

IESO Engagement Update

August 18-20, 2026

This engagement update provides a snapshot of all active IESO engagement activities. It also helps support a greater understanding of linkages between engagements, and a foundation for more comprehensive and integrated updates. For the most up-to-date information, visit the individual engagement links or the [Engagement Initiatives](#) web page.



Forecasting and Planning

Engagements to support provincial and regional electricity planning over the next 20 years.

Active Engagements

Current Status

Bulk Planning – North of Sudbury

The bulk plan will examine the capability of the bulk transmission system's ability to supply increasing levels of demand in the areas surrounding Timmins, Kirkland Lake, and Pinard. The study will also look at creating opportunities to potentially locate new non-emitting resources in the area, as well as the potential for new or upgraded interconnections with Quebec.

Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia**

Mirabelli

- An engagement webinar was held on May 20, 2026, to present and seek feedback on draft recommendations. The webinar recording and submitted feedback are available on the [North of Sudbury engagement page](#). The final report is expected to be released mid-2026.

Northern Ontario Connection Study

This study will develop options to connect remote First Nations communities to the grid that currently rely on diesel generators for electricity, improve reliability for First Nation communities that are already grid-connected, support critical minerals mining development in the region, and enable the development of new hydro and renewable resources. The study was initiated in response to a request from the government of Ontario, and a final report will be released in the early Fall.

Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Sonia Fazari**

- Final report is in development.

Bulk Planning – South and Central

This engagement will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the South and Central Ontario Bulk Study initiative.

Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey**

Indigenous Engagement Leads: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- An engagement webinar was held on April 30, 2026, to present draft recommendations. Feedback was accepted until May 21, 2026, and the final report is expected to be released mid-2026. The webinar recording and the feedback submitted to the IESO are available on the [South and Central engagement page](#).

Bulk Planning – Eastern Ontario

This engagement will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the Eastern Ontario Bulk Study initiative.

Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- An engagement webinar was held on May 27, 2026, to present and seek feedback on draft recommendations. Feedback was accepted until June 17, 2026. The webinar recording and feedback submissions are available on the [Eastern Ontario engagement page](#). The final report is expected to be released mid-2026.

Bulk Planning – Niagara

This engagement will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the Niagara Bulk Plan.

Engagement Lead: **Jessica Singh**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- An engagement webinar was held on July 15, 2026, to provide an overview of the Niagara Bulk Plan and solicit feedback on the proposed scope of work. Feedback was accepted until August 5, 2026.
- Engagement on this bulk plan will take place through 2026.

Regional Planning – Burlington to Nanticoke (Hamilton Addendum)

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: **Chiara Cozzi**

Indigenous Engagement Lead: **Nadia Mirabelli**

- An engagement webinar was held on July 8, 2026, to present and seek feedback on the Needs and Options screening. Feedback was accepted until July 22, 2026, and submissions have been posted on the engagement webpage.
- Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.

<u>Regional Planning – Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/Guelph (KWCG)</u> Regional electricity planning is complete for this region. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Samra Amir <i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Nadia Mirabelli	The IESO published the Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/Guelph IRRP on July 8, 2026, along with the IESO’s response to feedback received.
<u>Regional Planning – GTA East</u> Regional electricity planning is underway in this region. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Jessica Singh <i>Indigenous Engagement Leads:</i> Nadia Mirabelli	- A webinar was held on April 20, 2026, to share the electricity needs for the GTA East region and seek early feedback on the initial screening of potential options. Feedback was accepted until May 11, 2026, and all submissions have been posted on the engagement webpage. - Engagement on this IRRP will continue through to Q4 2026.
<u>Regional Planning – St. Lawrence</u> Regional electricity planning is underway in this region. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Jessica Singh <i>Indigenous Engagement Leads:</i> Nadia Mirabelli	- The IESO published the Scoping Assessment Report on April 13, 2026. - Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.
<u>Regional Planning – GTA West</u> Regional electricity planning is underway in this region. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Sari Gerwitz <i>Indigenous Engagement Leads:</i> Nadia Mirabelli	- An engagement webinar was held on August 20, 2026, to present and seek feedback on the detailed options analysis. - Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.
<u>Regional Planning – East Lake Superior</u> Regional electricity planning is complete for this region. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Jessica Singh <i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Nadia Mirabelli	The IESO published the East Lake Superior IRRP on July 9, 2026, along with the IESO’s response to feedback received.
<u>Regional Planning – Peterborough to Kingston</u> Regional electricity planning is underway in this region. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Samra Amir <i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Nadia Mirabelli	- An engagement webinar was held on July 29, 2026, to present and seek feedback on needs and screening of potential options. Feedback was being collected until August 12, 2026, that will be posted along with IESO responses. - Engagement on this IRRP will continue through Q4 2026.

