Feedback Received and IESO Responses

Regional Electricity Planning in Sudbury/Algoma – Scoping Assessment Webinar December 18, 2025

The IESO launched a new engagement initiative to seek early feedback on the electricity planning activities underway in the Sudbury/Algoma electrical region. As part of this engagement, a public webinar was held on December 18, 2025 to provide an overview of the electricity planning process, the electricity needs that have been identified for the Sudbury Algoma electrical region so far, and to seek input on the draft Scoping Assessment Outcome Report to determine the most appropriate planning approach going forward to meet the region's needs. The presentation material and recorded webinar are available on the engagement webpage.

The IESO appreciates the input, which will be considered by the Technical Working Group[1] in the development of a long-term electricity plan – an Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) - and ongoing engagement activities.

Feedback was received from the following parties, and the full submission can be viewed on the engagement webpage:

- Brunswick House First Nation
- EverGreen Energy Corp.
- Jim Kent
- Manitoulin Planning Board
- M'Chigeeng First Nation
- Municipality of Central Manitoulin
- Ontario Rivers Alliance
- Whitefish River First Nation

[1] The Technical Working Group (TWG) is lead by the IESO and consists of the LDCs in the region and the local transmitter (Hydro One Networks Inc. Transmission, Hydro One Distribution, Greater Sudbury Hydro, North Bay Hydro)

The section below summarizes feedback received related to key developments, projects, and initiatives, as well as local issues and concerns that participants recommended be considered in electricity planning for the Sudbury/Algoma electrical region.

Regional Planning Considerations

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Growth, policy, and development inputs should be considered in the development of the IRRP forecast, specifically: • Brunswick House First Nation recommends considering community growth including the development of new infrastructure, housing, forest harvesting operations, new technology, and cell phone towers. • Jim Kent recommends considering major weather events. • Manitoulin Planning Board recommends considering peak demand estimates to account for seasonal residences often used year-round. This is especially important as heat pumps and air conditioning become more common with colder winters and hotter summers. Additionally, it is recommended to consider small-scale local generation and assess how extreme weather impacts existing assets. • M'Chigeeng First Nation recommends accounting for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations on the island, Indigenous community energy plans existing gaps, future projects, and potential electrification of natural gas. To offset any increased demand, it would be beneficial to explore DER's or other non-wire alternatives. • Municipality of Central Manitoulin recommends considering local factors including planned housing, population	Thank you for your feedback and for providing examples of inputs for consideration. The IESO welcomes feedback from municipalities, Indigenous communities and other interested parties on projects and initiatives that have the potential to influence electricity demand. The Scoping Assessment report aims to determine whether further study of a particular region is required based on the findings in the Hydro One Needs Assessment. As part of this milestone, the Technical Working Group is recommending that an Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) be developed given the potential to integrate a mix of different options and the potential to address needs in an integrated manner. The first step in the IRRP process is to develop draft electricity demand forecast scenarios that capture growth in this region. Given the number of Indigenous communities, municipalities and unique communities in the region, it is essential that community-level forecasts, policies, and plans are integrated early into the LDC demand forecasts. The Technical Working Group (TWG) will develop forecast scenarios based on known demand drivers including economic development plans and projects, housing and population plans and development, municipal energy plans, and electrification and decarbonization targets. Planning for multiple scenarios allows the IESO to identify a range of options, and to trigger them based on need, allowing for quicker action in the future if, and when, higher growth materializes. As a next step, we encourage you to contact your Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) to provide

