

North & East of Sudbury Regional Electricity Planning Public Webinar #1 – March 31, 2022

Response to feedback received

The IESO hosted a public webinar for the North & East of Sudbury region long-term electricity plan – Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) – on February 3, 2022 to seek input on the preliminary regional demand forecast and needs and draft engagement plan. The presentation material and recorded webinar are available on the [engagement webpage](#).

Input was received from the [Town of Iroquois Falls](#) related to potential future plans around the expansion of a local biogas generation facility and economic development. The section below summarizes feedback received and IESO responses.

Feedback:

Would upgrades to the 115 kV network be within the scope of the IRRP (e.g. adding a circuit or increasing capacity to 230 kV) to enable the potential for a future expansion of a local gas-fired cogeneration facility?

IESO response: At this point in the IRRP process, the technical studies to identify needs have not yet been finalized. Should needs arise in the 115 kV network, the Technical Working Group¹ will assess both wires (e.g. network upgrades) and non-wires alternatives (e.g. generation, Conservation and Demand management, etc.) for their suitability to meet the identified needs.

It is worth noting that the transmitter, Hydro One Networks Inc., identified some end-of-life needs on the 115 kV network. The Technical Working Group will consider these end-of-life needs with any identified system capacity needs in order to “right-size” the recommended replacements, if necessary. Consideration of changing operating voltages can also be made during the options analysis stage. However, it is important to note that the cogeneration facility in question is already connected to the 230 kV system.

Feedback:

After many years of slow growth, the Town of Iroquois Falls may expect to see increased economic development activity such as potential developments in forestry (manufacturing and biomass), agriculture (greenhouses are being explored in tandem with cogeneration), and residential to support

¹ This IRRP’s Technical Working Group includes the region’s LDCs (Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc., Hearst Power Distribution Company Ltd., North Bay Hydro Distribution Ltd., Hydro One Networks Inc. (Distribution) and Northern Ontario Wires Inc.), in addition to the IESO and lead transmitter, Hydro One Networks Inc. (Transmission).

local and regional employment. While several of these projects are prospective, approvals could occur very quickly (i.e. within five years).

IESO response: Electricity planning is driven by the need to meet peak electricity demand requirements in the region, and a major component of the process and IRRP is the development of the regional demand forecast. The electricity demand forecast forms the basis for assessing the electricity needs of the region over the next 20 years and is provided by the region's local distribution companies (LDCs), who are more familiar with the customers in their service territory. Forecasts collected from the LDCs (who form part of the Technical Working Group) are adjusted based on a number of factors, such as extreme weather conditions, savings from Conservation and Demand Management (CDM), and expected distributed generation contribution. It is also important to engage with local communities to ensure a comprehensive and holistic view of all factors that may influence the electricity demand forecast (e.g. planned developments, initiatives or projects) are considered.

Both Hydro One Networks Inc. (Distribution) and Northern Ontario Wires Inc., the LDCs serving the Town of Iroquois Falls, have confirmed their awareness of the potential economic development initiatives identified. However, these prospective developments are in the early stages of planning, and the location, anticipated electricity demand, and LDC that will serve the new loads have yet to be determined, which are important inputs for consideration in the region's electricity demand forecast. The Technical Working Group will update the electricity demand forecast, and subsequent analysis, as needed should additional information come to light during the IRRP process.

While regional electricity planning is undertaken every three to five years, LDCs continue to update their local-level data to capture new planned developments and projects, and the IESO endeavours to keep informed of regional growth trends and priorities in preparation for the next planning cycle, or to trigger a new cycle early if needed.

As part of the IESO's commitment to transparency and increased efforts around data sharing in its electricity planning activities, the detailed forecast providing a breakdown of electricity demand at the station level in the North & East of Sudbury region has been [posted](#).