Feedback Received and IESO Responses

Sudbury/Algoma Electricity Planning
Public Webinar #2: Draft Forecast Scenarios July 16, 2026

To support the development of the Sudbury/Algoma Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP), the IESO hosted engagements with Indigenous communities, municipalities, and the public during which the IESO shared an overview of the regional planning process, and the draft demand forecast scenarios for the Sudbury/Algoma electrical region.

The presentation materials and recorded webinar are available on the engagement webpage. Feedback regarding the draft recommendations to address remaining needs was welcomed until July 31, 2026.

The IESO appreciates the input, which will be considered by the Technical Working Group[1] (TWG) to continue to develop the IRRP. Feedback was received regarding the draft demand forecasts, considerations for electricity planning for the region, and the proposed Engagement Plan from the following parties:

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[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)

- Cambrian College
- City of Greater Sudbury
- City of Greater Sudbury - Greater Sudbury Development Corporation (GSDC)
- Dancor Construction Ltd
- Energy Corridor First Nations (ECFN)
- Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe (GMS)
- Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce
- Health Sciences North
- Jake Diebolt
- Ontario Rivers Alliance
- The Birmingham Group
- The Corporation of the Municipality of Markstay-Warren

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

Demand Forecast Scenarios and Planning Approach

Feedback/Common Themes	IESO Response
Economic Development as a Driver of Electricity Needs • The Greater Sudbury Development Corporation (GSDC) recommends regional electricity demand forecasts and infrastructure planning incorporate projected growth and development activities in addition to historical electricity consumption data. Factors such as municipal planning initiatives, employment land development, infrastructure investments, population growth projections, and other economic development activities could provide valuable insight into future electricity requirements and should be considered in the planning process. • The Birmingham Group recommends incorporating planned and prospective	Thank you for sharing information about anticipated population growth, economic development, institutional expansion, electrification and major projects in the region. The Technical Working Group (TWG) recognizes that historical electrical consumption alone may not fully capture future electricity needs in a rapid growing and evolving region. Accordingly, the draft demand forecast incorporates a range of forward-looking inputs in addition to historical demand trends. The TWG developed the draft forecast scenarios using information from Local Distribution Companies (LDCs), municipal and community plans, known connection requests, stakeholder engagement activities, housing and population growth projections, economic development plans and projects, municipal energy and climate action plans, and electrification and decarbonization objectives. Planning for multiple scenarios allows the IESO to

Feedback/Common Themes	IESO Response
development projects, as well as increasing electrification, into the high-growth forecast scenario. • Cambrian College indicated that electricity demand is expected to increase due to campus electrification to support net-zero objectives, facility expansion, and growing EV adoption. The College recommended that these anticipated increases in demand be incorporated into long-term planning and demand forecast scenarios. • The City of Greater Sudbury emphasized that future electricity demand forecasts should reflect the rapid anticipated population and economic growth across Greater Sudbury and Northern Ontario, in addition to historical demand trends. • Health Sciences North (HSN) indicated that its future electricity demand could increase due to planned facility expansion and decarbonization initiatives and recommended that these anticipated electricity needs be considered in long-term demand forecasts. • Dancor Construction highlighted planned industrial development within Greater Sudbury and emphasized that both demand forecasts and electricity infrastructure planning should account for future industrial growth, investment opportunities, and emerging sectors such as defence and critical minerals.	assess a range of potential futures, and identify options that can be advanced if higher growth materializes, including growth associated with industrial development, critical minerals, defence-related opportunities, institutional expansion, and increased electrification. The TWG can confirm the following inputs and considerations were incorporated into the draft demand forecast: • Projected growth and development activities within Greater Sudbury, in addition to historical electricity consumption data; • Municipal planning initiatives, population growth projections, and information on housing and employment land development where available; • Planned industrial development and economic growth opportunities identified through stakeholder engagement and municipal planning processes; • Planned and prospective development projects, with confirmed projects incorporated into forecast assumptions and more uncertain opportunities reflected through higher-growth forecast scenarios where appropriate; • Electrification and decarbonization initiatives, including transportation electrification, building electrification, and net-zero objectives; • Anticipated electricity demand increases associated with Cambrian College's campus electrification, facility expansion plans, and increasing EV adoption; • Anticipated population and economic growth across Greater Sudbury and Northern Ontario; • Health Sciences North's long-term capital redevelopment and decarbonization initiatives; and • Potential future growth associated with emerging sectors such as critical minerals and defence-related development.

