

Feedback Received and IESO Response

Annual Planning Outlook

Following the April 21, 2026, Annual Planning Outlook (APO) webinar, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) invited participants to provide comments and feedback on the materials presented by May 5, 2026.

The presentation materials and participants feedback submissions have been posted on the Annual Planning Outlook engagement webpage. Please reference these materials for specific feedback as the information below provides excerpts and/or a summary only.

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Support for Scenario-Based Planning and Long-Term Forecasting:

Feedback Received	IESO Response
<p>Overall, stakeholders continued to support the APO's scenario-based planning approach and recognized the APO as an important planning product for understanding future electricity demand, system needs, and infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>At the same time, several comments suggested that the reference and high-demand scenarios may still understate the pace of electrification, economic growth, industrial expansion, and emerging large-load development in Ontario.</p>	<p>The IESO recognizes that there are a number of uncertainties that could impact the pace of future electricity demand growth, including those associated with electrification, economic growth, industrial expansion and emerging large-load development. The additional demand scenarios in the 2026 APO considered different rates of demand growth compared to the reference forecast, providing a wide range of possible futures.</p> <p>Going forward, the IESO plans to continue modeling multiple electricity demand scenarios for subsequent APOs, with the iterative planning process allowing subsequent reports to capture evolving system conditions.</p> <p>The IESO also welcomes stakeholder input on the scenario design process in each planning cycle. Initial scenario design for the 2027 APO was presented to stakeholders in November 2025; feedback was solicited and used to refine scenarios.</p>

Demand Forecast Assumptions, Policy Alignment, and Uncertainty:

Feedback Received	IESO Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A significant portion of the feedback focused on how demand assumptions are developed and how policy direction is reflected in the scenarios.• Stakeholders requested:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ clearer linkage between government policy and forecast assumptions;○ greater transparency around assumptions related to electric vehicle (EV) adoption, building electrification, mining, housing, rail, and industrial growth; and○ more clarity on how speculative or emerging loads (e.g., data centres and large industrial projects) are treated within the forecasts.• Comments also emphasized the importance of continuing to monitor evolving market conditions, policy changes, tariffs, and electrification trends as part of future APO updates.	<p>In addition to the demand forecast content presented in the 2026 APO, the accompanying Demand Forecast Module provides information on forecast assumptions on a sector-level basis as well as considerations related to government policy, emerging loads and other factors that can impact future electricity demand.</p> <p>Going forward, evolving system conditions will be monitored and considered for incorporation into future APOs, as relevant.</p>

Transparency, Supporting Data, and Planning Inputs:

Feedback Received	IESO Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders continued to request greater transparency regarding supporting analysis, assumptions, and planning data. • Key themes included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ interest in additional supporting materials such as cost tables and the Capacity Expansion module; ○ requests for more Ontario-specific cost and procurement information; ○ interest in understanding how regional planning inputs and distribution-level forecasts are incorporated; and ○ requests for clearer treatment of DERs, LDC coordination, and distribution-system considerations in future APOs. • There was also continued interest in understanding how procurement outcomes and future planning actions connect to identified system needs. 	<p>The IESO recognizes the need for transparency in the analysis, assumptions and planning data that inform the province-wide, long-term APO, and continues to release information relevant to APO development. To support transparency, a comprehensive set of modules, methodology documents and data files is released with each APO to provide insight into the assumption and methodology used in developing of the report.</p> <p>Future publications are anticipated to include information on capacity expansion modeling of the 2026 APO forecast scenarios (including associated costs and emissions) in Q3 2026, and a technical paper on Distributed Energy Resources (DER) considerations in planning processes in 2027.</p> <p>The IESO is committed to making regional planning information and data available to support constructive stakeholder and community participation in the process. This is supported by the IESO Regional Planning Information and Data Release Guideline document that outlines the types of regional planning information and data that the IESO makes available as part of the Integrated Regional Resource Plan.</p>

Supply Mix, Hydroelectric Planning, and Climate Considerations:

