Feedback Form

Regional Electricity Planning in the Sudbury/Algoma Area – December 18, 2025

Feedback Provided by:

Name: Jeff Corbiere

Title: Renewable Energy Worker

Organization: M'Chigeeng First Nation

Email:

Date: January 9th 2026

To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the Sudbury/Algoma engagement webpage unless otherwise requested by the sender.

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the scoping assessment report. A copy of the report and a recording of the webinar can be accessed from the engagement web page.

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by **January 12, 2026.**

Topic	Feedback
What additional information should be considered as part of the Scoping Assessment?	Manitoulin Island should be studied as a distinct cluster of energy customers. Load growth on Manitoulin Island should be studied from the perspective of both indigenous and non-indigenous populations on the island. M'Chigeeng believes that another data consideration should be

Topic	Feedback
	proposed electrification funding. It is understood that as government changes funding is not always consistent, however it is the OEB and IESO directive to support the electrification process to 2035 goals and 2050 goals. This will lead to a vast increase in electrical demand from residential, commercial and industrial customers. Generally, in the north, especially in our community, there is still a major reliance on other energy sources (oil, diesel, propane, gas etc) and electrification will add a significant load to the grid unless offset by DER's or other non-wire alternatives. It is understood that this is included by way of community energy plans, however not all communities have an up-to-date energy plan, and most won't include future IESO/OEB goals and funding.
What additional considerations, informed by local developments, should be taken into account for the areas identified as requiring further analysis?	Manitoulin Island should be studied as an important load center and potentially an important energy generation center. With appropriate transmission infrastructure to be created in the future, Manitoulin Island could be a significant net exporter of renewable energy to the Sudbury District. M'Chigeeng is planning to develop more DER's in the near future and is aware that it is not the only community connected to the Manitoulin TS with future plans. It has become a concern that moving forward certain communities (including ours) may not be able to complete their desired projects due to Dx line capacity. Knowing that the HV bus is already experiencing low voltage under peak demand, and that electrical demand is rising, more communities will likely consider DER's to increase resilience. These projects will be a major benefit to the IESO grid and future goals; therefore, attention must be brought to ensure their success.
What other areas or specific considerations should be examined through regional planning?	It is expected that all indigenous community energy plans and desired future energy projects will be considered relevant community plans in section 4 of the IRRP timeline. Also, Manitoulin Island could be a candidate for an island-specific System Operator function, which could organize load and demand profiles using smart equipment at the customer end as well as dispatchable generation and BESS systems on distribution. There are indigenous communities on the island who would welcome an opportunity to be more involved in the supply and usage of electrical energy

Topic	Feedback
	on the Island. It is vital that indigenous communities on Manitoulin Island be involved in planning for their energy future, and that their interests not become subsumed into a larger Sudbury perspective. Manitoulin Island is not Sudbury.

General Comments/Feedback

Manitoulin Island should be studied as a distinct cluster of energy customers. Because this island has a weak grid, it suffers from inadequate opportunity for commercial or industrial loads to connect, plus much of the existing building infrastructure cannot be converted to all-electric heating due to energy supply deficiencies. Similarly, if a preponderance of residents elect to operate EV's in the future, the existing energy delivery infrastructure may be challenged. This will affect both indigenous and non-indigenous populations on the island. However, the propensity to grow the electrical load should be investigated from both cultural perspectives as there might be differences in aspirations depending on indigenous or non-indigenous community goals.

As a general observation, the indigenous communities on Manitoulin Island are capable of expressing preferences on behalf of their communities for sustainable energy consumption choices in the future, which will translate into electrical load growth through policy choices and action associated with changing housing and infrastructure building heating systems. These cultural factors need to be considered when considering the needs of Manitoulin Island and Manitoulin Island should be identified as a specific sub-region of Sudbury.

Indigenous communities are aware of the potential for further growth in renewable energy generation on Manitoulin Island, however currently this is an aspiration frustrated by lack of an appropriate distribution system within the island and constraints in existing transmission for moving energy off-island. There is a single feeder bringing 115 kV to the island, at Goat island, Little Current, whereas an undersea cable at the western end of the island as a second connection to the mainland would offer a crucial level of redundancy and resiliency to the island in addition to the ability to export energy to the mainland. Future conversations regarding energy planning in the Sudbury area need to include the specific cultural and infrastructure needs, and opportunities, associated with Manitoulin Island.