Feedback Received and IESO Responses

Peterborough to Kingston Electricity Planning Public Webinar #2: Needs & Options Screening July 29, 2026

To support the development of the Peterborough to Kingston Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP), the IESO hosted engagements with Indigenous communities, municipalities and the public during where the IESO:

- reviewed the regional electricity planning process,
- shared the electricity needs for the Peterborough to Kingston region, and
- sought early feedback on the initial screening of potential options to meet emerging electricity needs.

The presentation materials and recorded webinar are available on the engagement webpage.

Feedback regarding the draft recommendations to address remaining needs was welcomed until August 12, 2026.

The IESO appreciates the input, which will be considered by the Technical Working Group[1] (TWG) as it continues to develop the IRRP. Feedback was received regarding consideration of community/economic growth and climate/environmental factors for the evaluation of options, considerations of trends in non-wire options adoption and regulation, and considerations for future engagements. Feedback was received from the following parties:

- City of Belleville
- Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN)
- Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative (OREC)
- Superior Energy Inc.
- Town of Cobourg

[1] The Technical Working Group is led by the IESO and consists of the LDCs in the region and the local transmitter (Hydro One Distribution, Elexicon Energy Inc., Utilities Kingston, Lakefront Utilities Inc.)

The sections below summarize the received feedback. Full submissions can be viewed on the engagement webpage.

Local Growth and Priorities and Considerations for the Evaluation of Wires and Non-Wires Options

Feedback/Common Themes	IESO Response
Local Growth Priorities The City of Belleville encouraged the IESO to evaluate both wire and non-wire solutions options not only on technical and economic criteria, but also on their ability to: • strengthen community resilience, • support economic development (including projected employment land development and major industrial and infrastructure projects), and provide flexibility to accommodate future business attraction, expansion, and community growth (such as those captured in municipal housing growth forecasts).	Thank you for sharing details regarding local priorities to be considered in the evaluation of wires and non-wires options. To enable meaningful feedback during the process and decisions to be made, the TWG has recently posted the detailed methodology used to develop the demand forecasts. The methodology incorporates inputs from the local distribution companies (LDCs), including Elexicon, Hydro One Networks Inc., and Utilities Kingston. By sharing this information, the IESO aims to promote transparency and support meaningful participation from communities and stakeholders. Please click here for the Draft Forecast Methodology. As noted in the IESO's Response to Feedback received on the draft demand forecast scenarios, Elexicon and Hydro One considered inputs such as projected employment land development, major industrial and infrastructure projects (including energy projects), housing growth, and broader community expansion priorities. These considerations were incorporated into the final demand forecast scenarios, helping to ensure that local and regional growth expectations are reflected in the planning process. Further details can be found in the Draft Forecast Methodology document linked above. These demand forecasts were used to identify the electricity system needs that the regional planning process seeks to address. The TWG understands that municipalities, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders are interested in ensuring that the electricity system can

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	support both forecasted growth and future opportunities that may emerge over time. As previously discussed, while plan recommendations will primarily be driven by the reference demand forecast, the high-demand forecast scenario will also be considered to test the robustness of the plan, identify signposts to monitor changing conditions, and assess potential actions that may be required if higher growth materializes. This approach helps ensure flexibility to respond to future needs. With system needs identified, the TWG will evaluate both wires and non-wire options using a range of criteria, including technical feasibility, cost-effectiveness, timing, and community considerations. This evaluation considers the ability of options to reliably meet forecasted electricity needs while supporting long-term regional growth and development. The TWG appreciates the input from municipalities and Indigenous communities regarding economic development, housing, commercial and industrial expansion, tourism, and energy project opportunities, and recognizes the importance of ensuring that regional planning reflects local growth objectives and future development expectations.
Security of Infrastructure The Town of Cobourg recommended that the screening of wire options consider both current and future local circumstances, including risks to existing infrastructure. The Town highlighted a recent copper theft at transformer stations that resulted in approximately $400,000 in cleanup costs, and emphasized the importance of incorporating reliable security measures and insurance considerations into the evaluation of potential solutions.	The TWG recognizes the importance of ensuring the safeguarding of electricity infrastructure. However, responsibility for the ownership, operation, maintenance, and physical security of transmission and distribution assets rests with the local transmitter and LDC that own and operate the infrastructure. The purpose of the regional electricity planning process is to assess system needs and evaluate potential wire and non-wire solutions to address those needs. Asset-specific security measures, risk mitigation strategies, and insurance considerations are typically managed by the infrastructure owners.