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growth, municipal water and sewer expansion plans, seasonal peak demand patterns, local outage frequency, and duration data. • Ontario Rivers Alliance recommends developing a low/no-growth scenario including municipal official plans, natural heritage systems, climate plans, extreme weather by assessing microgrids and resiliency measures for critical services and examining trends in outage frequency/duration as climate-resilience indicators. Ontario River Alliance caution against assuming northern hydro resources provide firm capacity without evidence under extreme climate conditions. • Whitefish River First Nation recommends considering testing higher-than-expected electrification scenarios in Indigenous and rural communities, integrated land-use and infrastructure planning, extreme weather conditions, Indigenous-led, community-level information such as new housing, heating electrification, community facilities, and future economic development areas that may not appear in current forecasts. The Municipality of Central Manitoulin emphasized the need for regional planning that supports economic development, emergency response planning, and long-term resiliency while fostering equity for rural and island communities. It also recommended considering voltage and reliability constraints during peak demand, the limited transmission redundancy affecting island communities, climate and extreme weather risks, and the timing of growth-related infrastructure projects.	community growth plans and information to ensure their local forecasts capture projected growth in your communities. For assistance connecting with your LDC, please contact us at communityengagement@ieso.ca, and the IESO can help facilitate the connection. Once the forecasts are finalized, the TWG will use the final forecasts to assess if the existing transmission stations and lines can meet the forecasted growth within safe operating standards, including the system's ability to respond to disturbances which may be caused by extreme weather events. If the existing system cannot, technical needs are identified, such as station capacity, and supply capacity, including on Manitoulin TS. In fact, needs have been identified at Manitoulin TS as part of the scoping assessment and will continue to be evaluated as part of the IRRP. It is important to highlight that the scope of the IRRP includes the transmission supply to the step-down stations that deliver power to the local distribution systems. The IRRP scope does not replace the distribution system planning that is the responsibility of LDCs, and therefore, to the extent that reliability issues are deeply embedded in the distribution system (low voltage infrastructure directly connecting to homes and businesses), the IRRP can serve as a mechanism for sharing specific issues or concerns with LDCs to inform their planning and investment strategies at the distribution level. After infrastructure needs have been identified, the Technical Working Group will assess wire options and non-wire alternatives to identify draft recommendations to address these needs, including Distributed Energy Resources (DERs).

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	Lastly, thank you for recommending Manitoulin Island be considered as a separate area in the region. Regional planning focuses on ensuring a reliable supply of electricity to the Sudbury/Algoma area by looking at the unique local needs across the region. With that, technical studies conducted throughout the regional planning process will identify individual needs for each area, including Manitoulin Island. The Technical Working Group will then assess wire options and non-wire alternatives to address individual needs across the region. As identified options are considered there are opportunities to provide input to ensure community preferences are considered.
Additional considerations that should be examined through regional planning include: • Brunswick House First Nation recommends considering protecting environmentally sensitive areas and sites. • Jim Kent recommends considering approaches to address sectional power outages on portions of the T1B circuit. • M'Chigeeng First Nation emphasizes that Planning must consider cultural differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, as Indigenous communities may drive sustainable energy choices and load growth through policy and infrastructure changes. • Ontario Rivers Alliance recommends that the IRRP incorporate environmental, water, and Indigenous rights constraints into planning, assess cumulative watershed and corridor	The IESO appreciates environmental considerations being raised as part of developing the IRRP. As noted earlier, after infrastructure needs have been identified, the Technical Working Group will assess wire options and non-wire alternatives to address these needs, including Distributed Energy Resources (DERs). Depending on options determined to address needs should recommendations be implemented, the transmitter selected would lead assessments, evaluate options, selection of preferred route, and lead any permitting approvals and construction. As a part of this process there will be opportunities for interested parties to share input to ensure community preferences are considered. The IESO's External Engagement and Indigenous Engagement Frameworks are built upon a series of key principles that value diverse perspectives and aim to build trust and understanding throughout the regional planning process. Thank you for raising concerns regarding power outages and for emphasizing the importance of

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impacts, and evaluate climate-related risks to hydroelectric reliability. • Whitefish River First Nation recommends considering cumulative impacts where multiple electricity corridors cross Indigenous territories, local reliability issues like outages and restoration times, and land-use, environmental, and cultural considerations, including traditional land use and sensitive sites.	reliability. As the IESO oversees transmission system reliability for the broader provincial grid, for power outages at the distribution level through wood poles and wires it is important to keep the LDC., informed of any power outages as they are responsible for distribution planning and restoring service. For transmission level outages it is important for us to be aware of as planning advances.
To better understand the regional planning process additional information should be shared including: • Manitoulin Planning Board is seeking more information to better understand how the low voltage violations at Manitoulin TS impact customers. • Ontario Rivers Alliance encourages the IESO to share the forecast load drivers, baseline data, and explicit assumptions to better understand the justification behind potential recommendations. When developing this information, it is encouraged to treat climate change and hydrology as core planning factors. Additionally, provide a transparent inventory of river-connected generation with real dependable capacity.	Thank you for seeking additional information to better understand the regional planning process. As referenced in the draft Scoping Assessment Outcome Report low voltage violations at the Manitoulin TS (115 kV bus) occur during peak demand when the McLean Mountain wind farm is offline, dropping below the Ontario Resource and Transmission Assessment Criteria (ORTAC) minimum voltage of 113 kV. This station has the capability to regulate the voltage on its 44 kV bus via underload tap changers on its transformers. In general, when voltages cannot be maintained, end-users on the 115 kV network—such as commercial, industrial, and distribution-connected customers—could experience reduced service quality, increased equipment stress, and potential for voltage-related service disruptions. To address these risks as regional planning progresses studies will be conducted to determine the impact and any mitigating actions as necessary. The IESO strives to make information available throughout the development of IRRP to enable meaningful feedback during the process and decisions to be made. Generally, the IESO will provide a high-level summary of the load forecast

