

Feedback Form

Evolving IESO Planning Products (APO/AAR) – October 20, 2023

Feedback Provided by:

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Date: December 4, 2023

To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the [Annual Acquisition Report engagement page](#) unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the October 20, 2023, engagement webinar, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback from stakeholders on items discussed. The webinar presentation and recording can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by **December 4, 2023.** If you wish to provide confidential feedback, please submit as a separate document, marked "Confidential". Otherwise, to promote transparency, feedback that is not marked "Confidential" will be posted on the engagement webpage.

Existing IESO Reports

Annual Planning Outlook and Annual Acquisition Report	Feedback
<p>What sections of the APO and AAR are most helpful and how do you use this information?</p>	<p>From the EDA's standpoint, the paramount sections within the APO and the AAR include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand Forecast • Resource Adequacy Outlook • Regional Needs and Transmission Plans • Procurement Mechanisms and Timelines
<p>Where do you see redundancy or overlap in these existing products?</p>	<p>We do not perceive any inherent redundancy or overlap. Each section within the existing documents holds intrinsic value.</p>
<p>How can the IESO enhance and evolve the APO and the AAR?</p>	<p>The APO could benefit from increased granularity regarding regional growth expectations and the specific requirements for new supply and grid infrastructure in each region. Additionally, we recognize the value of enhanced granularity in assessing the impacts of energy efficiency and distributed energy resources (DERs) on the overall demand and supply outlook.</p> <p>To date, the AAR has predominantly concentrated on IESO-led procurements. Enhancements to the AAR could involve explicitly highlighting the contribution of CDM programs and demonstrating their role in bolstering resource adequacy. Moreover, the AAR should articulate the method by which LDC-led initiatives, including CDM, will be factored into the IESO's planned procurements.</p>

Future Reporting

Evolving Planning IESO Products	Feedback
<p>What frequency and/or time of year is information required to help you make informed and timely investment decisions with respect to existing or new assets?</p>	<p>We consider the annual release of the report(s) satisfactory and recommend either Q1 or Q4 each year as suitable timings. However, we strongly advocate for consistency in the reporting schedule to facilitate uniformity and effective planning.</p>

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What specific information is required to help you make decisions?	For consistent distribution planning and regional energy strategies, the IESO must share both load growth data and factors influencing overall demand. Accurate information on load growth is vital for LDCs to align investment plans with evolving grid demands. Transparent data from the IESO enables informed decisions, optimized resource allocation, and proactive challenge resolution. This collaborative approach enhances energy system reliability and establishes a unified framework for growth across the broader energy landscape.
Do you prefer comprehensive planning reports or would tailored and succinct products released throughout the year better serve your needs? What is the value of each from your perspective?	We encourage a single comprehensive report rather than separate releases of smaller modules throughout the year. We contend that consolidating information into one document serves as a primary source, reducing complexity and potential confusion.

General Comments/Feedback

As DERs are connected to the distribution system, LDCs are critical to the integration of DERs in the electricity system. Given the magnitude of potential new DERs and electrification, including EVs, the role of the LDC is evolving, and this should be considered within the AAR / APO. Maximizing the value that LDCs offer to coordinating and enabling DERs can provide the Ontario electricity system with added benefits. Distributors' goals are aligned with the IESO to both plan and maximize the value DERs can provide to our grid and facilitate DER deployment and adoption that enhances the overall value to energy consumers. Partnering with LDCs presents added efficiency opportunities as LDCs are placed in the best position to optimize local grids, system plan locally, support the market supply to load balance, and provide customer experience value. LDCs have the desire to optimize their systems for reliability and resilience and we believe it is important that the AAR define and underscore this aspect of LDCs in the market.

Considering the escalating energy demands resulting from electrification and economic growth, the significance of energy efficiency cannot be overstated. CDM programs play a vital role in tackling the challenges posed by electrification and decarbonization, effectively offsetting the need for incremental supply resources.

Recognizing the pivotal role of LDCs, as acknowledged by the IESO, in the efficient delivery of CDM initiatives, the AAR must provide information on how CDM contributes to meeting province-wide resource adequacy. This inclusion is imperative to send a clear signal to the market regarding the heightened importance of CDM. A well-defined roadmap within the AAR will underscore that CDM remains a strategic priority for the IESO, signaling to the sector the role of LDCs in advancing these initiatives.