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	The TWG encourages municipalities to work closely with the local transmitter and LDC to identify risks, such as theft and vandalism, and to ensure that appropriate security and safety measures are considered as infrastructure projects are developed and implemented.
Indigenous Territorial and Community Considerations MSIFN emphasized that the proposed Napanee–Belleville 230 kV line, from the draft Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan recommendations, is located within Crawford Purchase territory, where MSIFN holds constitutionally protected rights and responsibilities. MSIFN recommended that the IESO incorporate: Territorial analysis of the Napanee–Belleville corridor, including Crawford Purchase lands cultural heritage, ecological sensitivities, and rights-based considerations MSIFN emphasized that non-wire alternatives must be evaluated for Indigenous equity participation, consistent with MSIFN's advocacy for extending Hydro One's 50–50 equity model to transmission, substations, DERs, and storage. Additionally, MSIFN recommended transparent cost-benefit analysis that captures Indigenous economic benefits such as revenue sharing, job creation, and community wealth generation, alongside cumulative impact assessments addressing ecological, cultural, and knowledge transmission considerations. MSIFN also encouraged the consideration of Indigenous-specific economic development priorities, including housing, commercial	The IESO recognizes that Indigenous engagement and economic participation are critical to the success of electricity infrastructure projects in Ontario. The IESO is subject to policy direction from the Ministry of Energy and Mines with respect to the inclusion of requirements related to Indigenous economic participation in any planning recommendation actionable through an IESO programs or procurements. The IESO will share MSIFN's feedback with the Ministry to inform the approach for any transmission projects arising from the Peterborough to Kingston Regional Plan. Should a recommended transmission project proceed, the designated project proponent (for example, Hydro One or another eligible transmitter) will be responsible for undertaking project-specific environmental assessment, consultation, and obtaining any applicable regulatory approvals. For projects subject to Ontario's approved Class Environmental Assessment ("Class EA") for Transmission Facilities, the proponent must carry out the requirements of the Class EA process in accordance with the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and the approved Class EA document. The Class EA for Transmission Facilities mandates consideration of cumulative effects. The Class EA process is separate from the IESO's system planning activities and includes detailed environmental studies, consultation and engagement with Indigenous nations and other potentially affected parties, evaluation of alternatives,

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development, tourism, and energy projects in the evaluation of options.	assessment of potential impacts, and the development of appropriate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring, and documentation measures prior to project implementation. The IESO offers funding support through the Indigenous Energy Support Program (IESP). The IESP promotes broad equitable participation in Ontario's energy sector for Indigenous communities and organizations, including by offering funding to support assessment and development of opportunities for partnerships and participation in new or existing energy infrastructure projects. The IESO Indigenous Engagement Team encourages Indigenous communities to reach out with any questions that they may have regarding the IESP at iesp@ieso.ca.
Options Implementation Details The City of Belleville, MSIFN, and Superior Energy Inc. requested more detailed information on the costs, benefits, timing, location, and other implementation requirements of proposed options. The City of Belleville also noted that future evaluations of alternative solutions should recognize that municipal road corridors within the city are already constrained by existing municipal infrastructure and utility assets. The City emphasized the importance of coordinating any proposed Hydro One transmission infrastructure with Elexicon's existing distribution system within the urban area, and requested clarification on whether municipal road rights-of-way are being considered as part of the alternative solutions assessment. The Town of Cobourg recommended the consideration of rights-of-way habitat networks	Thank you for this feedback. As part of the regional planning process, the TWG used the demand forecasts to identify needs within the system and screened options to meet identified needs. During upcoming milestones, cost estimates and additional considerations relating to the analysis of options, such as benefits and timing, will be developed and shared in future engagements for input. With regards to implementation of recommendations, once an IRRP is developed, the transmitter, in this case Hydro One, leads a subsequent Regional Infrastructure Plan (RIP). This phase focuses strictly on refining the "wires-only" solutions (such as upgrading or adding transmission lines and transformer stations) recommended in the IRRP. Further into the project development phase, depending on the recommendation, the transmitter (i.e. Hydro One), LDCs, or other market participants may be responsible for developing and implementing specific projects, including undertaking any

