# IESO Engagement Update June 19, 2025

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 <a href="Engagement Initiatives">Engagement Initiatives</a> web page



## Forecasting and Planning

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

## **Active Engagements**

## **Current Status**

### **Next Steps**

## <u>Bulk Planning – Northern Ontario</u> Bulk Study

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

Engagement Lead: Abby Dancey Community Engagement Leads:

#### Nadia Mirabelli

- Engagement continues with interested members of the sector on the development of a Northern Ontario Bulk Study.
- Feedback from these public sessions is posted on the engagement webpage.
- Final report will be posted in 2025.

## **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

- The plan was introduced at the May 29<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Bulk Planning update.
- The IESO will continue to engage at the appropriate milestones.



new or upgraded interconnections with Quebec.

Engagement Lead: Abby

**Dancey** Community Engagement

Leads:

# Northern Ontario Connection Study

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, timing is TBD.

Engagement Lead: Abby Dancey Community Engagement Leads:

- On May 7<sup>th</sup>, a webinar to review the technical and economic option analysis was held with 75 participants.
- The IESO will provide robust responses to submitted feedback, and will include messaging for the rationale for no further engagement
- Final report is tracking for release in September.

## Bulk Planning – South and Central Ontario Bulk Study

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

Engagement Lead: Abby

**Dancey** Community Engagement

Leads: Keir Johnston

- Engagement continues with interested members of the sector on the development of a South and Central Bulk Study.
- Feedback from these public sessions is posted on the engagement webpage.
- A webinar will be hosted on May 29 to share updates about the study.
- Engagement on this active bulk plan continues in 2025.

## <u>Bulk Planning – Eastern Ontario</u> <u>Bulk Study</u>

This engagement will seek input from stakeholders and communities on the Eastern Ontario Bulk Study initiative. Engagement Lead: **Abby Dancey** Community Engagement Leads:

Nadia Mirabelli

- Engagement continues with interested members of the sector on the development of an Eastern Ontario Bulk Study.
- Feedback from these public sessions, as well as input gathered during direct one-on-one meetings with participants, will be posted on the engagement webpage.
- A webinar will be hosted on May 29 to share updates about the study.
- Engagement on this active bulk plan will continue in 2025.

## <u>Regional Planning – Burlington</u> to Nanticoke

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir

#### **Johnston**

This engagement is complete.
 The IESO response to feedback and final IRRP report was posted on November 28 and shared via email with participants subscribed to receive updates.

 Engagement on the Hamilton Addendum will take place in 2025.

## Regional Planning – Ottawa Area Sub-Region

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh Indigenous Relations Lead: Nadia

#### Mirabelli

## A webinar was held on June 9 to share the options analysis and draft recommendations and to seek feedback.

- The recording is available for all interested parties to view.
- Feedback will be accepted until June 30. All feedback received will be posted.

# Regional Planning – Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/ Guelph (KWCG)

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

**Engagement Lead: Brooke Crewson** 

Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir Johnston

## Regional Planning - Toronto

Regional electricity planning is underway in this region.

Engagement Lead: Samantha Polito Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir

#### **Johnston**

- A webinar was held on May 27 to present identified electrical infrastructure with priority needs and potential options to address them.
- The recording is now available for all interested parties to view.
- Written comments were accepted until June 17.
- As regional planning advances engagement will continue with respect to developing an IRRP for this region until Q1 2026.
- A webinar was held on December 5 to share the draft regional electricity needs that have been identified based on the forecast scenarios and to seek feedback.
- The recording is available for all interested parties to view.
- Feedback was accepted until January 3. All feedback received has been posted.

- IESO response to Feedback will be posted in Q3 2025.
- Engagement for the Toronto area IRRP with an Options Screening Webinar in July, and an Options Evaluation and Draft Recommendations Webinar in September.

