

Feedback Form

Long-Term RFP Community Engagement- Municipal Discussion Session- April 12, 2022

Feedback Provided by:

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Date: April 14, 2022

Following the Long-Term RFP Community Engagement Municipal Breakout Discussion webinar held on April 12, 2022, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback as outlined during the presentation. A copy of the presentation as well as a recording of the session that includes an overview of the feedback request, can be accessed from the [engagement webpage](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by **May 10, 2022.**

Topic	Feedback
<p>What questions do you have related to Ontario's emerging electricity needs? What more do you need to know about the procurement process?</p>	<p>Why wouldn't the entire Province be eligible for placement of a supplier? After all, every community is growing, so will need increased hydro capacity! (If all possible projects "out there" come to fruition, West Grey will add about 1,600 homes, plus any commercial / industrial to provide employment – and we're not unique!) Why does the Rating Criteria contain "political" measures, such as whether it's indigenous or not? Having done many, many RFP, RFQ, etc over my work career, Rating Criteria should be designed to attract the "best fit" to the requirements, like at least 4 hrs continuous provision of power, rather than location and/or heritage! In my opinion, observations these types of Rating Criteria slant the decision, by design, in an inappropriate manner, likely unnecessarily!</p>
<p>How can the IESO support municipalities to ensure timelines associated with the procurement process are achieved?</p>	<p>First, eliminate any distinction (Rating Criteria) like area for proponent placement in the province, to encourage all possible proponents, which opens all Municipalities for hosting, encouraging them to apply and contact local municipalities in that area for support. Please be reminded, small communities need increased employment too! Also, now is an opportune time for small communities to grow, given the recent migration from large urban to smaller urban or rural areas.</p>
<p>What information will municipalities need to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • external inquiries (e.g. from potential proponents) • internal decision making processes (e.g. permitting) <p>What is the best way to deliver this information?</p>	<p>Provide Municipalities with a copy of the RFP, All Rating Criteria, and any other information (with the Municipality adding its own Criteria for Support) to assist the Municipality to better determine if they wish to support a proponent, or to collaborate with neighbours if multiple proponents in the area. Additional information to clarify what internal decisions may be required, based on IESO (RFP) requirements, to give Municipalities a heads-up! Delivery of such information should be sent via the CAO and/or Planner electronically, if possible, courier otherwise. Provide guidelines to municipalities, to assist those who may not have undertaken such an activity in the past.</p>

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<p>What are some of the barriers/opportunities that proponents may encounter in gaining municipal support? What are some strategies to foster the opportunities and/or reduce barriers?</p>	<p>Availability of municipal-owned land, size of land parcel, location of land, services to support the site, type of support needed by proponent (ie: free land vs cash, etc), sufficient time to process (early contact between proponent and municipality). Ensure adequate time to address issues, support proponents so both are successful. IESO to aid municipalities who haven't been involved in such an activity previously, to increase probability of success, by minimizing delays.</p>

General Comments/Feedback

I feel as a very small community (pop 13,500), in the white zone, with Rating Criteria weights to those in the Green Zone or being indigenous, the probability of West Grey participating in this procurement process is extremely low – if non-existent. It's a shame, since it likely means the probability of small communities like ours getting the power (hydro) we will need, when we need it - timely, to provide the growth in employment (industrial, commercial) to support our residential growth (could be 33% over the next 10 years!) and tax base, also becomes extremely low. Having attended many engagement sessions over the past few years, I also suspect the current processes (both engagement and procurement) means hydro expansion in the smaller communities will come few and far between – not timely.

I see this as a gap in Hydro planning for smaller communities, yet higher home prices in larger urban areas are encouraging (forcing?) people to migrate to these smaller communities, meaning rural residential growth is happening, driving the need for increased commercial or industrial (employment) growth. There must be the opportunity for smaller rural communities to create and maintain a balance between the agriculture, residential, retail, commercial and industrial tax base for them to survive and prosper. I encourage IESO to acknowledge this gap, and plan for real solutions for these communities, rather than hydro distributors advising the only real, current solution is to send those commercial, industrial employers to an area nearby that already has existing capacity! I base the above comments on the experience West Grey had when a significant company (with large hydro needs) showed interest (2017) to locate in West Grey and the best advice we got (2021) was – encourage them to locate in another nearby municipality, where there is capacity! Not a great solution for West Grey, and if this approach doesn't change – smaller rural communities will not be able to grow, and hence prosper!!