One Transmission collaborate to address this need in local planning.”

Sioux Lookout is constrained for growing demand for the expansion of the community. There is significant pressure for more housing and a clear need for the community to expand the services it offers to the remote communities and development in the far north. Ensuring sufficient electrical load for both current identified demands as well as future requirements is essential and must be included in both future plans and implementation schemes.

More importantly, the monumental role and benefit that Sioux Lookout will play as a regional distributor and First Nation partner in growing the Far North. We know first hand the benefits of electrifying the Far North communities and the cost savings that can be directed into socio-economic development opportunities and for the economic growth for Ontario and Canada. We must emphasize that this is a regional project stretching far past Sioux Lookout’s boundary and it will service Canada’s largest economic development opportunity seen in decades.

4. Other comments

[Feedback]