Regional Planning – GTA North (York Region) Regional electricity planning is underway in this region. Engagement Lead: Chiara Cozzi  Indigenous Relations Lead: Nadia Mirabelli	A webinar was held on November 26 to share the draft forecast scenarios and to seek feedback. The recording is available for all interested parties to view. Feedback was accepted until December 17 and the IESO response to feedback has been posted on the engagement page.	Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2025.
Regional Planning – GTA East  Regional electricity planning is underway this region.  Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir Johnst	The final Scoping Assessment Outcome Report was posted on April 25.	Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2025.
Regional Planning – GTA West Regional electricity planning is underway this region.  Engagement Lead: Samantha Polito Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir Johnst	The IESO held a webinar on June 2 to share the draft demand forecast. The IESO will accept feedback until June 23.	<ul> <li>The IESO will post response to feedback in Q3 2025</li> <li>Engagement will continue in 2025 with a public webinar to share the Options Screening.</li> </ul>
Regional Planning – East Lake Supe Regional electricity planning is underway this region.  Engagement Lead: Jessica Singh Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir Johnston	The IESO's response to feedback received and the final Scoping Assessment Outcome Report was posted on January 9, 2025.	• Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2025.
Regional Planning – Peterborough t  Kingston  Regional electricity planning is underway this region.  Engagement Lead: Brooke Crewson  Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir  Johnston	The final Scoping Assessment Outcome Report and IESO's response to feedback received was posted on April 28.	Engagement on this IRRP will continue through to Q4 2026.
Regional Planning – London Area Regional electricity planning is underway this region. Engagement Lead: Chiara Cozzi Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir Johnst	The final Scoping Assessment Outcome Report and IESO's response to feedback received was posted on April 28.	Engagement on this IRRP will continue through 2025.

## <u>Regional Planning – North of</u> <u>Dryden Addendum</u>

Regional electricity planning is underway in this sub-region.

Engagement Lead: Samantha Polito
Indigenous Relations Lead: Keir
Johnston

- The North of Dryden Addendum study is underway and will be published as an Addendum to the 2023 Northwest IRRP.
- Public engagement was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> to share the demand forecasts, needs, and options screening. The IESO received feedback from participants.
- IESO response to feedback will be posted in Q3 2025.
- The IESO will host a final webinar in July to share the Options Evaluation and Draft Recommendations.

## **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**

## **Capacity Auction Enhancements**

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 Ontario's short-term resource adequacy needs.

Engagement Lead: Maia Chase Related Engagements:

- Resource Adequacy
- Demand Side Vision

### **Current Status**

 The last engagement session was held in April and feedback from the session and the IESO's response to feedback were posted on the website.

## **Next Steps**

- A public engagement session will be held on June 26 to provide an update on the tiebreak methodology and proposed market rule changes.
- Feedback from the session and the IESO response will be posted on the website in July.

#### **Transmitter Selection Framework**

The IESO is developing a Transmitter Selection Framework (TSF) to align with the Powering Ontario's Growth report's actions and plans, with a progress report due to the Minister by Summer 2024. Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun Community Engagement Leads: Nadia

was held on April 22.
Feedback from the April 22 session was posted on engagement webpage.

An engagement session to share the

feedback from Jan 22 session and to

present draft registry program rules

 Next engagement session on the TSF Registry and program rules will be held on June 25.

Mirabelli and Andreea Nicoara

Roadmap

# Distributed Energy Resources (DER)

The IESO is seeking feedback on the development of a roadmap to set out approaches and expected timing for enhancing DER participation in the IESO-administered markets for the products/services they are technically capable of providing.

## **Engagement Lead: Jason Grbavac**

#### Related Engagements:

- Joint Study of DER Incentives
- DER Market Vision & Design Project
- DER Potential Study
- Enabling Resources Program
- Hybrid Integration Project
- <u>IESO York Region Non-Wires</u>
   <u>Alternatives Demonstration Project</u>
- Resource Adequacy

#### **Current Status**

The IESO and OEB are preparing to publish the DER Compensation Study in Q2 2025.

#### **Next Steps**

A public information session will be scheduled after the report is published.

### **Enabling Resources Program**

The revised 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.

Engagement Lead: Jason Grbavac Related Engagements:

ERP - Storage and Hybrid Integration
 Project

- ERP is comprised of two projects which will be engaged on separately to provide the appropriate level of focus and technical discussion for each design.
- The two projects are Storage and Co-located Hybrid and Distributed Energy Resource Integration
- engagement session will focus on the Storage and Colocated Hybrid Integration project and will take place in Q3-2025.

### **Long-Term RFPs**

The IESO is engaging stakeholders and communities on the development of a series of Long-Term RFPs that will seek resources to address global needs. Engagements targeted to communities and the broader public are underway. Engagement Leads: **Trisha Hickson** Community Engagement Leads: **Sonia** 

#### **Fazari and Andreea Nicoara**

Related Engagements:

- Resource Adequacy
- <u>Hybrid Integration Project</u>
- Market Renewal Program (MRP)
   Implementation

#### Stakeholder Engagement:

- A webinar was held on May 21<sup>st</sup> to review the updates to the contracts and RFP.
- Feedback was requested by May 29, and all feedback is posted on the LT RFP webpage. A response to feedback will be posted in June.