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	The IESO has published the IRRP Forecast Methodology Document, and the corresponding demand forecast data tables on the Sudbury/Algoma engagement site. The Forecast Methodology covers the assumptions and approach used to develop the demand forecast, as provided by the participating Local Distribution Companies (LDCs). Factors such as specific housing and industrial projects have been included in the forecast data, based on information available to LDCs from municipalities and developers seeking grid capacity. Municipal climate action targets (e.g., electrification) and population growth are also key factors used to develop forecasts. The IESO will continue working with LDCs through the TWG to better understand the impacts of economic development, industrial investment, electrification, population growth, and major institutional expansion on future electricity demand. The IESO has also engaged with municipal staff and regional stakeholders to better understand local growth and development plans and looks forward to continuing this engagement throughout the planning process.
Representation of Rural and Indigenous Communities in Forecasting • Municipality of Markstay-Warren noted that the forecast appears to be focused on larger urban centres. • ORA recommended that the Technical Working Group directly seek Indigenous community-level forecast inputs, including community energy plans, housing and infrastructure plans, planned community facilities, and heating electrification initiatives. ORA also recommended transparency throughout the Indigenous consultation process and disclose in the final	Thank you for emphasizing the importance of rural, northern and Indigenous community perspectives. Regional planning considers the electricity needs of the full electrical region, not only the largest urban centres. The Technical Working Group welcomes community-specific information that can help inform a more accurate and comprehensive assessment of future electricity needs. This includes growth projections, housing and infrastructure plans, community energy plans, planned developments and facilities, as well as electrification initiatives. Information received through the engagement process is reviewed in collaboration with the relevant local distribution

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methodology how those inputs were incorporated into the demand forecast. • ORA recommended developing bottom-up demand forecasts for Manitoulin TS and other Hydro One Distribution-supplied stations using local municipal and First Nation growth information and publishing a methodology comparable in detail to that provided for Greater Sudbury Hydro.	company and, where appropriate, incorporated into the refinement of station-level forecasts. This webinar also provides an important opportunity for Indigenous communities to share perspectives on current and future energy needs, priorities, and planned developments within their communities. The Technical Working Group values this input and encourages open dialogue to ensure local knowledge and community objectives are appropriately considered throughout the planning process. In addition, we encourage the Municipality of Markstay-Warren to continue engaging with its Local Distribution Company (LDC) and to share any available information related to anticipated energy needs, planned developments, economic growth, and potential load growth. Early sharing of this information helps improve forecast accuracy and supports the development of proactive and effective regional electricity planning solutions. The final IRRP will describe the forecast approach and key inputs used. Some project- or customer-specific information may be aggregated where required to protect commercially sensitive or confidential information.
Forecast Inputs and Assumptions • ECFN requested clarification on how proposed DER and BESS projects are incorporated into long-term planning scenarios and demand forecasts. • ORA questioned whether the Reference Forecast is appropriately characterized as a firm-load forecast, noting that it includes proposed large load connections that are incorporated using risk-adjusted assumptions. ORA requested greater transparency regarding the composition of the	Once the initial forecast has been reviewed and approved, the IESO will begin assessing and quantifying the underlying power system needs identified within the region. These needs may be addressed through either traditional wires solutions, such as transmission or distribution infrastructure upgrades, or non-wires alternatives (NWAs), depending on the nature, location, and timing of the requirement. Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are examples of potential non-wires alternatives that may be considered as part of the assessment process.

