

# Feedback Form

## 2026 Annual Planning Outlook – April 21, 2026

### Feedback Provided by:

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Date: May 5, 2026

To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the [2026 Annual Planning Outlook](#) engagement page unless otherwise requested by the sender.

- Yes – there is confidential information, do not post**  
 **No – comfortable to publish to the IESO web page**

Following the April 21 engagement webinar, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) welcomes feedback from stakeholders on the information shared. The presentation and recording can be accessed from the [2026 Annual Planning Outlook](#) engagement page.

**Note:** The IESO will accept additional materials where it may be required to support your rationale provided below. When sending additional materials please indicate if they are confidential.

**Please submit feedback to [engagement@ieso.ca](mailto:engagement@ieso.ca) by May 5.**

## General Comments/Feedback

Do you have any general comments or feedback regarding the information shared or recommendations for the IESO to consider regarding future outlooks?

### EDA Comments:

We commend the IESO for the strides made in developing an APO that incorporates three distinct demand scenarios.

However, the EDA continues to believe that future outlooks, as well as IESO planning and forecasting processes, should better reflect the evolving needs and conditions at the distribution system level. Doing so will enable a more complete and accurate assessment of Ontario's energy system.

We have consistently noted to the IESO that DERs are connected at the distribution level, and that **LDCs play a critical role in their successful implementation and integration in the electricity system**. We expect the IESO to deepen coordination with LDCs and DERs to more explicitly incorporate their role and involvement into planning processes. Stronger alignment will support meeting local, regional, and provincial energy needs, while helping to defer or avoid the need for potentially more costly bulk system investments.

As outlined in our vision paper, [Solving Gridlock: Our Vision for a Customer-Centric Energy Transition](#), "a lack of coordination in the energy sector hinders the development of a cohesive approach to DER integration (and electrification more broadly), one which would recognize the value of DERs to the customer, distribution system, and bulk system. Moreover, there is a lack of guidance to LDCs regarding grid-enabling investments that would unlock new capabilities while optimizing and maximizing the existing distribution grid to provide overall ratepayer value."

As the IESO develops the 2027 APO, we expect greater transparency, and communication to the energy sector on how it is advancing the initiatives outlined in the Government of Ontario's [Integrated Energy Plan](#) Implementation [Directive \(June 2025\)](#).

In particular, we expect clarity on how **Directive 1.3**, which requires the IESO to consider input from the electricity regional planning process, including forecasts and demand scenarios from LDCs, will be operationalized and reflected in the 2027 APO.

We also believe that clearer information and public reporting on the progress of Directive 10, which directs the IESO to enable and expand the participation and integration of DERs in electricity system planning and operations, and Directive 13, which requires the IESO to improve transparency and explicitly address the treatment of DERs in bulk system planning, are necessary to support a more cohesive and coordinated approach across the sector.

This includes **Directive 13.4**, which requires the IESO to "accompany the next APO with a technical paper to clarify current DER considerations in bulk system planning, existing planning processes and explore future DER treatment to inform updates for subsequent APOs."

We expect this work to clearly demonstrate how DERs and distribution-level inputs are being incorporated into system planning, and how coordination with LDCs is being advanced in practice.

In addition, as DER participation and system coordination increase, we encourage the IESO to **establish reciprocal information-sharing frameworks** with LDCs. Where assets are connected to the distribution system and relied upon for system needs, LDCs will also require timely and appropriate visibility into these actions to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the distribution grid. This expectation is a necessary extension of the coordination and DER integration objectives set out in Directives 10 and 13.

We trust the IESO will seek to work with the EDA to advance these distribution-level considerations and ensure that planning processes fully reflect the role of LDCs and DERs in Ontario's evolving electricity system.