## **Community Engagement:**

- A webinar was held on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for Indigenous Communities and municipalities to share key updates and understand feedback. IESO Responses to Feedback was posted on November 14th, 2024.
- A webinar was scheduled on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for Indigenous Communities and municipalities to share key updates and understand feedback. Written feedback was accepted until December 6, 2024.

## Stakeholder Engagement:

A joint engagement webinar is scheduled for June 25 with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFA) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to provide an overview of key requirements ahead of proposal submission deadline

# Community Engagement:

- Feedback from the November session will be posted on the website when available.
- The IESO is scheduled to host a collaborated Municipal/Indigenou s Community engagement session in June.
- The IESO remains committed to engaging with Indigenous communities early in its procurement design and planning processes. These opportunities will include formal outreach, targeted webinars and individual meetings, as needed.

## **Medium-Term RFP**

The IESO is engaging stakeholders on the development of a second Medium-Term RFP (MT2) aimed at re-committing resources with contracts expiring between 2026-2029 to secure Ontario's future energy needs.

**Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun** 

Related Engagements:

Long-Term RFP Resource Adequacy

## **Current Status**

- The IESO has now concluded the evaluation of Proposals for the MT2
- Additional information is provided in the Results Table.

#### Next Steps

The IESO has now concluded the second mediumterm procurement and has executed a total of 46 Energy and Capacity contracts.

## **Request for Information – Resource** Adequacy Framework

The IESO is requesting information from existing resource owners whose contracts expire within the next ten years, as well as developers interested in future projects.

**Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun** Related Engagements:

Long-Term RFP

Resource Adequacy

Medium-Term RFP

- An information session was held during September engagement days to explain how the IESO will gather insights to help inform future energy supply procurements in Ontario.
- RFI closed on November 1.
- A summary of RFI findings was posted on the engagement webpage on April 16.

The IESO hosted an engagement

considerations related to the design

session on June 5 to discuss

of a LLT resource procurement

Response to feedback will be posted in

Feedback was accepted until June 17

and is posted to the LLT webpage.

The closing summary for this engagement will be posted in August.

## **Long Lead-Time Resource Procurement**

The IESO is engaging on the proposed 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.

**Engagement Lead: Trisha Hickson** 

Community Engagement Leads: Abby Dancey

**Community Engagement:** 

July.

- A webinar was held on May 27, 2025, for Indigenous Communities and municipalities to introduce the Long Lead-Time Resource Procurement and understand feedback.
- Feedback was accepted until June 17, 2025

Next public Engagement session will be determined following the report back to government due in July.

## **Current Status**

### Next Steps

#### **Local Generation Program**

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

**Engagement Lead: Maia Chase** 

Related Engagements:

Long-Term RFP

Request for Information – Resource

Adequacy Framework

 A public engagement session was held on June 5 to provide a summary of the feedback received and continue discussions on the design of the program. Response to feedback from the April 23 session has will be posted by the end of June. Stakeholder feedback from the June 5<sup>th</sup> engagement is due on June 19.

## <u>Electricity Demand Side</u> <u>Management (eDSM) Framework</u>

The IESO is engaging on the new 12year electricity Demand Side Management Framework, the first 3-year plan and future program opportunities

**Engagement Leads: Jamie Jang** 

Related Engagements

Resource Adequacy

- A public engagement session was held on May 22 to provide an overview of the proposed program design elements of the new industrial program.
- Feedback will be accepted until June
   19
- A webinar will be hosted on the Commercial HVAC Demand Response Program on June 24.

## **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 Market Renewal Program (MRP) Implementation

The Implementation phase of the Market Renewal Program will begin by codifying the design into the Market Rules and Market Manuals, and then proceed onto creating tools, testing, training, and readiness for bringing the renewed market to life.

## **Current Status**

- A public information session
  was held on April 16 to discuss
  final preparations for the
  launch of the renewed market
  and the cutover period.
   Another public information
- Another public information followed on June 4 to provide an update on the transition to and initial operation of the renewed market.

## **Next Steps**

- Future sessions will be scheduled on additional topics.
- If Market Participants have any questions relating to the renewed market, Market Participants can contact IESO's Customer Response at customer.relations@ieso.ca.

# Engagement Lead: Jamie Jang Related Engagements:

- Resource Adequacy
- Enabling Resources
- <u>DER Market Vision & Design</u> <u>Project</u>

#### **Hybrid Integration**

# IESO Market Rule Amendments, Chapter 3, Confidentiality, Dispute Resolution and Enforcement

The Market Assessment and Compliance Division (MACD) of the IESO is proposing amendments to Chapter 3 of the Market Rules. The purpose of these proposed changes is to modernize and clarify rules related to some of MACD's enforcement processes, including confidentiality and how it handles disputes under the IESO Dispute Resolution Process.