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Reference Forecast, including the treatment of committed and uncertain projects, the application of a consistent firmness criterion across load types, and the contribution of different customer segments to forecast growth. • ORA recommended publishing a low demand scenario to assess whether identified needs persist if forecast growth does not materialize and to better understand potential ratepayer exposure associated with infrastructure investments • ORA recommended publishing the resource types and contract expiry dates associated with the forecasted decline in distributed generation contributions and evaluating a sensitivity scenario where existing distributed generation resources are retained before any needs associated with their loss are considered in the options assessment. • ORA identified potential data anomalies in the published forecast datasets, including historical power factor values at Sowerby DS, Verner DS, and Wharncliffe DS, and a historical demand value at Sowerby DS. ORA requested that these values be corrected or explained in the final dataset.	Where NWAs appear to be technically feasible and cost-effective, the IESO will undertake further analysis to evaluate their suitability. As part of this evaluation, the IESO may develop an hourly (8,760-hour) load forecast to better understand the magnitude, duration, seasonal characteristics, and timing of the identified need. This detailed assessment helps determine whether non-wires alternatives can reliably meet system requirements and informs the selection of the most appropriate solution to address regional electricity needs. The forecast includes both distribution-level load data and demand from customers connected directly to the IESO-controlled transmission grid, typically at transmission voltages of 100 kV and above. The Reference Forecast is primarily developed using the following inputs: • Distribution-level load forecasts provided by Local Distribution Companies (LDCs). These forecasts reflect expected electricity demand associated with household growth, large customer connections, electric vehicle (EV) adoption, and building electrification initiatives. • Large loads and wholesale consumers directly connected to the IESO-controlled transmission grid. The IESO incorporates forecast information submitted by these customers as part of the regional forecasting process. • Most existing transmission-connected wholesale consumers provide the IESO with a 20-year peak demand forecast for inclusion in planning studies. Where a customer indicates that forecasted growth can be accommodated without major facility expansions or significant asset replacements

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	beyond normal end-of-life requirements, the associated demand is included in both the Reference Forecast and the High-Growth Forecast. • Where forecasted growth is contingent on major facility expansions and/or significant infrastructure investments beyond end-of-life replacement requirements, the associated demand is included in the High-Growth Forecast and incorporated into the Reference Forecast only where the project has advanced sufficiently through key development milestones and demonstrates a reasonable level of certainty. • Potential transmission-connected wholesale consumer facilities are generally included in the Reference Forecast only after achieving committed status in accordance with the criteria established in Market Manual 1.4. This approach ensures that the Reference Forecast represents the most likely demand outlook, while the High-Growth Forecast captures additional demand associated with projects that are still progressing through development and approval stages. The forecast also provides additional information regarding the composition of electricity demand within the study area, including the relative contributions of the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. This information is available in the forecast datasets posted on the Sudbury/Algoma engagement webpage. In accordance with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) Load Forecast Guidelines, a Low-Growth Sensitivity Forecast has also been developed to assess the potential impact of lower-than-expected electricity demand growth across the Sudbury-Algoma Region. The purpose of this sensitivity analysis is to support robust planning by evaluating a plausible lower-

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	growth scenario relative to the Reference Forecast, while recognizing that the Reference Forecast remains the most likely planning scenario for regional planning purposes. Additional details regarding the Low-Growth Sensitivity Forecast will be made available following publication of the forecast results. Information regarding distribution-connected generation (DG) resources and their contribution within the region is maintained by the IESO and is available through the IESO's Distribution-Connected Generation webpage. This information provides valuable context regarding existing distributed energy resources connected to the distribution system and their contribution toward meeting local electricity needs. Customer-specific power factors are based on information provided directly by transmission-connected wholesale consumers. For all other customer classes and load forecasts, power factor assumptions are based on historical operating characteristics and observed system performance.
Demand Forecast Sensitivity Analysis • ORA noted that the forecast methodology relies on historical weather assumptions and recommended assessing forecast demand under climate-adjusted weather conditions, including publishing a climate sensitivity analysis and additional information on the extreme weather adjustment methodology. • ORA requested confirmation that demand-side management assumptions reflect the full 2025-2036 Electricity Demand Side Management Framework and expanded Save on Energy	Thank you for the feedback on climate, demand-side management and summer peak demand. The forecast methodology includes weather normalization and an extreme-weather adjustment. Climate considerations, including temperature trends and extreme-weather risks, are also considered through the development of the IRRP. Further methodology information will be provided with the finalized forecast materials where available. For more details about extreme weather methodology please read more in the Load Forecast Guideline for Ontario here. The regional forecast includes applicable conservation and demand-management

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investments. ORA also recommended completing local achievable potential studies for stations with identified needs. • Jake Diebolt requested clarification on whether increased summer cooling demand has been incorporated into the forecasts, noting that seasonal population growth and hotter summers may lead to increased air conditioning adoption and higher electricity demand	assumptions. These assumptions will be reviewed against the current provincial demand-side management framework and available program information as the forecast is finalized. Local achievable potential studies are considered where they can support the assessment of identified needs and potential non-wire alternatives; they are not automatically required for every station. Summer cooling demand is represented through historical load shapes, weather treatment and information provided by local distribution companies. The Technical Working Group will consider the feedback regarding hotter summers, air-conditioning adoption and seasonal population changes when reviewing the final forecast scenarios. Further, the IESO is actively working to better understand weather-related uncertainties and consumer behaviour, and how they can be integrated into its planning work including the Annual Planning Outlook. These efforts include exploring guidance on the use of weather projections that account for changing temperatures, developing relevant weather variables, and creating tools to incorporate this data into long-term electricity demand forecasts. As this work advances, the IESO will continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure transparency and collaboration.

