

Feedback Form

Regional Electricity Planning in the Northwest Region – June 11, 2026

Feedback Provided by:

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Date: June 18, 2026

To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the Northwest region [engagement webpage](#) unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the Northwest regional planning webinar held on June 11, 2026, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the draft electricity demand forecast scenarios and Engagement Plan. A copy of the presentation as well as recording of the session can be accessed from the [engagement webpage](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by July 2, 2026.

Topic	Feedback
What additional information, if any, should be incorporated in the proposed scenarios? How can the proposed scenarios best capture the range and uncertainty of growth potential while informing near-term infrastructure investments?	The proposed scenarios should place greater emphasis on Indigenous community growth, Indigenous-led economic development, and emerging infrastructure projects that may significantly impact electricity demand over the planning horizon. Many First Nations throughout Northwestern Ontario are actively pursuing housing developments, long-term care facilities, water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades, renewable energy projects, tourism developments, and resource-related business opportunities. These projects often depend on electrical infrastructure capacity and reliability. The scenarios should also consider accelerated growth resulting from critical mineral development, forestry investments, transportation infrastructure improvements, and increasing electrification of community services and transportation systems. Planning should incorporate flexibility to accommodate projects that may advance more quickly than forecasted, ensuring infrastructure is available when opportunities arise rather than becoming a barrier to development.
What areas of concern or interest about electricity should be considered as part of the planning process?	Reliability, redundancy, and system resiliency are significant concerns for many communities in Northwestern Ontario. Single-source electrical feeds and limited transmission capacity can create vulnerabilities during outages or emergency situations. The planning process should consider: - The need for increased transmission capacity to support economic development opportunities. - Community growth, housing expansion, and future institutional developments such as health care and long-term care facilities. - Electrification initiatives, including transportation, heating systems, and industrial processes. - Indigenous participation and ownership opportunities within transmission, distribution, and renewable energy projects. - Climate-related impacts on infrastructure resilience and system reliability. - The cumulative impact of multiple projects occurring simultaneously throughout the region.

Topic	Feedback
What information is important to provide to participants throughout this engagement?	Participants would benefit from regular updates regarding: - Forecast assumptions and methodology. - Infrastructure constraints and identified capacity limitations. - Planned transmission and distribution investments. - Potential timelines for project development and implementation. - Opportunities for Indigenous participation, partnerships, and investment. - How stakeholder feedback is being incorporated into planning decisions. - Providing clear information on how regional priorities influence infrastructure investment decisions will help build confidence and encourage meaningful participation.
Does the proposed Engagement Plan provide sufficient scope and opportunities for input?	The proposed Engagement Plan provides a solid foundation for engagement; however, additional targeted engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations would be beneficial. Many Indigenous communities are pursuing significant infrastructure and economic development projects that may not be fully reflected in traditional forecasting methods. Direct engagement sessions focused specifically on Indigenous priorities, growth projections, and economic development opportunities would strengthen the planning process and improve forecast accuracy. Continued engagement throughout the planning process, rather than at key milestones only, would also help ensure emerging opportunities and changing community priorities are captured.

General Comments/Feedback

Rainy River First Nations supports a planning approach that balances reliability, affordability, sustainability, and economic growth. Northwestern Ontario is entering a period of significant opportunity driven by resource development, community infrastructure investments, and Indigenous-led economic initiatives.

Electricity infrastructure should be planned proactively to enable growth rather than respond after capacity constraints emerge. Early investment in transmission and distribution infrastructure will be critical to supporting economic reconciliation, improving residents' quality of life, and enabling long-term regional prosperity.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this engagement process and look forward to continued dialogue with the IESO.