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in the case of new wired developments as a novel opportunity to support pollinator species	necessary regulatory approvals, environmental assessments, procurements, or detailed engineering studies, and engaging with communities on specifics before construction can proceed. Municipalities are encouraged to continue to engage throughout such project development to provide input, and identify opportunities to facilitate local benefits or considerations such as rights-of-way habitat networks.
Climate Resilience The City of Belleville, the Town of Cobourg, and MSIFN emphasized the importance of incorporating climate resilience considerations and scenario testing, including assessing opportunities for battery storage, distributed generation, and other local energy solutions that could improve reliability and defer capital investments.	Thank you for this feedback. Planning for Ontario's future energy system includes consideration of climate impacts on system planning and reliability, ensuring flexibility across the supply mix. The TWG developed the demand forecast based on known drivers, including climate considerations such as temperature trends, extreme weather risks, and long-term system impacts, and accounts for extreme weather adjustments based on historical data. More details about extreme weather methodology are available here. Climate considerations are integrated throughout the development of the IRRP and in evaluating recommendations for new and upgraded infrastructure such as battery storage, distributed generation, and other local energy solutions. The IESO continues to evaluate how it can evolve its planning processes to manage the risks from a changing climate as noted in the IESO's 2026 – 2028 Business Plan, and welcomes appropriate inputs that can support these analyses.

Considerations for Screening of Options

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Potential Future Generation Capacity OREC recommended greater clarity around consideration of third-party non-wire options, and potential generation capacity that could be added through the Local Generation Program (LGP), distribution-connected Long-Term (LT) and Medium-Term (MT) projects, and shared that the options appear to rely on the assumption that Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) will deploy multiple large-scale battery installations.	Thank you for this feedback. The TWG is conducting a detailed analysis of all feasible wire and non-wire options. The results will be shared in an upcoming public engagement webinar. The TWG considered current and future committed transmission- and distribution-connected generation in developing the demand forecast and identifying needs and options in an IRRP. As additional projects are identified through the IESO's resource procurements, the TWG will consider incorporating them, as appropriate, throughout the IRRP development process. Once recommendations are finalized for the IRRP, the IESO will work with LDCs, service providers, and other stakeholders on the development of an implementation plan for non-wires solutions that would best leverage IESO procurements and/or distribution system operator initiatives. If IESO resource procurements are identified as a viable option, any participating resource would need to meet all applicable eligibility requirements of the applicable procurement mechanism.
Integration of Indigenous Territorial and Economic Considerations MSIFN requested that the next stage of analysis clearly demonstrate how Indigenous territorial considerations, rights, and economic reconciliation opportunities influenced screening outcomes.	The regional planning process is established by the OEB to identify reliable, cost-effective and efficient ways to meet future regional electricity needs. Under the IESO's licence, the IESO is obligated to prepare an IRRP that identifies the appropriate mix of investments in one or more of conservation and demand management, generation, transmission facilities or distribution facilities required to meet the electricity needs of the region over the next twenty years. In developing the plan, the IESO undertakes a high-level options screening to identify a range of technically feasible pathways capable of meeting the identified electricity system need. This work is

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	limited to assessing potential solutions from a system planning perspective and is not a replacement for an environmental assessment, project approval process, or detailed project evaluation. As a result, options are considered at a conceptual level, without detailed route selection, facility design, or site-specific environmental and socio-economic studies. Matters such as potential environmental effects, impacts on Indigenous rights, lands, interests and communities, and project-specific mitigation measures are outside the scope of the IESO's planning assessment and will be addressed in subsequent stages of project development, if and when a transmission solution is advanced and a transmitter is selected. The IESO's planning analysis: • Reflects the operational characteristics of existing and anticipated resources, including energy limitations • Assesses system performance under a range of operating conditions and uncertainties • Ensures all recommendations meet applicable reliability standards IRRPs address reliability, load restoration, and load security needs at the transmission supply level, according to the Ontario Resource and Transmission Assessment Criteria. The final report will provide additional clarity on key planning assumptions relevant to system capability and performance. Should a recommended transmission project proceed, the designated project proponent (for example, Hydro One or another eligible transmitter) is responsible for undertaking project-specific environmental assessment, consultation, and applicable regulatory approvals. For projects subject to Ontario's approved Class Environmental Assessment ("Class EA") for Transmission Facilities, the proponent must carry out the requirements of the Class EA process in accordance with the Ontario

