

Niagara Region Electricity Planning Public Webinar #1 – February 3, 2022

Response to feedback received

The IESO hosted a public webinar for the Niagara Region long-term electricity plan – Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) – on February 3, 2022 to seek input on the preliminary regional demand forecast and needs and draft engagement plan. The presentation material and recorded webinar are available on the [engagement webpage](#).

Feedback was received from the following parties and the full submission can be viewed on the engagement webpage:

- [City of Niagara Falls](#)
- [Town of Fort Erie](#)

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 Niagara Region.

Feedback: Key areas of growth as outlined in the City of Niagara Falls Official Plan should be considered including:

- Intensification nodes and corridors;
- Projects around the GO Transit Station and the new Niagara South Hospital; and,
- Construction of over 20,000 new residential units to support population growth of 141,650 and 58,110 jobs by 2051.

Feedback: A number of site-specific developments in the Town of Fort Erie and planning initiatives should be specifically considered:

- Several local industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential developments
- Niagara Region Official Plan Update that will include the potential for urban boundary expansions totalling 130 hectares of residential and 150 hectares of employment lands; and,
- Secondary Planning initiatives in the Town of Fort Erie that identified priority areas for development.

IESO response: Thank you for the feedback provided in relation to key local developments and planning initiatives in the City of Niagara Falls and Town of Fort Erie that should be considered in the development of the Niagara Region IRRP.

Electricity planning is driven by the need to meet peak electricity demand requirements in the region, and a major component of the process and IRRP is the development of the regional demand forecast. The electricity demand forecast forms the basis for assessing the electricity needs of the region over the next 20 years and is provided by the region's local distribution companies (LDCs), who are more familiar with the customers in their service territory. Forecasts collected from the LDCs (who form part of the IRRP Technical Working Group¹) are adjusted based on a number of factors, such as extreme weather conditions, savings from Conservation and Demand Management (CDM), and expected distributed generation contribution. It is also important to engage with local communities to ensure a comprehensive and holistic view of all factors that may influence the electricity demand forecast (e.g. planned developments, initiatives or projects) are considered.

Canadian Niagara Power Inc. (CNPI), the LDC serving the Town of Fort Erie, has confirmed the local developments and planning initiatives identified have been included in their analysis and data provided to the IESO. Further, CNPI is aware of additional proposed industrial developments in early stages that will continue to be monitored to ensure the incremental growth can be met.

Similarly, Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc., the LDC serving the City of Niagara Falls, has confirmed the areas of intensification, projects centered around the GO Transit Station and new hospital, and projected growth in population and residential units have all been taken into account in the data supplied to the IESO.

While regional electricity planning is undertaken every three to five years, LDCs continue to update their local-level data to capture new planned developments and projects, and the IESO endeavours to keep informed of regional growth trends and priorities in preparation for the next planning cycle, or to trigger a new cycle early if needed.

As part of the IESO's commitment to transparency and increased efforts around data sharing in its electricity planning activities, the detailed forecast providing a breakdown of electricity demand at the station level in the Niagara Region has been [posted](#).

¹ This IRRP's Technical Working Group includes the region's LDCs (Alectra Utilities, Canadian Niagara Power Inc., Grimsby Power Inc., Hydro One Networks Inc., Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc., Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro Inc., and Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.), in addition to the IESO and lead transmitter (Hydro One Networks Inc.).