

Feedback Form

Peel/Halton (GTA West) Regional Electricity Planning Webinar – May 6, 2021

Feedback Provided by:

Name: Jeremy Schembri

Title: Manager, Climate Change and Energy Management

Organization: Region of Peel

Email: [REDACTED]

Date: May 20, 2021

Following the May 6 engagement webinar, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback from stakeholders on the items discussed. The webinar presentation and recording can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by **May 20, 2021.** 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. Thank you.

Proposed Recommendations

Topic	Feedback
What information needs to be considered in the IRRP recommendations outlined during the May 6 webinar?	<p>Balanced</p> <p><i>Will IESO reconsider 'non-wired' solutions that will allow the broader geographic region to benefit from distributed energy resources and conservation opportunities?</i></p> <p>The recommendations that have been brought forward through the GTA West IRRP are all “wired” solutions, which means that the IESO will continue to support traditional transmission and distribution approaches aligned with centralized electricity generation. The Region of Peel understands that there continues to be an important role for wired solution in Ontario’s electricity system, however, by limiting recommendations to only wired solution prevents the region from reducing risk exposure and benefiting from the opportunities provided by balanced approach, which would include non-wired solutions such as electricity conservation, storage, and renewables.</p> <p>Comprehensive</p> <p><i>Will IESO take a system perspective that will account for the co-benefits of alternate solutions?</i></p> <p>The Region of Peel understands the importance of bringing value to the ratepayer and scoping projects appropriately to ensure that issues are addressed. In the case of the GTA West IRRP it appeared evident that limiting focus to financial payback on a localized issue prevented recommendations from considering larger issues such as system resiliency, climate change and health benefits that non-wired solution can provide a community. Not considering these impacts in the assessment of recommendations the GTA West IRRP may result in greater costs to the ratepayer.</p> <p>Also concerning, was the GTA West IRRP’s minimization of the impact that the future electrification of vehicles and heating will have on the community’s electricity demands or the impact of climate change on traditional wired infrastructure. These issues could possibly be overcome through the use of ‘non-wired’ solutions such as decentralized energy resources and smart grid technology, however, the absence of consideration of these impacts</p>

Topic	Feedback
	<p>from the study appears to have resulted in non-wired solution being undervalued and overlooked.</p>

Topic	Feedback
<p>How can the Peel/Halton Technical Working Group continue to engage with communities as these recommendations are implemented, or to help prepare for the next planning cycle?</p>	<p>Inclusive</p> <p><i>Will IESO be "truly committed to open, two-way dialogue with stakeholders and communities to help understand their views"?</i></p> <p>The Region of Peel is a strong proponent of community engagement. The IESO has expressed a commitment to engage with stakeholders and communities, however, in the case of the GTA West IRRP, it has been challenged to account for the needs of these communities when crafting recommendations. At the May 6 Public Information webinar this was evident when community energy and climate change plans were considered only aspirational with no further discussion on the topic. There was no recognition of the critical role the IESO has in enabling such work. This highlights the opportunity for the IESO to become more accessible and inclusive which will better position them to understand the needs of the community.</p> <p>As stakeholder engagement is valued, the Region of Peel can coordinate a meeting with IESO and the Region of Peel and area municipalities to discuss the climate change and energy plans that have been overlooked to date.</p> <p>Finally, it is understood that the IRRP can be revisited in five years and possibly some of these concerns could be addressed through the future iteration on the IRRP. However, it is also understood that the current IRRP process was one that began in 2015; making this a once in a decade exercise. As a geographic region that is scheduled to experience some of the most rapid growth in Southern Ontario potentially waiting ten years to address today's concerns would not be prudent.</p> <p>Again, the Region of Peel appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the GTA West IRRP and hopes to continue discussions with the IESO prior to its pending</p>

Topic	Feedback
	finalization of the IRRP. So that together we can build a low carbon resilient community for life.

General Comments/Feedback

The Region of Peel will continue to strongly encourage the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) ensure that the proposed recommendations be balanced, comprehensive, and inclusive, taking into the account the needs of the communities that it serves. At this time, the limited approach that has been taken does not allow for these needs to be met.