Developing Solutions to Meet Regional Needs

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Geographic distribution of future growth • The Greater Sudbury Development Corporation (GSDC) also emphasized the importance of considering the geographic distribution of future growth. Given the size and diversity of Greater Sudbury's municipal area, sufficient electrical capacity will be	Thank you for highlighting that both the amount and location of future demand are important. The regional forecast is developed at the station level so that anticipated growth can be assessed against the capability of the transmission and distribution facilities serving each area. The Technical Working Group reviews information provided on strategic employment lands, development corridors, institutional expansion and

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needed in strategic employment and development areas to accommodate potential industrial and commercial growth. Accordingly, future electricity planning should account for both the scale and location of anticipated demand to ensure infrastructure is aligned with projected development patterns. • The Birmingham Group emphasized the importance of location-specific information on available electrical capacity, anticipated constraints, and planned infrastructure investments in Greater Sudbury's major growth areas. • The Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce emphasized the need to consider the geographic distribution of future growth and ensure sufficient electrical capacity is available in strategic employment areas and development corridors to support future industrial and commercial development.	other major growth areas with the relevant local distribution company. Where sufficient location, timing and load information is available, it will be considered in finalizing the station forecasts and in identifying where and when system needs may arise. As the IRRP engagement progresses, information on identified regional needs and the options being assessed will be provided. Detailed distribution-system capacity and customer-connection information remains the responsibility of the applicable local distribution company.
Growth and Energy Development Opportunities • Municipality of Markstay-Warren expressed interest in community growth and energy project opportunities and indicated uncertainty regarding future growth potential and the municipality's ability to provide power to the grid. • The Birmingham Group highlighted potential growth in mining, critical minerals, industrial, commercial, housing, and supply-chain development, and emphasized the need for proactive electricity infrastructure planning given the long lead times associated with major electricity projects. • ECFN requested clarification on Hamner TS load assumptions and whether	Thank you for identifying potential growth and energy-development opportunities across the region. Information on mining and critical-minerals activity, industrial and commercial development, housing, institutional expansion, transportation electrification and prospective generation projects can help inform the range of future electricity needs. The Technical Working Group will review the information received, including questions regarding the load served from Hanmer TS, with Hydro One and the applicable local distribution company as the forecast scenarios are finalized. The extent to which a prospective project is reflected will depend on the information available on its location, electricity requirements, status and expected timing. The Reference and High scenarios provide a range for considering projects with different levels of certainty.

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potential future mining growth, including mine reopenings, is reflected in the Hydro One demand forecast and High scenario. • The Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce emphasized the need for demand forecasts to reflect anticipated economic growth, investment activity, and major development opportunities across the region. • Cambrian College emphasized the importance of ensuring sufficient electrical capacity and infrastructure to support future campus electrification, expansion plans, applied research activities, and transportation electrification. • The City of Greater Sudbury highlighted the importance of ensuring sufficient electricity capacity to support economic development, investment attraction, housing growth, industrial expansion, and job creation. • Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe (GMS) emphasized the importance of ensuring sufficient electrical capacity to support the planned Chi-Zhiingwaak Business Park, future Indigenous-led economic development initiatives, employment growth, and investment opportunities within Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and the broader region.	Regional planning identifies transmission-level needs and recommends an appropriate mix of solutions. Parties considering a specific load or generation connection should continue to work with their local distribution company or transmitter through the applicable connection process. The IRRP will consider implementation lead times and opportunities to preserve flexibility as growth develops.
Service Quality, Reliability and Resiliency • ECFN noted that Service Quality and Service Resiliency are not included as local planning drivers in the webinar materials. ECFN raised concerns regarding power quality issues affecting critical infrastructure and residences, including power surges that have damaged equipment, as well as outage	Thank you for emphasizing the importance of service quality, reliability and resiliency, particularly for critical facilities and communities experiencing frequent or extended outages. The IRRP assesses regional transmission-system needs using applicable planning criteria, including supply capacity, load security, load restoration and asset-replacement considerations. Loss-of-supply risks at the transmission level can therefore inform the needs assessment and options analysis.