<u>Regional Planning – London Area</u> Regional electricity planning is underway in this region. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Chiara Cozzi <i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Nadia Mirabelli	• An engagement webinar will be held in Q3 2026 to present and seek feedback on electricity needs and screening of potential options.
<u>Regional Planning - Northwest</u> Regional electricity planning is underway for this region. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Samra Amir <i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Nadia Mirabelli, Sonia Fazari	• The IESO published the Scoping Assessment Report on September 19, 2025. • A webinar was held on June 11, 2026, to share the draft electricity forecast scenarios for the Northwest electrical region and seek early feedback. Feedback was accepted until July 2, 2026, and the feedback received will be posted to the IESO's website, along with IESO's responses.
<u>Regional Planning – South Georgian Bay Muskoka</u> Regional electricity planning is underway for this region. Engagement Lead: Chiara Cozzi <i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Nadia Mirabelli	• An engagement webinar was held on July 27, 2026, on the draft demand forecast. Feedback was accepted until August 10, 2026, and submissions have been posted on the engagement webpage. • Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.
<u>Regional Planning – Sudbury/Algoma</u> Regional electricity planning is underway for this region. Engagement Lead: Sari Gerwitz <i>Indigenous Engagement Lead:</i> Nadia Mirabelli	• A webinar was held on July 16, 2026, to share the draft electricity forecast scenarios for the Sudbury/Algoma electrical region and seek early feedback. Feedback will be accepted until July 31, 2026, and the feedback received will be posted to the IESO's website, along with IESO's responses. • Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2026.

Resource Acquisition

Engagements to ensure we have the tools and processes to acquire the resources we need to maintain a reliable and efficient system.

Active Engagement	Current Status
<u>Capacity Auction Enhancements</u> The annual Capacity Auction is one of the procurement mechanisms included in the IESO's Resource Adequacy Framework and serves as the short-term balancing mechanism in the framework, securing the capacity required to meet	• The next engagement session is scheduled for August 20, 2026.

Active Engagement

Current Status

Ontario's short-term resource adequacy needs.

Engagement Lead: **Josh Acosta**

Related Engagements:

- [Resource Adequacy](#)
- [Demand Side Vision](#)

Transmitter Selection Framework

The IESO is developing a Transmitter Selection Framework (TSF) to establish a transparent and competitive approach for selecting future transmission projects identified for competitive procurement. The framework is intended to support the timely and cost-effective expansion of Ontario's transmission system while creating opportunities for innovation and Indigenous participation.

Engagement Lead: **Fatema Khatun**

Community Engagement Leads: **Nadia**

Mirabelli and Sari Gerwitz

Related Engagements:

- [Toronto Third Line](#)

- The Transmitter Selection Framework continues to provide the foundation for competitive transmission procurements in Ontario.
- The Toronto Third Line (TTL) competitive procurement is currently applying elements of the TSF and has a dedicated engagement stream.
- Future competitive transmission project will have dedicated engagement processes tailored to their specific procurement requirements.

Toronto Third Line

The IESO is advancing the Toronto Third Line (TTL), a new transmission project identified through the Toronto Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP), to support growing electricity demand and system reliability in the Toronto region. The Government of Ontario has directed the IESO to undertake a competitive procurement process to select a transmitter to design, build and operate the line.

Engagement Lead: **Fatema Khatun**

Community Engagement Leads: **Nadia**

Mirabelli and Sari Gerwitz

- Draft Toronto Third Line Contract V1 has been published on the TTL engagement webpage on August 13, 2026.
- Next public engagement session is scheduled for August 20.

