

Feedback Form

Regional Electricity Planning in the Toronto Region – July 10, 2025

Feedback Provided by:

Name: Mark Freeman

Title: Concerned Citizen

Organization: Various

Email: [REDACTED]

Date: July 10th, 2025

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

Following the Toronto regional planning webinar held on July 10, 2025, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the results of the options screening. A copy of the presentation as well as recording of the session can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by July 25, 2025.

Topic	Feedback
What feedback do you have regarding the results of the wire and non-wire options screening?	I appreciate that feedback/input from previous sessions has been incorporated into this (living/evolving) plan. It is great to see that Distributed Energy Resources, including Battery Storage are being considered ('partially' screened in), however I suggest that the IESO must place yet a higher priority on decarbonizing Ontario's grid with an increased emphasis on the use of wind and solar, supported by battery storage - These renewable energy sources not only reduce the cost of living for Ontarians, they also increase our energy independence – Allowing us to move away from American gas and nuclear technology/fuel.
What feedback do you have on the preliminary transmission wire options?	I urge the IESO to find ways to give renewable energy an advantage over climate polluting gas-fired power plants and the fantasy of Small Modular Reactors – Which would be a financial disaster for the province! I do not understand one of the IESO rep's comments about SMRs being chosen after an economic analysis – As Nuclear is one of, if not the most expensive forms of power generation, the only way SMRs could be remotely financially attractive, is if we plan on selling a large portion of the power generated to the US, at a time when we need to be diversifying our export partners!
What feedback do you have regarding how screened-in options could inform the options analysis and draft recommendations?	I appreciate that feedback/input from previous sessions has been incorporated into this (living/evolving) plan. It is great to see that Distributed Energy Resources, including Battery Storage are being considered ('partially' screened in), however I suggest that the IESO must place yet a higher priority on decarbonizing Ontario's grid with an increased emphasis on the use of wind and solar, supported by battery storage - These renewable energy sources not only reduce the cost of living for Ontarians, they also increase our energy independence – Allowing us to move away from American gas and nuclear technology/fuel.

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Additional information that should be provided in future engagements to help understand perspectives and insights.	Click or tap here to enter text.

General Comments/Feedback

Hello IESO Engagement,

Thank you very much for the presentation on the Toronto Regional Electricity Plan – It was very well done, and I appreciate being able to participate in the process.

I also recognize and appreciate that feedback/input from previous sessions has been incorporated into this (living/evolving) plan. It is great to see that Distributed Energy Resources, including Battery Storage are being 'partially' considered (screened in), however I suggest that the IESO must place yet a higher priority on decarbonizing Ontario's grid with an increased emphasis on the use of wind and solar, supported by battery storage - These renewable energy sources not only reduce the cost of living for Ontarians, they also increase our energy independence – Allowing us to move away from American gas and nuclear technology/fuel.

I am not going to lecture the IESO on the importance of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, however I would like to see the IESO's plan, consistent with the Paris Agreement, reducing the province's energy-production related GHGs by 50% by 2030 (relative to 2005). This is what we need to be on a realistic path to net-zero by 2050, and we are currently going in the wrong direction. Perhaps my comments are more related to Bulk System Planning, however everything is connected, so here goes...

I urge the IESO to find ways to give renewable energy an advantage over climate polluting gas-fired power plants and the fantasy of Small Modular Reactors – Which would be a financial disaster for the province! I do not understand one of the IESO rep's comments about SMRs being chosen after an economic analysis – As Nuclear is one of, if not the most expensive forms of power generation, the only way SMRs could be remotely financially attractive, is if we plan on selling a large portion of the power generated to the US, at a time when we need to be diversifying our export partners!

I am also confused by the comments made by the IESO regarding the "large land requirements needed for renewables"– I assume they are due to certain constraints that are a result of bad policy decisions by our provincial government. I am looking for the IESO to push back on the province by evaluating and recommending scenarios that include offshore wind as well as agrivoltaics, along with rooftop and parking lot solar for power generation along with an increased focus on geo-exchange (ground-source heat pumps) for reducing electricity consumption that can offset some of your "seasonal" concerns. If this is done, I'm confident there will be no need for an expanded Portlands (or any other) gas plant, or for unproven SMR technology!

I suggest that the IESO take a more holistic view, considering power demand reductions in other areas of Ontario, outside the GTA, that could be realized with a massive rollout of DERs and BESS in

those areas. This in turn, could provide additional 'existing' power to the GTA, enabling the wind down of existing gas plants and eliminating the need for SMRs.

As for the Save on Energy program, it is a good program, however it is biased in favour of gas. This needs to change to motivate more people to replace gas with geo-exchange (ground-source) or air-source heat pumps (and no, hybrid systems are not the solution), along with better incentives for rooftop and parking lot solar. Minor rebates are not enough. I am producing surplus power with my rooftop solar PV system, yet I still pay a monthly fee – Absolutely ridiculous / unacceptable! Again, more provincial government policy that needs changing, with encouragement from the IESO (and the OEB – If there's anyone left there).

Thanks again for listening, and I look forward to more good work from the IESO!

Mark Freeman



PS> I am not a power engineer, so please excuse me if I've used the word 'power' when I should use 'energy' etc...