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frequency and duration. ECFN also questioned how loss-of-supply events are being addressed in the plan, noting that SAIDI and SAIFI metrics published by the OEB exclude loss of supply from their calculations, and referenced poor feeder-level reliability performance within its service territory despite remediation efforts. • ECFN recommended that additional transmission infrastructure could improve reliability and provide greater flexibility to serve poorly serviced communities. • ORA recommended incorporating reliability and resiliency metrics, including outage frequency, outage duration, and loss-of-supply events, as inputs to the needs assessment and presenting this information alongside identified system needs. • Health Sciences North (HSN) emphasized the importance of maintaining a reliable electrical supply and sufficient system redundancy, noting that continuous power is critical to hospital operations and patient care. • Giyak Mishkawzid Shkagmikwe (GMS) emphasized that reliable, resilient, and available electricity infrastructure is essential to supporting Indigenous economic development, attracting investment, advancing economic reconciliation, and enabling long-term growth opportunities.	Customer outage frequency, outage duration, feeder performance, voltage quality and other distribution-level service-quality matters are primarily planned and managed by the applicable local distribution company and are not, on their own, regional transmission planning criteria. The Technical Working Group will share the feedback with the relevant utilities so that transmission and distribution considerations can be coordinated where there is a regional planning linkage. Once regional needs are confirmed, potential solutions will be screened and evaluated for their ability to meet the identified need. This may include transmission, distribution and non-wire options, depending on the nature, magnitude and timing of the need. Reliability benefits, system redundancy, cost effectiveness, implementation risk and flexibility will be considered as part of the options analysis.
Non-Wires and Distributed Energy Resources • ORA recommended that non-wires solutions, such as energy efficiency, demand response, distributed energy resources, and storage, be evaluated	The IESO appreciates the input and insights, including the consideration of non-wires solutions. As planning progresses for Sudbury/Algoma, the Technical Working Group will define the electricity needs of the region based on the final demand forecast scenarios. Once specific needs have been

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alongside identified needs and before advancing transmission solutions. • ORA also requested transparency regarding the derivation and currency of distributed generation contribution factors, updates to wind and solar assumptions using current Ontario performance data, and assessment of renewable resources paired with storage using the firm-capacity approach established in the IESO's Hybrid Resource Equivalency Assessment. • Jake Diebolt requested clarification on how local power generation, and small-scale distributed energy resources are accounted for in demand forecasts and regional electricity planning, particularly in areas that are primarily served by the distribution system.	determined, the IESO will complete an initial technical screening of potential solutions. The IESO will then complete detailed evaluations of wires and non-wires options that have been screened in to address the system needs identified, ensuring a balanced approach that prioritizes reliability, cost effectiveness, and sustainability. The assessment is based on an IESO-developed Non-wire Analysis Assessment for the Integrated Regional Resource Plans (IRRPs). This guide provides an overview of the IESO's current process for considering NWAs when developing an IRRP, including process steps, screening mechanisms, hourly needs characterization, development of options, and economic evaluation methodology. Local generation and small-scale distributed energy resources (DERs) are reflected in demand forecasts by reducing the forecasted electricity requirements supplied by the grid. Planners estimate the total electricity consumption in an area (gross demand) and then subtract the expected contribution from resources such as rooftop solar, customer-owned generation, and battery storage. The resulting net demand represents the electricity that must be delivered by the transmission and distribution systems and is the demand used for planning purposes.

Considerations for Engagements

Feedback/Common Themes	IESO Response
Communications and Information Sharing • The Municipality of Markstay-Warren emphasized the value of ongoing communication and regular updates to help communities stay informed as new information becomes available.	Thank you for the feedback on communication, transparency and access to planning information. The IESO will continue to engage at key milestones throughout the development of the IRRP. The IESO strives to make information available throughout the development of the IRRP to enable

