

# Memorandum

**To:** Strategic Advisory Committee

**From:** Barbara Ellard, Director, Resource and System Adequacy

**Date:** July 16, 2025

**Re:** IESO Business Update – Transmitter Selection Framework

The following provides an update to members of the Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC) on the IESO's Transmitter Selection Framework activities that are part of the IESO's Resource Adequacy Framework.

## Summary:

The IESO is actively advancing the design of the Transmission Selection Framework (TSF), with the goal of establishing a transparent, enduring approach to selecting transmitters to develop new transmission infrastructure in Ontario. New transmission is needed across the province to support economic and system growth, affordability, and reliability. The TSF was reaffirmed as a key policy initiative in the Ontario Government's recently released Integrated Energy Plan – Energy for Generations (IEP), which highlights the need for significant new transmission development across the province and the opportunity to introduce competition where feasible.

As outlined in the IEP, the first step in launching the TSF is the creation of a Registry to screen prospective proponents for minimum technical and financial qualifications. To support the development of the Registry, the IESO held its eighth public engagement session in June to review the final Registry rules and help prepare interested transmitters to participate. The TSF Registry remains on track to launch by the end of July 2025, ahead of the August 15 target identified in the IEP Directive.

The IESO is also working to identify TSF-eligible projects through ongoing bulk system planning. Initial procurements will likely focus on projects with lower complexity and adequate lead times to set up early TSF success. A potential project could be identified by the end of 2025, or early 2026.

In parallel, the IESO is continuing to refine core TSF procurement design elements, including bid structure, commercial terms, and Indigenous participation features. The IESO is also working with government and the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to streamline applicable regulatory approvals. For example, the IESO and OEB have written to the Ministry of Energy and Mines to recommend that TSF contracted transmission projects be exempt from the requirement to obtain Leave to Construct to improve regulatory certainty and save time and cost. Procurement design and regulatory streamlining work will continue throughout 2025.

As noted in the IEP, once TSF project(s) are confirmed, the government would need to issue a directive to formally launch the competitive procurement, supported by any necessary legislative or regulatory changes.