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	through its first engagement webinar to solicit input, and the detailed methodologies are typically published with the final report. However, based on previous feedback there have been cases where the IESO advances the publishing of the detailed methodology and load forecasts early in the process to enable more purposeful community and stakeholder participation and input. As the Sudbury/Algoma regional plan is developed the IESO will collaborate with the TWG to share information as it becomes available. Additionally, data and information to be made available during IRRP development is outlined in the IESO Regional Planning Information and Data document. The IESO appreciates feedback regarding the importance of considering hydrology. Regional planning evaluates a range of wire and non-wire options to meet the forecasted growth. Hydroelectricity is not included in the evaluation of wire and non-wire options.
Potential solutions to meet current electricity needs in Sudbury/Algoma, include: • EverGreen Energy Corp. recommends the IESO considers a Magnetic Generator and welcomes the opportunity to further engage with the IESO to discuss their energy system further. • Jim Kent recommends the IESO collaborate with Hydro One to investigate the possibility of creating a 115 KV switch yard at Mississagi TS with a step-down transformer(s) to permit the T1B circuit to be terminated there with the existing 1 to 2 km spur to Rayner GS being also terminated there.	Thank you for sharing potential solutions to meet current needs in the Sudbury/Algoma electrical region. To ensure Ontario's electricity system remains reliable, affordable, and sustainable, an evaluation of different options to meet the needs is a key step. Typically, as part of the regional planning process, once the forecast and needs have been finalized, the IESO will screen and evaluate wire and non-wire options, such as transmission-connected generation or storage, electricity and demand-side Management (eDSM), distributed generation, and demand response to meet the needs and consider reliability, cost, technical feasibility, maximizing the use of the existing electricity system (where

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• Manitoulin Planning Board recommends considering small-scale local generation and assess how extreme weather impacts existing assets. • M'Chigeeng First Nation recommends assessing whether Manitoulin Island could host a dedicated System Operator function and to consider an undersea cable at the western end of the island. Additionally, exploring DER's or other non-wire alternatives, analyzing Manitoulin TS as an important load centre and potentially an important energy generation centre. • Ontario Rivers Alliance recommends the IESO first explore non-wire options including conservation, demand response, distributed generation, storage, and targeted distribution reinforcements, then assess rapidly deployable solar including community-scale microgrids, wind, and hybrid systems suited to northern conditions. When considering recommendations the IESO should exclude new hydropower/reservoir expansion due to cumulative river impacts. • Whitefish River First Nation recommends considering targeted conservation programs, voltage support solutions, non-wire alternatives such as demand-side management, distributed energy resources, storage, community-scale generation, Indigenous-owned distributed generation and traditional wire solutions.	economical), and community preferences. As part of this evaluation, magnetic generators and hydroelectricity are not considered. District heating and cooling will be considered on a case-by-case basis, dependent on the nature of the needs and customer interests, in the options analysis phase. The IESO welcomes more information from organizations for these options to be considered further. The IESO will present needs and options in upcoming engagement sessions and encourages all interested parties to attend and share feedback. The IESO encourages EverGreen Energy Corp. to work with local communities and municipalities to implement their proposed behind the meter energy solutions. The IESO also recognizes the role eDSM plays in managing electricity demand. Through the IESO eDSM Framework there are several programs and opportunities to help communities reduce their electricity demand. Please visit our Save on Energy website for more information on the programs offered.

