From: <u>IESO Community Engagement</u>

Subject: IESO Engagement | Northwest Integrated Regional Resource Plan

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Regional electricity planning has kicked off in the Northwest region to ensure a reliable supply of electricity and to support local growth and development. Regional planning looks at the unique needs of each region and considers wire and non-wire options and innovative resources to meet the needs. For regional planning purposes, the Northwest region includes the districts of Kenora, Rainy River, and Thunder Bay, bounded by Lake Superior to the south, the Marathon area to the east, and the Manitoba border to the west.

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) led regional planning process involves determining the most appropriate planning approach going forward to meet electricity needs through a scoping assessment. The IESO has posted the Scoping Assessment Outcome Report to the Northwest Regional Planning engagement webpage. The IESO and the Northwest Region Technical Working Group (inclusive of local distributors and transmitters) have implemented a streamlined approach in order to keep pace with the rapid growth and economic development in Northwest Ontario, and have determined, as a result of the nature and timing of the needs, that that an Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) is required.

Engagement and outreach continue to remain central to the IESO's planning process. As the planning process advances, the IESO is committed to working collaboratively with Indigenous communities, municipalities, developers, and consumers, each bringing unique perspectives and expertise to shaping Ontario's energy future. Over the coming months, the IESO will offer opportunities for engagement at key milestones in the plan's development.

To stay informed about electricity planning in the Northwest, please <u>subscribe</u> for updates, or visit the Northwest Regional Plan <u>engagement website</u> for resources and upcoming engagements.

You can also visit our website to learn more about the about the <u>Regional Electricity</u> <u>Planning Process</u>.

Regards,

IESO Regional & Community Engagement

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