

NOTIFICATION LETTER

Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) Northern Ontario Connection Study Draft Technical Report

On behalf of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), I am writing to provide your community with an update regarding the draft Northern Ontario Connection Study Technical Report that will include considerations of transmission connection options to supply communities and industry to in Northwest Ontario.

The IESO works at the heart of Ontario's power system, operating the grid 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and ensures that Ontarians receive a reliable and cost-effective source of power when and where they need it.

As the study may potentially impact future development in your traditional and/or treaty territory, we welcome your participation and meaningful engagement and your communities input and feedback in the evolution of this study and its outcomes. By participating, you will ensure that your input and perspectives are identified and incorporated into the final study.

Scope of Proposed Study

In March 2023, the Ontario Ministry of Energy requested that the IESO undertakes a detailed study to assess options for:

- connecting off-grid First Nations in the region;
- improving supply to nearby communities that are already grid connected;
- assessing the electricity needs for the development of critical minerals in the area; and,
- connecting hydroelectric and other renewable generation in the area.

The draft technical study considers the costs of various transmission options as well as their impact in reducing or eliminating dependency on diesel generation. **The draft technical report does not recommend any particular option; rather, it will provide information on the relative merits of different options to inform potential future policy decision.**

Your community's input and feedback to the draft technical findings will help inform the government's planning to ensure future access to a cleaner and reliable electricity supply to Northern Ontario and further develop options for meeting the region's future electricity needs.

The IESO's Indigenous Engagement team looks forward to meeting with your community to discuss the draft technical study in more detail. I will be reaching out to your office directly to arrange a meeting – either in-person or virtual – in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please

do not hesitate to contact me directly at Sonia.Fazari@ieso.ca or 416-806-3663 with any questions you may have.