

Feedback Form

LT2-RFP Joint Session, February 22, 2024

Feedback Provided by:

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Date: March 1, 2024

To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the LT RFP engagement webpage unless otherwise requested by the sender. If you wish to provide confidential feedback, please mark as "confidential".

Following the February 22, 2024, LT2-RFP joint engagement with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) webinar, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on items discussed during the webinar. The webinar presentation and recording can be accessed from the LT RFP [engagement web page](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by **March 7, 2024.**

Topic	Feedback
<p>What are some considerations if certain technology types were limited, or restricted from being developed on Ontario's prime agricultural areas?</p>	<p>Ontario's prime agricultural areas need to be protected over the long-term however this also needs to be balanced with the need for energy given population growth predictions. A full analysis of the impacts of the particular technology type and potential location could provide insight into the impacts of any particular energy project. Whenever possible, it would be best to direct these projects away from prime agricultural lands and particularly from specialty crop areas however this may not always be possible and may have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. OMAFRA's draft agricultural impact assessment (AIA) document provides great insight into how impacts could be identified and measures taken to avoid, mitigate or reduce these impacts. The AIA or equivalent can provide to be a valuable tool for analysis and assessment. Location and type of energy project would need to be considered along with the potential impact to neighbouring agricultural operations, residential areas and to the Agricultural System as a whole.</p>
Topic	Feedback
<p>Given the limited amount of specialty crop areas in the province, how would diverting or restricting energy projects from these areas impact your ability to develop your energy project?</p>	<p>There are only two specialty crop areas currently identified in Ontario including Niagara's Tender Fruit and Grape area and the Holland Marsh. Diverting or restricting energy projects from specialty crop areas will not directly impact the majority of municipalities in Ontario. Energy projects in specialty crop areas would obviously directly affect Niagara Region as well as York Region. However, it is important to note that these particular agricultural areas contribute greatly to Provincial GDP (higher than average gross farm income) and food production and need to have the highest level of protection. Where possible, location on rural designated lands would be preferable to prime agricultural areas or specialty crop areas. Prime agricultural areas and specialty crop areas should be used for their highest and best use, in growing food and crops for current and future generations. It is also important to note that there are specialty crop areas that have been designated in provincially approved municipal official plans such as Lambton County's Thedford Marsh and Grey County's apple growing area. It is possible that other municipalities could designate areas.</p>

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<p>What would the impact be if there were requirements to avoid, minimize and mitigate agricultural impacts in prime agricultural areas?</p>	<p>Ensuring that any energy projects undergo a full Agricultural Impact Assessment report would be helpful in understanding and evaluating the impacts in prime agricultural areas. If an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Report is completed "as an AIA equivalent", the elements outlined in the draft Provincial AIA Guidelines should be followed including the provision of a complete agricultural asset inventory and list of mitigative measures. This provides the opportunity to understand the full impacts to the agricultural system and assist in sound decision making that will provide best balance Provincial interests for the long-term.</p>
Topic	Feedback
<p>Based on what you heard today, do you require additional clarity on agriculture land restrictions? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Given changes that are anticipated in the Provincial policy framework, it may be worthwhile continuing to have these conversations with stakeholders to ensure the best possible outcomes.</p>

General Comments/Feedback