

Memorandum

To: Stakeholder Advisory Committee

From: Jordan Penic, Senior Manager, Engagement and Indigenous Relations

Date: February 17, 2021

Re: IESO Business Update – Engagement Update

The following provides an update to members of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) on the recent regional electricity forum and a new forward-looking schedule for engagements. A detailed update on each of the active engagements and working/groups committees is included in the companion update document.

IESO Regional Electricity Forum – January 20, 2021

Engaging with Ontario communities is important for the IESO to understand emerging priorities to plan and shape regional electricity needs. On January 20, the IESO held the fourth annual Regional Electricity Forum under the theme *Strengthening Communities Through Energy Choices*. Typically held in person, within separate regions, this virtual event presented the opportunity to gather together communities across Ontario to hear from a variety of speakers about electricity trends and issues facing the sector. These perspectives informed individual regional network discussions held in the afternoon. The event attracted close to 500 individuals consisting of a balanced representation from municipalities, Indigenous communities, business and residential consumers, local associations and business groups, energy service providers and other electricity sector organizations including local distribution companies, transmitters and generators.

With climate change initiatives top of mind, particularly as communities work towards net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) targets by 2050, non-wires alternatives including distributed energy resources, micro-grids and electrification were the focus of many discussions on ways to manage their own needs.

These conversations reinforced the importance of learning from each other to address common challenges – and of continuing engagement. The IESO will build on this dialogue, online, through [IESO Connects](#), a new interactive online engagement platform for the Regional

Networks. Further information about IESO Connects is provided in the Stakeholder Survey presentation.

New Engagements – Forward Looking Schedule

The anticipated launch and timing for new engagements are presented below. This information will be shared with SAC and at future engagement days moving forward so that early input from stakeholders can help plan and prioritize IESO's engagements.

Advisory Notices & Operating States

The IESO informs market participants of market and system operating conditions through advisory notices and operating states. Recent events have highlighted opportunities to better reflect the nature of each advisory notice or operating condition. Enhancements could provide more meaningful messaging for market participants leading to better understanding of the state of the grid.

Anticipated Start of Engagement: Q1/2 2021

Enabling Resources

This initiative will produce an integrated plan that will outline the sequencing, timing and scope of activities to be undertaken by the IESO to enable existing resources to provide energy and capacity services that they cannot fully provide under current market architecture, taking into account the timing of system needs. The work plan is scheduled to be published towards the end of March.

Anticipated Start of Engagement: Q1 2021

Industrial Energy Efficiency Program

As part of the 2021-2024 Conservation Demand Management Framework, the IESO plans to launch a new program for large industrial consumers. The IESO will seek input from stakeholders to inform program design and eligibility requirements.

Anticipated Start of Engagement: Q2 2021