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• The Birmingham Group requests ongoing information on system capacity and infrastructure planning, and recommends continued engagement with key stakeholders, including a confidential process for sharing information on prospective developments and electricity needs. • ORA recommended providing greater transparency regarding planned bulk system investments and evaluating regional needs on an incremental basis after those projects are in service. • ORA recommended that Planning Assessment Criteria and Resource Assumptions be open for stakeholder input and published alongside identified needs and supporting studies. • ORA recommended updating the Engagement Plan to provide the full three-week comment period identified in the engagement materials, correct scheduling inconsistencies, and publish a summary of how stakeholder feedback informed plan revisions. • ORA recommended documenting in the IRRP report the IESO's position that hydroelectricity is not included in the evaluation of wire or non-wire options to ensure the approach is clearly reflected in the plan and remains consistent throughout the current and future planning cycles. • Health Sciences North (HSN) requested information on potential future grid constraints and capacity limitations in the Sudbury-Algoma region, particularly those that could affect large electricity consumers. • Dancor Construction requested additional information regarding the timing, costs, and location of future	meaningful feedback during the development of the IRRP. Data and information made available during IRRP development is outlined in the IESO's Information and Data Release Guideline describes the information generally made available during IRRP development. Planning assumptions, assessment criteria and supporting information will be shared to enable meaningful participation, subject to system-security, privacy, commercial-sensitivity and confidentiality considerations. As part of the planning process, the IESO evaluates a broad range of options to ensure Ontario's electricity system remains reliable, affordable, and sustainable. Once forecast scenarios and system needs have been established, the IESO screens and assesses both wires and non-wires options. As communicated during the Scoping Assessment stage, hydroelectricity is not included in the evaluation of wire and non-wire options. Those options that will be considered through the IRRP will be documented at the next regional planning webinar and in the final IRRP. Parties may also provide commercially sensitive project information directly to the appropriate local distribution company or the IESO for consideration through established planning and connection processes. Information regarding the Sudbury-Algoma transmission system capacity will be available once the load forecast has been finalized and the next phase of the assessment is completed. During this phase, the IESO and the Technical Working Group will quantify the region's electricity system needs by evaluating both the transmission transfer capability and the load-meeting capability of the existing transmission network. This analysis will help determine the extent to which the current system can accommodate forecasted electricity demand and identify any potential constraints or reliability needs that may emerge over the planning horizon.

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electricity infrastructure expansions to support development planning and investment decisions.	Additional information on regional transmission capability, identified needs, and the methodology used to assess system performance will be presented during the second stakeholder webinar, following completion of the forecasting and needs assessment activities. The timing, costs, and location of the wires and non-wires solutions (including future electricity infrastructure expansions) will be presented in the final webinar. Information on potential constraints for individual facilities should also be discussed with the applicable local distribution company through the customer-connection process.
Indigenous and Community-Led Planning Inputs • ECFN noted that previous recommendations to incorporate community-level and Indigenous-led planning inputs alongside technical load forecasts are not clearly reflected in the 2026 Regional Electricity Plan and requested a better understanding of how Indigenous knowledge, local initiatives, and community input are incorporated into planning and forecast development. • ECFN expressed appreciation for the engagement materials and opportunities provided by IESO staff and indicated its interest in continued participation in the continued regional planning process. • ECFN recommended funded and formalized Indigenous engagement to support communities that will be equity partners in future electricity infrastructure projects and suggested a dedicated Indigenous service quality	Thank you for the feedback and for the interest in continued participation. The IESO recognizes that Indigenous communities bring distinct rights, interests, knowledge and community priorities to electricity planning. The IESO will continue outreach through the regional planning engagement and welcomes community-specific information on growth, housing, infrastructure, energy plans, reliability concerns, local generation and other initiatives that may affect the forecast or the assessment of options. Input received from Indigenous communities will be reviewed by the Technical Working Group and considered where relevant to the IRRP's demand forecast, needs assessment, options analysis and engagement approach. The IESO will also continue direct discussions with interested communities to support meaningful participation. The nature of engagement may vary according to the planning milestone, the interests identified and the potential effects of future recommendations. The IRRP will assess the Sudbury/Algoma electrical region based on its shared electricity infrastructure.

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and reliability forum to capture community-specific feedback. • ORA recommended that Manitoulin Island be considered as a distinct planning area and that Indigenous community interests, including opportunities for equity participation in future wire and non-wire solutions, be reflected in the planning process.	Within that scope, the analysis can identify localized needs and options affecting Manitoulin Island and other communities. Questions regarding funding, equity participation or ownership in a future project are generally addressed through applicable provincial programs, procurement processes or project-specific implementation activities rather than determined through the IRRP itself. Feedback on service quality and distribution reliability will also be shared with the relevant local distribution company, while any related regional transmission needs will be considered through the IRRP. 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 IESO programs or procurements. 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.