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	Environmental Assessment Act and the approved Class EA document. The Class EA for Transmission Facilities mandates consideration of cumulative effects. The Class EA process is separate from the IESO's system planning activities and includes detailed environmental studies, consultation and engagement with Indigenous nations and other potentially affected parties, evaluation of alternatives, assessment of potential impacts, and the development of appropriate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring, and documentation measures prior to project implementation.

Trends and Current Environment for Ontario's Grid and Electricity Market

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Market and Technology Trends OREC also requested additional discussion on key market and technology factors, including electricity cost sensitivity, global technology cost trends, and improvements in technology efficiency.	Thank you for the feedback. The TWG acknowledges OREC's interest in additional discussion regarding key market and technology factors that may influence resource development and market participation. The IESO recognizes that market conditions and technology developments continue to evolve, in response to a range of local and global factors. For the 2026 Annual Planning Outlook (APO), the IESO evolved its demand forecast by developing high- and low-demand scenarios, in addition to the reference demand forecast, to better illustrate and prepare for potential future system conditions. The IESO also introduced a growth margin that groups together the areas of demand growth that are particularly variable, separating them from more stable factors influencing demand growth. This will allow for improved tracking and monitoring of the key drivers that could impact year-over-year planning. The growth margin may also enable the

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	IESO to incorporate policy-driven general economic development targets into long-term planning. Where appropriate, the IESO welcomes and will consider opportunities to incorporate and provide additional context on relevant market and technology trends in future reporting, analysis, and stakeholder engagement activities as part of its ongoing planning and assessment processes.
Market Regulations OREC also recommended the modernization of interconnection requirements to more easily accept and integrate renewables of every type into the distribution grid. Especially in areas where there are existing but underutilized interconnection points	Thank you for this feedback. Recommendations with respect to modernizing regulatory requirements for Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), including renewable generation connections, are best directed to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), which has initiated a review focused on addressing barriers to the connection of DERs.
System Utilization Status The City of Belleville requested additional information regarding current system utilization, including whether infrastructure is currently operating below capacity, approaching capacity, or exceeding planning thresholds.	Thank you for this feedback. The TWG shared identified station and supply capacity needs during the Needs and Options Webinar on July 29 (slides 22 and 23) which outlined the anticipated MW capacity needs and timings for system infrastructure. The TWG will publish station level forecasts along with the final IRRP report. The OEB's Centralized Capacity Information Map (CCIM) also provides an overview of the province's electrical grid capacity for both load and Distributed Energy Resource connections.

Considerations for Engagements

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Requests for Additional Data OREC requested an annual report from LDCs on the percentage of local demand met by	The TWG appreciates OREC's suggestion regarding reporting on the proportion of local electricity demand served by local generation.

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local generation to provide the public, planners and LDCs an indication of local resiliency levels. MSIFN requested station-level and circuit-level data for all identified needs, consistent with MSIFN's past requests for corridor-specific information.	The OEB's Open Data Portal provides data related to the total amount of electricity flowed into the distribution system (including from embedded generation facilities), as well as data regarding a distributor's maximum monthly peak load, average peak load, and average load factor, with and without embedded generation. LDC reporting requirements are typically established through the OEB. As such, recommendations for updating reporting requirements are best directed to the OEB. The magnitude and timing of all identified station-level and circuit-level needs was shared at the last Peterborough to Kingston Regional Electricity Planning Webinar on July 29 2026. Presentation materials can be found on the engagement webpage. The station-level regional demand forecast, from which regional needs were identified, can be found here. The technical working group has since been working to develop and evaluate both wire and non-wire solutions to meet the identified needs and will share its draft recommended actions in a subsequent webinar.
Area-Specific Mapping The City of Belleville emphasized the need for more localized information on forecast growth assumptions and infrastructure needs, including mapping that clearly illustrates system constraints and the geographic implications of potential solutions. MSIFN requested territory-specific mapping of all proposed transmission reinforcements, especially the Napanee–Belleville line, to support rights-based review and economic planning.	Thank you for this feedback. Presentation materials for the Peterborough to Kingston IRRP Public Webinar on July 29 included maps illustrating the Peterborough to Kingston electrical region, as well as the identified system and supply needs. The OEB's Centralized Capacity Information Map (CCIM) also provides an overview of the province's current electrical grid capacity for both load and Distributed Energy Resource connections. As potential solutions are evaluated, future engagements will include maps showing potential locations of solutions, though final decisions relating to route selection and other geographic implications