Active Engagement

Enabling Resources Program

The Enabling Resources Program (ERP) is an integrated set of projects that will enable emerging resources to provide required system services and contribute to the safe and reliable operation of the bulk power system in Ontario. The first ERP project will incorporate electricity storage, and hybrid generation-storage pairings into the IESO-administered markets, tools, and processes. The second project within ERP is to further enable and integrate Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) into the IESO Administered Markets.

Engagement Lead: **Jason Grbavac**

Related Engagements:

- [ERP - Storage and Hybrid Integration Project](#)
- [ERP – Distributed Energy Resource \(DER\) Integration Project](#)

Current Status

- ERP is comprised of two projects: Storage and Co-located Hybrid (S/H) Integration and Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Integration.

Storage and Co-located Hybrid (S/H) Integration:

The ERP Storage Integration Project posted responses to stakeholder feedback following the May engagement session and hosted an additional session on August 6, 2026 to finalize the Settlements design memo.

Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Integration:

The DER Integration Project conducted an engagement session during the July Engagement Days and is targeting three additional sessions between September and January to continue the discussion on the DER Integration Project design.

Long-Term RFPs

The IESO is engaging stakeholders and communities on the development of a series of Long-Term RFPs that will procure resources to address needs. Engagements targeted to communities and the broader public are underway.

Engagement Lead: **Trisha Hickson**

Community Engagement Leads: **Sonia**

Fazari and Alyssa Sarkis

Related Engagements:

- [Resource Adequacy](#)
- [Hybrid Integration Project](#)
- [Local Generation Project](#)
- [Long Lead-Time](#)

- Feedback following the June 16, 2026, engagement is posted on the engagement page.
- An engagement session was held on August 20, 2026 to continue discussion on key design elements of LT2 Window 2. Feedback is due September 4, 2026.

Active Engagement	Current Status
<u>Long Lead-Time Resource Procurement</u> The IESO is engaging on the proposed design of the Long Lead-Time Resources procurement. This procurement is part of the IESO’s broader Resource Adequacy Framework – an enduring approach to identifying the type of acquisition activity to use to resolve system needs. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Trisha Hickson <i>Community Engagement Lead:</i> Sari Gerwitz <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Resource Adequacy • Long-Term RFP	Stakeholder Engagement: • Engagement on the Long Lead-Time contracts and RFP has concluded. Prospective proponents can expect a Q&A session in the coming months. Community Engagement: • A Q&A session for municipalities and Indigenous communities was held on June 24, 2026.
<u>Local Generation Program</u> The IESO is engaging stakeholders on a proposal to establish a program that will enable re-contracting of existing resources, and consider opportunities for expansions and new build facilities <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Jamie Jang <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Long-Term RFP • Request for Information – Resource Adequacy Framework	• Engagement is anticipated to resume in 2026.
<u>Electricity Demand Side Management (eDSM) Framework</u> The IESO is engaging on the new 12-year electricity Demand Side Management Framework and future program opportunities. <i>Engagement Leads:</i> Jamie Jang <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Resource Adequacy	• An engagement session was held on June 16 that covered enhancements to the eDSM Cost-Effectiveness Methodology. • Engagement continues in 2026.

Operations

Engagements to ensure that Ontario's electricity resources are operating reliably within the IESO-administered market, while also undertaking continuous market improvements.

Active Engagement	Current Status
<u>Enforcement Modernization</u> The IESO's Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD) is seeking input from market participants, consumers, community representatives and other stakeholders with respect to modernizing the enforcement processes to support reliability, market efficiency and market integrity. <i>Engagement Lead: Jamie Jang</i>	• A public engagement session was held on May 22, 2026, to share proposed design changes to IESO's Market Assessment and Compliance Division's (MACD) enforcement processes. • Feedback and the response to feedback have been posted on the engagement page.
<u>Technical Requirements for Large Computational Loads Connecting to the Ontario Power System</u> The IESO posted a draft Technical Requirements document for connecting Large Computational Loads to the IESO-controlled grid. <i>Engagement Lead: Josh Acosta</i>	• An engagement session was held on July 23, 2026. • Non-confidential feedback has been posted to the engagement webpage. IESO response to feedback to be posted shortly. • Subsequent engagement session anticipated in Q4.
<u>Changes to Governance of Approval of Market Parameters</u> The IESO is proposing a minor market rule amendment to remove a legacy requirement that the IESO Board directly set certain technical market parameters used in the calculation engines. <i>Engagement Lead: Josh Acosta</i>	• An engagement session was held on June 18, 2026. • Feedback has been posted to engagement webpage, IESO response to feedback will be posted shortly.