**Engagement Lead: Trisha Hickson** 

- A webinar was held in February 2024 to discuss the proposed market rule amendments and feedback received from the November 2023 session.
- Feedback following the February 6 engagement webinar is available on the engagement webpage.
- MACD is continuing to undertake stakeholder engagement and outreach to seek further feedback.

## <u>Interchange Schedule Code,</u> <u>MrNH</u>

The IESO is hosting a session to inform stakeholders of an upcoming change to the interchange schedule code, MrNH (MISO Ramp/New York Hour-Ahead Market) which relates to managing intertie transactions between Ontario and the corresponding jurisdictions.

**Engagement Lead: Maia Chase** 

- hat provided stakeholders with an understanding of the interchange schedule code MrNH, identified issues, modification to the code, and the implementation timeline.
- Feedback from the session has been posted on the engagement webpage.

 A close-out summary will be posted in July.

## **Sector Evolution**

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

## **Current Status**

## **Next Steps**

## **Future Clean Electricity Fund**

Proceeds from the sale of IESO-owned Clean Energy Credits on the Ontario's Clean Energy Credit Registry will be directed to Ontario's Future Clean Electricity Fund. The IESO has been tasked by the Ministry with developing insights and recommendations for a Future Clean Electricity Fund (FCEF). Engagement Leads: Fatema Khatun Community Engagement Leads: Sonia

- Outreach meetings were held in October and November with municipalities to understand insights and recommendations to develop the Fund.
- The IESO recommendations report was submitted to the Ministry of Energy in December 2023.
- Next steps are pending Ministry of Energy and Electrification's review and decisions.

## Fazari and Andreea Nicoara

Related Engagements:

Clean Energy Credits

## **Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot**

The Minister of Energy asked the IESO to submit a report by September 15, 2023, outlining a plan for the Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot tailored specifically for hydrogen producers and developers in Ontario.

Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun Related Engagements:

Interruptible Rate Pilot

- holding one on one meetings with hydrogen developer organizations that expressed interest in the pilot and soliciting feedback on pilot design features that would support participation and leverage the flexibility of electrolyzer-based hydrogen production facilities.
- IESO to submit report back to the Minister of Energy and Mines by September 30, 2025.

# Innovation and Sector Evolution White Papers

The IESO intends to develop and release a series of white papers to support the creation of a shared, fact-based understanding of emerging opportunities and trends.

Engagement Lead: Jason Grbavac

Related Engagements:

- DER Potential Study
- DER Roadmap
- <u>IESO York Region Non-Wires</u>
   <u>Alternatives Demonstration Project</u>

- This engagement remains on hold.
  - The IESO is reviewing the next steps on this engagement.

## **Current Status**

## **Next Steps**

#### **Low-Carbon Hydrogen Strategy**

The Ministry of Energy has asked the IESO to investigate and propose program options to integrate low-carbon hydrogen technologies into Ontario's electricity grid.

Engagement Lead: **Jason Grbavac** Related Engagements:

• Pathways to Decarbonization

 The first group of successful applicants was announced in October 2023, and the second announced in November 2023. This engagement is now concluded.

# Updates on the Strategic Advisory Committee, Technical Panel and Transmission-Distribution Coordination Working Group

Group Current Status Next Steps

## <u>Strategic Advisory Committee</u> (SAC)

The Committee is a forum for its members to be informed of IESO activities and to provide timely policy 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.

Engagement Lead: Claudia

#### Dessanti

## **Technical Panel (TP)**

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.

**Engagement Lead: Trisha Hickson** 

- was held on June 10 to discuss administrative items and updates on Capacity Auction Enhancements.

The next public SAC meeting is

scheduled for July 16, 2025.

Materials will be posted in

advance of the meeting.

The next Technical Panel meeting is scheduled for July 15.

Group Current Status Next Steps

## <u>Transmission – Distribution</u> <u>Coordination Working Group</u>

The Transmission-Distribution
Coordination Working Group
(TDWG) works closely with LDCs
and other stakeholders to inform the
DER Market Vision and Design
Project. This is a key focus area of
IESO's Distributed Energy Resources
(DER) integration activities and is
what much of the near-term DER
Roadmap efforts build towards. The
TDWG will provide a forum for indepth engagement on Transmission
- Distribution coordination.

Engagement Lead: Fatema Khatun Related Engagements:

- <u>DER Market Vision & Design</u>
   Project
- DER Roadmap
- IESO York Region Non-Wires Alternatives Demonstration Project
- <u>Innovation and Sector Evolution</u> <u>White Paper Series</u>

 The next and final TDWG meeting was held on May 27.