Engagement Considerations

Topic	Feedback
Upon reviewing the Draft Scoping Assessment Outcome Report, receptive feedback was received and interested parties welcomed further engagement opportunities, specifically: • Municipality of Central Manitoulin welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Scoping Assessment Report, supports proceeding with an IRRP, and looks forward to continued engagement in the IRRP process. • Ontario Rivers Alliance expressed support for the Scoping Assessment. • Whitefish River First Nation supports proceeding with an Integrated Regional Resource Plan for the Sudbury Algoma Region, emphasizes the importance of meaningful Indigenous participation to develop the IRRP, and looks forward to engaging further with the IESO and regional partners.	The IESO appreciates interested parties taking the time to participate in engagements and reviewing the Draft Scoping Assessment Outcome Report. Thank you for supporting the recommendation of developing an IRRP and your interest in continuing to engage with the IESO as the plan is developed. As regional planning continues the IESO is committed to continuing to engage all interested parties in the Sudbury/Algoma electrical region on the development of this plan and the Technical Working Group will continue to welcome input and perspectives. The IESO is committed to helping ensure that Indigenous communities are kept informed and are provided with opportunities for purposeful engagement to contribute to electricity planning initiatives. These opportunities will include formal outreach, targeted webinars and individual meetings, as needed.
Considerations as engagement continues to support the development of the IRRP include: • Brunswick House First Nation emphasizes the importance of engaging all interested parties in the development of the IRRP including the site selection process when implementing any recommendations in the IRRP. • M'Chigeeng First Nation emphasizes the importance of engaging Indigenous communities on Manitoulin Island in the planning process to meet local energy needs and that their perspectives	Thank you for sharing considerations to best support the IESO on engaging in developing the IRRP for the Sudbury/Algoma electrical region. The IESO is committed to continuing to engage with all interested parties in the Sudbury/Algoma electrical region on the development of this plan and the Technical Working Group welcomes input and perspectives as part of the regional plan to consider the individual needs of each area in the region. As planning work for the IRRP advances through each milestone the IESO will continue to host

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remain separate from the larger Sudbury perspective. • Municipality of Central Manitoulin recommends continued early engagement and coordination with local municipalities, and Indigenous communities to ensure regional solutions reflect local realities. • Ontario Rivers Alliance recommends early and meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities and the public particularly before proceeding with implementing any recommendations. • Whitefish River First Nation emphasized it is critical to conduct early engagement with Indigenous communities at all milestones of the IRRP as opposed to only project-specific approvals. Early and continuous engagement fosters a planning partnership and allows for proactive planning and readiness.	webinars. This includes hosting a webinar to share options to meet identified needs. These webinars are accessible for everyone to attend, and they provide opportunities for interested parties to share input and ask questions. As part of the public engagement process the IESO welcomes the views and preferences from interested parties, for consideration in the development of the IRRP. It is important to note that the IESO will conduct targeted engagement (such as with potentially impacted Indigenous communities and municipalities) as needed, and that the LDCs are often already in direct contact with large customers in their service territory. The IESO remains committed to engaging with Indigenous communities early in its planning processes. The IESO welcomes as is committed to ongoing Indigenous community feedback and active participation throughout the IRRP process. Engagement will be community-driven and responsive, and will include formal outreach, targeted webinars, and one-on-one technical briefings, as requested by and tailored to each Nation. The IESO will engage with communities in the ways they prefer and determine to be most effective. Thank you for emphasizing the importance of engagement during the site selection process to implement any recommendations. Depending on options determined to address needs should recommendations be implemented, the transmitter selected would lead engagement to select the preferred route. As a part of this process there will be opportunities for interested parties to share input to ensure community preferences are considered.

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As the IRRP is developed Whitefish River First Nation recommends further engagement with Indigenous communities, specifically the IESO should examine opportunities: • For Indigenous equity participation for both wire and non-wire solutions. As a part of considering this participation Whitefish River First Nation raised concerns with the current process and encourages that participation with Indigenous communities near the project site location be prioritized to mitigate project risks**.** • To include Indigenous communities in supporting corridor stewardship, monitoring and decision making, opportunities for training Indigenous technicians, operators, environmental monitors, and energy planners.	The IESO believes that Indigenous engagement and economic participation is critical to the success of electricity infrastructure projects in Ontario. The scope of the IRRP is to identify potential investments in transmission and/or distribution infrastructure required to meet the electricity needs of a region over the next 20 years. 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 by supporting community capacity building, including energy planning and energy infrastructure development, as well as the building of energy knowledge and awareness, and skills related to energy projects. The IESO Indigenous Engagement Team encourages Indigenous communities to reach out with any questions that they may have with regards to the IESP at iesp@ieso.ca.