

Burlington to Nanticoke Region Electricity Planning Process Public Webinar #1 – September 11, 2023

The IESO hosted a public webinar for the Burlington to Nanticoke region to develop three long-term electricity plans¹ – Integrated Regional Resource Plans (IRRPs) – on September 11, 2023. During the webinar, the IESO provided an overview of the regional electricity planning process, shared the draft electricity demand forecast, needs and draft engagement plan for input. The presentation material and recorded webinar are available on the [engagement webpage](#).

The IESO appreciates the input, which will be considered by the Technical Working Group² to develop the three IRRPs. Feedback was received from the following parties and the full submission can be viewed on the engagement webpage:

- [Enbridge Gas Inc.](#)
- [McMaster University](#)
- [Power Union Workers](#)

The section below summarizes feedback received related to key developments, projects, and initiatives, as well as local issues and concerns that should be considered in the electricity planning for Burlington to Nanticoke Region.

Electricity Demand Forecast and Needs

Feedback	IESO Response
McMaster University shared they will be installing 2 x 10 MW electrode boilers on campus by end of 2024, and that they have a net-zero plan	Thank you for providing feedback regarding the electrode boilers and geothermal heat pump systems. Both of these projects have been included in the draft forecast.

¹ IRRPs will be developed for the Brant, Caledonia-Norfolk and Hamilton sub-regions to address the unique needs and characteristics of each area.

² The Technical Working Group is lead by the IESO, and consists of the LDCs in the region and the local transmitter (Alectra Utilities Corporation, Burlington Hydro Inc., GrandBridge Energy Inc., Oakville Hydro Inc. and Hydro One Networks Inc.

which is looking to transition the campus from district steam to geothermal heat pump systems, adding at least 10 MW of additional load to the grid.

McMaster University and PWU recommend better alignment with widespread electrification, decarbonization, and government directives, including Powering Ontario's Growth in order to better account for growth.

To meet electricity needs across the province, there are multiple electricity planning processes that serve different functions to ensure an affordable and reliable supply of electricity. Regional electricity planning focuses on first understanding local needs in order to determine recommendations to provide a reliable supply of electricity. In contrast, planning at the bulk system level typically examines province-wide system issues, including resources needed to adequately supply the province, and considers existing government policy and directives to meet needs. Given that the key driver at the regional electricity planning level is to understand local needs, policy directives are considered within the scope of specific actions being taken by municipalities and customers in the region such as electrification initiatives.

To the meet the electricity needs across the province, the Ministry of Energy released the "Powering Ontario's Growth" report which outlined actions to support economic growth, decarbonization and the ongoing transformation of Ontario's electricity system. The IESO will support and work with communities and sector partners to implement many of the actions in the report to ensure Ontario's electricity system is well-positioned for the future, including as it relates to electrification. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

To further address the needs in this area and beyond, the IESO is also conducting a Central-West Bulk Study to ensure a continued reliable supply in light of the recently announced Volkswagen EV plant, and to proactively develop a transmission plan that captures a range of potential growth scenarios that can be

	<p>implemented if/when large new loads materialize. Given the scope of the planning at that level, the IESO will consider government policy and directives, including the Powering Ontario's Growth report. This ensures that provincial needs are addressed, and will be coordinated with the findings and recommendations of the regional plans.</p>
<p>PWU recommended that the forecast should not be based on the 2022 APO.</p>	<p>Forecasting at the regional electricity planning level is not based on Annual Planning Outlooks, and instead the forecasting is based on information and data received from local distribution companies, local businesses, municipalities, stakeholders and transmission connected customers. This ensures that local needs are understood and met by building a forecast from the ground up.</p>

Scope and Planning Approach

Feedback	IESO Response
<p>McMaster University shared that the current plan to offer multiple sessions and details around capacity needs and timelines is very helpful.</p>	<p>Thank you for the feedback. The IESO will continue to provide updates about the status of this work including upcoming opportunities for input.</p>
<p>Enbridge Gas recommended for the IESO to offer a coordinated approach between the electric and gas sectors, including creating a diversified scenario that includes both electric and low-carbon gas natural gas.</p>	<p>The regional electricity planning process focuses on understanding local electricity needs in order to determine recommendations to provide a reliable supply of electricity. As the first step in developing an IRRP, the Technical Working Group has established the electricity demand forecast based on information shared from local distribution companies, municipalities, customers and other interested parties in the area.</p> <p>The IESO and the Technical Working Group recognizes the potential benefits of coordination between electricity planning and gas planning processes. The IESO appreciates the opportunity</p>

to work with communities and stakeholders to seek input on the regional demand forecast, electricity needs, options analysis, and recommendations including the evaluation of technically feasible and cost-effective solutions. Input from Enbridge on the amount of demand that could be supplied from low-carbon fuels is welcomed.

Other Considerations

Feedback	IESO Response
<p>McMaster University shared that understanding the transmission capacity restrictions will help organizations plan their decarbonization initiatives.</p>	<p>Transmission capacity restrictions are location and project specific. IESO encourages project proponents to reach out to the IESO and Hydro One with projects details in order to better understand capacity restrictions.</p> <p>Through the connection process, the IESO is committed to working closely with customers to connect new facilities and modify existing facilities in a timely manner, while maintaining the reliability of the IESO-controlled grid.</p>
<p>Enbridge Gas shared they would appreciate the opportunity to be included in the Technical Working Groups for the three sub-regions.</p>	<p>Engaging with interested parties, including municipalities, Indigenous communities, businesses, and other industry stakeholders is fundamental to ensuring a comprehensive and integrated approach as part of the regional electricity planning process.</p> <p>The IESO and the Technical Working Group recognizes the potential benefits of coordination between electricity planning and gas planning processes. The IESO welcomes the opportunity to work with Enbridge as part of the public engagement process. As the work will progress, the IESO will continue to host opportunities to share more details about the work, including hosting additional webinars, and understanding feedback.</p>