

# Feedback Form

## Regional Electricity Planning in GTA North (York Region) Area – November 26, 2024

### Feedback Provided by:

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Date: December 17, 2024

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

Following the GTA North (York Region) electricity planning engagement webinar held on November 26, 2024, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the draft electricity demand forecast scenario and Engagement Plan. A copy of the presentation as well as a recording of the session can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).

**Please submit feedback to [engagement@ieso.ca](mailto:engagement@ieso.ca) by December 17, 2024.**

Topic	Feedback
What additional insights, if any, should be considered in the draft forecast scenario?	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic	Feedback
What areas of concern or interest about electricity should be considered as part of the planning process?	Enbridge Gas suggests that IESO provides more details on how its planning addresses and ensures system resiliency of the electric grid in the York Region. Enbridge Gas also suggests that details regarding how Conservation and Demand Management (CDM) will be further maximized and forecasted in the electricity planning are provided
What information is important to provide to participants throughout this engagement?	Click or tap here to enter text.
Does the proposed Engagement Plan provide sufficient scope and opportunities for input?	Yes, Enbridge appreciates IESO's on-going efforts to engage with stakeholders in the York Region IRRP process. As noted below, Enbridge Gas respectfully requests to join the York Region IRRP Technical Working Group.

## General Comments/Feedback

**Enbridge Gas recommends that coordinated energy system (gas and electric) planning be completed for the York Region.** Coordinated planning between the electric and gas systems would ensure that the energy transition can occur in a manner that maintains consumer choice and in a manner that is most orderly, cost-effective, and resilient; both in the York Region and more broadly across Ontario. Specifically, energy system operators (IESO and Enbridge Gas), energy transmitters (Hydro One Networks Inc. and Enbridge Gas) and local distribution companies (Hydro One Networks Inc., Alectra Utilities Corporation, Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd [NT Power] and Enbridge Gas) should engage in coordinated system planning activities to achieve the above noted objectives. For example, Enbridge Gas appreciates the efforts made by the IESO in taking the first step towards more collaborative and coordinated energy planning by including Enbridge Gas as an observer in the Ottawa Region working group and providing an opportunity to participate in discussions on the decarbonization scenarios that are considered in the demand forecast. Additionally, Enbridge had material involvement in the development of the Windsor-Essex IRRP, further emphasizing the importance of collaboration in planning for gas and electricity systems. Collaboration efforts such as these examples enables more strategic and efficient investments to be made, delivering significant benefits to the subject region. Effective coordination at both the distribution and transmission planning levels is essential to fully utilize existing infrastructure and address the increasing energy demands of the region. This would benefit the residents and businesses in the York Region and Ontario more broadly by optimizing existing local energy systems (electric and gas), keeping costs down for ratepayers, while also minimizing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. For these reasons, **Enbridge Gas respectfully requests to join the York Region IRRP Technical Working Group** to review and determine how best to leverage both local

energy systems to meet increasing electricity demand and its pace in the most reliable, resilient and cost-effective manner.

System coordination and energy diversification would also allow for behind-the-meter technologies, like hybrid heating and distributed energy resources (DERs), time to develop and/or be adopted more readily while meeting short-term energy needs and ensuring on-going system reliability and resiliency. Examples like hybrid heating showcase the benefits of a coordinated approach between electric and gas systems on a site-level by allowing either system to operate when it is optimal to do so. Hybrid heating lowers annual GHG emissions while supporting energy demand during peak periods. Customers who operate hybrid heating systems can ensure that their individual site needs and/or requirements are met while also considering operational costs.

**Enbridge Gas suggests that due consideration be given to a diversified energy system approach in the York Region forecasts.** A diversified energy system is one that integrates electric and low-carbon gas solutions and can reduce GHG emissions while also avoiding (or deferring) the build-out of peak electric infrastructure. On an energy system level, further evaluation of how the emitting generation resources can reduce GHG emissions while continuing operations would be invaluable to support peak energy and resiliency needs of York Region.

Furthermore, greater collaboration and information sharing between sectors can help to ensure that the forecasted pace and extent of space heating electrification in buildings in the York Region is based upon observed trends and market insight. It is possible that by coordinated and diversified system planning, greater near-term GHG emissions reductions could be achieved in a more cost-effective and resilient manner, and that further evaluation of this opportunity is warranted.

Enbridge Gas is ready to engage in open discussions with IESO and the York Region IRRP Technical Working Group and is eager to explore a coordinated approach to energy system planning in the York Region. By working together, Enbridge Gas is confident that the end-results would be an enhanced and more robust means for energy system planning and that energy systems remain reliable, resilient, and affordable for the people and businesses in York Region.