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	of wire solutions will be led by the local transmitter, Hydro One. Typically, existing corridors and rights-of-way are utilized wherever feasible when selecting the route for a new transmission line. However, detailed routing and siting decisions are not made at the regional planning phase but instead during the implementation phase. During this phase, when the recommended transmission reinforcement is designed and constructed, it is subject to further study, environmental assessment processes, and consultation with communities. The selected transmitter will engage with potentially affected communities as part of the route evaluation process. This consultation will inform the selection of a final transmission line route.
Incorporation of Community Input The City of Belleville and MSIFN recommended greater transparency on how municipal, stakeholder, and Indigenous economic development priorities and input influences planning decisions.	The TWG acknowledges the importance of community preferences during regional electricity planning. To ensure that the IRRP reflects the needs of the Peterborough to Kingston region, all municipalities, Indigenous communities, community members and interested parties have an opportunity to share feedback throughout the IRRP development by continuing to provide written feedback in response to engagement sessions or posted documents, or by requesting a one-on-one meeting. A summary of feedback received and how it was considered throughout the IRRP development will continue to be shared as part of future engagements and published in the final IRRP report. The TWG will continue to provide written responses to received stakeholder feedback after each major milestone during IRRP development.
Regional and Bulk Planning Coordination The City of Belleville requested ongoing coordination between the Peterborough to	Thank you for this feedback. The TWG shared an update on the draft Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan

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Kingston IRRP and the Eastern Ontario Bulk Planning Study to help municipalities better understand how the two planning processes intersect. The Town of Cobourg requested that future engagements should aim to align with municipal growth projections and priorities, such as those included in the Town's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP), Cobourg East Community Secondary Plan, and the expansion of Lucas Point Industrial Park.	recommendations during the Peterborough to Kingston IRRP Public Webinar on July 29. The final Eastern Ontario Bulk Plan was published on August 20, as well as a backgrounder document to support stakeholders' understanding of the region's transmission system needs and associated recommendations. The TWG will continue to ensure applicable linkages with recommendations from the bulk plan and the final Peterborough to Kingston IRRP. Local growth forecasts, development plans, and economic development priorities are valuable inputs to the planning process. The TWG encourages municipalities to work closely with the local transmitter and LDC to support awareness of emerging developments and changing local needs that may be relevant to future planning assessments.
Additional Engagement MSIFN requested government-to-government engagement, dedicated Indigenous engagement sessions at each IRRP milestone, and early involvement in route selection, impact assessments, and monitoring, including First Nation-led impact assessment protocols. MSIFN also requested to review draft IRRP recommendations prior to public release.	The identification of potential transmission line corridors is a key consideration in developing and evaluating options. Where feasible, preference is given to alternatives that maximize the use of existing rights-of-way. During the implementation stage, when the recommended transmission reinforcement is designed and constructed, the selected transmitter will engage with potentially affected communities as part of the route evaluation process and inform selection of a final transmission route. The IESO remains committed to ongoing, meaningful dialogue with communities to help shape long-term planning in regions across Ontario, as your input is appreciated in helping shape an inclusive and collaborative planning process. The IESO can share an overview of the draft recommendations that considers the highest reliability performance, system operability, resilience, and system benefits. Input into draft

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	recommendations can be provided to the IESO by continuing to provide written feedback in response to engagement sessions or posted documents. The IESO Indigenous Engagement team is committed to reaching out to Indigenous communities to offer a 1:1 discussion at each IRRP milestone. While a Regional Plan reflects high-level, non-confidential feedback received through engagement with Indigenous communities, it is an IESO planning document, required by the IESO's licence, that makes recommendations regarding adequacy, safety, sustainability and reliability of electricity supply across the province, and is not subject to external review or approval.

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