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some submissions focused on concerns related to hydroelectric procurement, climate-related planning assumptions, emissions treatment, and long-term ratepayer impacts. • Key concerns included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the treatment of hydropower as non-emitting; ○ climate and hydrology risks affecting hydroelectric generation; ○ the absence of explicit modelling of federal Clean Electricity Regulations; ○ environmental and Indigenous engagement considerations associated with hydroelectric development; and ○ the need for additional transparency around procurement design, lifecycle impacts, and long-term system costs. • The feedback also encouraged greater consideration of alternative non-emitting resources, including DERs, storage, wind, solar, and demand-side measures. 	<p>The IESO recognizes that changes in the climate create risk to the reliability of the electricity system and is actively working to better understand weather-related uncertainties and how they can be integrated into the APO. Weather impacts on grid resiliency will be considered in future assessments, where data and models are available to do so. Ontario's diverse resource mix, which includes nuclear, hydroelectric, natural gas, solar, wind, storage and bioenergy resources, also helps to mitigate some of the risk by ensuring that resources are available to meet system needs during periods of climate risk or weather-related events.</p> <p>While the Clean Electricity Regulations (CER) were not modeled in the 2026 APO, gas production was limited within the electricity systems emissions forecast in the previous APO. This approach leads to the same design outcome of near-zero emissions by 2050, while helping to mitigate the reliability and cost risk that may be introduced by the CER. Consideration will be given to the current policy and regulatory environment in determining the approach to modelling the emissions trajectory and utilization of the gas fleet in future APOs.</p> <p>The IESO recognizes that a reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity system provides a foundation for future economic development and economy-wide emissions reductions. To help meet Ontario's electricity needs in the 2030s, the Minister of Energy and Mines directed the IESO to launch the Long Lead-Time Request for Proposals (LLT RFP) for new resources requiring a lead time of at least five years, which includes development of new hydroelectric resources. Prior to proposal submission, developers are required to obtain municipal support confirmations where a project is located within municipal boundaries and must commit to undertake Indigenous and community engagement activities in respect of the project to the satisfaction of the local municipality.</p>

Additionally, proposed projects are also required to obtain Indigenous support confirmations where a project is proposed to be located, in whole or in part, on Indigenous Lands (as defined in the LLT RFP). As part of project development, new hydroelectric resources are required to comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including completing the required environmental assessments and obtaining the necessary environmental approvals and permits prior to construction.

The IESO is committed to engaging with stakeholders, communities and municipalities to ensure transparency in procurement design. The actions specified in the APO align with the IESO's mandate and are focused on ensuring a reliable and cost-effective electricity system in Ontario, with the analysis considering factors within the electricity system. Broader lifecycle considerations are outside of the IESO's purview and are addressed through other regulatory and/or environmental processes.

The IESO's competitive procurements and programs continue to ensure that non-emitting resources, including storage, wind, solar and DERs contribute to meeting Ontario's future energy needs, while electricity demand-side management continues to play a key role as a reliable and low-cost resource to reduce system needs.

Importance of Ongoing Coordination and Engagement:

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders emphasized the value of continued engagement and coordination between the IESO, generators, LDCs, industry participants, and other sector organizations. • Feedback highlighted the importance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ maintaining open consultation processes; ○ improving coordination between bulk and distribution planning; ○ continuing scenario-planning engagement activities; and ○ providing timely updates and supporting materials as future APO work progresses. 	<p>Purposeful and meaningful engagement with stakeholders, communities and others in the electricity sector is integral to the IESO’s planning process. The External Relations Engagement Framework outlines the principles that guide the IESO engagements and supports the consideration of diverse perspectives in decision-making processes.</p> <p>In relation to the development of future APOs, as noted earlier, the IESO welcomes stakeholder input on the scenario design process in each planning cycle. The IESO also recognizes the importance of continuing to provide timely updates to the sector on APO work (as indicated in previous engagements providing a high-level overview of the demand forecast prior to APO release) and supporting materials (such as costs and emissions forecasts).</p>