Updates to Connection Process

Deposit

The IESO will provide an overview of proposed updates to the connection deposit structure for projects connecting to the IESO-Controlled Grid.

Engagement Lead: **Josh Acosta**

- An engagement session was held on July 23, 2026.
- Baseline comment period closed on August 7, 2026.

Ramp Rates for Battery Energy Storage System Facilities

The IESO is proposing formal market rule changes to standardize energy ramp rate requirements for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities to address rapidly increasing capacity of BESS resources with fast-ramping capabilities and associated operational challenges.

Engagement Lead: **Josh Acosta**

- An engagement session was held on July 22, 2026.
- Non-confidential feedback received has been posted to the engagement webpage, IESO response to feedback will be posted shortly.

Sector Evolution

Engagements that look to the future to see how innovation, innovative technologies and new collaborations can improve how we conduct our business.

Active Engagement	Current Status
<u>Hydrogen Innovation Fund</u> The 2025 Hydrogen Innovation Fund (HIF) is a \$30 million program that supports innovative hydrogen projects driving Ontario's clean energy transition, economic growth, and job creation. It builds on the 2023 program by expanding eligibility and funding two streams focused on grid integration and broader industrial and transportation applications, with applications opened in November 2025. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Fatema Khatun <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot	• An engagement session was held on October 1, 2025, to provide an overview of program streams, eligibility, and application requirements ahead of the November 4, 2025, application window. • Feedback and response to feedback were posted on the engagement webpage. • Hydrogen Innovation Fund's 2025 Call window is now closed as of February 11, 2026. Successful projects to be announced shortly (Q3 2026).
<u>Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot</u> The Minister of Energy and Mines directed the IESO to submit a report by September 15, 2025, outlining a plan for the Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot tailored specifically for hydrogen producers and developers in Ontario. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Fatema Khatun <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Interruptible Rate Pilot	• The IESO submitted a report back to the Minister of Energy and Mines on September 30, 2025. • A communication update was posted on the engagement page on October 4, 2025.
<u>2026 Provincial eDSM Achievable Potential Study</u> The Ministry of Energy and Mines issued a Directive to the IESO to conduct an Achievable Potential Study by December 31, 2026. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Jamie Jang <i>Related Engagements:</i> • Electricity Demand Side Management (eDSM) Framework • 2019 Conservation Achievable Potential Study	• A public engagement webinar was held on April 22, 2026, to present draft modelling input assumptions for the 2026 Achievable Potential Study and solicit feedback. • Written feedback and the response to feedback have been posted on the engagement page.

Active Engagement	Current Status
<u>Grid Innovation Fund</u> The IESO is working with the Ministry of Energy and Mines to review the Grid Innovation Fund (GIF) to enhance governance and determine future innovation-focused funding. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Jamie Jang	• Virtual roundtable discussions were held on December 9-12, 2025, to seek recommendations from across the sector to enhance the GIF governance. • Written feedback and a written summary of the feedback have been posted. • Engagement continues in 2026.

Updates on the Strategic Advisory Committee and Technical Panel

Group	Current Status
<u>Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC)</u> The Strategic Advisory Committee is a forum for its members to be informed of IESO activities and to provide strategic advice and feedback both broadly on behalf of the electricity sector and their constituency, directly to the IESO Board and Executive with respect to the IESO's mandate. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Stephanie Rodrigues	• A public SAC meeting will be held in Q4 2026. Meeting details will be posted on the IESO website in advance.
<u>Technical Panel (TP)</u> The Technical Panel's mandate is to review amendments to the Market Rules for Ontario's electricity market and provide recommendations to the IESO Board of Directors. <i>Engagement Lead:</i> Trisha Hickson	• A Technical Panel meeting was held on July 14, 2026, to discuss Changes to the Establishment and Publication of Market Parameters, as well as vote to post for stakeholder comment, the 2026 Capacity Auction amendments, and the Chapter 3 Market Rule Amendment Process Refresh. Meeting materials are posted on the website. • The next Technical Panel meeting took place on September 15, 2026.