

Ottawa Sub-region Integrated Regional Resource Plan

Responses to Public Feedback Received on November 13, 2019

Webinar

The IESO hosted a public webinar for the Ottawa Area Sub-region Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) on November 13 to present the results of the options examined and seek input on draft recommendations for meeting the region's future electricity needs. The presentation material and recorded webinar are available on the [engagement webpage](#). Feedback was received from the following parties and posted on the engagement webpage:

- [Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative and CoEnergy Ontario Co-operative](#)

The table below summarizes the themes that emerged from the feedback received and IESO responses. The IESO appreciates the feedback received and will be considered by the Technical Working Group* as the IRRP is finalized.

Theme 1 – Options analysis: delivery models
1. The business models that could be used to deliver non-wires solutions should be evaluated before the final IRRP recommendations are made, as these delivery models determine the cost and firm potential of non-wires options and therefore their comparison with other resources.
2. We feel that energy cooperatives like OREC and CoEnergy are ideally suited to deliver non-wires options using community financed leasing and ownership business models. We also believe that by using innovative business models such as community ownership and virtual net metering, and by working with community organizations and businesses in the specific areas targeted, non-wires options can be selectively applied in target areas.
IESO Response: The IESO values collaborative efforts such as the role of cooperatives to promote local Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) within communities. Rigorous technical and economic assessments are used in the IRRP process to screen non-wires alternatives and determine whether more detailed design and delivery specifications should be examined and pursued. Business models such as delivery options are reviewed after a particular solution has been determined to be technically and economically viable to address the identified needs in the region.

*The Ottawa Area Sub-region IRRP Technical Working Group consists of Hydro Ottawa, Hydro One (transmission and distribution) and the IESO

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For example, if a specific non-wires alternative was deemed technically feasible and presented cost estimates comparable to other options, the IESO would further examine details such as potential delivery models. As a result, delivery models were not specifically considered in the analysis of options because the primary technical and economic assessments determined that non-wires alternatives alone will be unable to fully meet the near-term needs of the Ottawa region. As outlined in the November 13 webinar, there is a benefit to targeting system cost-effective non-wires alternatives to the Kanata-Stittsville area in the near-term. The potential for non-wires alternatives to reduce electricity demand at the 115 kV supplied station will also be examined as part of the Addendum Study.

Theme 2 – Options analysis: non-wires alternatives

3. Non-wires options should also be considered in all three target areas identified in the IRRP to defer some of the proposed major infrastructure investments.

4. The costs of non-wires options, especially power storage and smart grid management software are falling rapidly. This needs to be taken into account in the analysis of these options.

IESO Response:

As mentioned above, the IESO has examined the technical and economic feasibility of implementing non-wires alternatives to offset load growth to defer or eliminate the need for new electricity infrastructure in the pockets of need. These alternatives were considered both on an individual basis and as a package of solutions and included energy efficiency, local generation (e.g. non-emitting resources such as solar and/or battery energy storage), and demand response. The cost trends and projections associated with these technologies have also been accounted for and considered in the analysis. Cost analysis for all of the options considered, including those that were not determined to be technically and/or economically feasible are provided in the Appendix of the [November 13 webinar presentation](#).

Theme 3 – Alignment with local initiatives

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5. The 2019 IRRP recommendations should be the first stage of the long-term transition strategy for the Ottawa electricity sector laid out in Energy Evolution. We strongly encourage the two initiatives to work on common goals and proposals in 2020.

IESO Response:

The Technical Working Group has met with the City of Ottawa's Climate Change Resiliency Unit on a number of occasions throughout the regional planning process to discuss Energy Evolution. These discussions were aimed at understanding its strategic objectives and initiatives that may have an impact on the region's electricity needs. While it is too early to anticipate and forecast the impacts of specific projects, programs and policies, the status and progress of Energy Evolution will continue to be monitored and considered.

6. The IRRP should include a more specific analysis on new demand from electrification of heat and transport over the next 5 years – aligned with projections by independent experts and in Energy Evolution.

IESO Response:

Regional planning electricity forecasts reflect the impact of local customer and sector trends. The near-term forecast is influenced by specific customer connection requests through the local distribution company, including connections related to electrified transportation, committed distributed generation projects, and the forecast impact of energy efficiency and demand side initiatives.

Theme 4 – Engagement

7. It would be useful for stakeholders to see the financial costing and potential analysis that led to the recommendations on non-wires options.

IESO Response:

The IESO appreciates the feedback and participation of communities and interested parties in this engagement initiative. Valuable input has been received during this engagement from both meetings with City of Ottawa representatives, and public webinars and written comment periods. Through the [written comment period](#) following the [May 29, 2019 public webinar](#), we heard about the importance of examining non-wires solutions and presenting the analysis that resulted in the IRRP recommendations. The [November 13 webinar](#)

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[presentation](#) provided the details of all options considered, including the financial information and cost comparisons resulting from the detailed analysis conducted. Complete data and analysis will be provided with the final IRRP. While regional planning in Ontario occurs every three to five years at a minimum, it is an ongoing process that requires sustained dialogue and community engagement. Growth will continue to be monitored following the publication of the IRRP, and sustained community engagement will be undertaken both for the Addendum Study and through the [Eastern Ontario Regional Electricity Network](#), which are further described below.

8. We support the undertaking of an Addendum Plan to evaluate the longer-term role of non-wires options in the Ottawa sub-region. This should be carried out in partnership with the City of Ottawa and non-wires delivery agenda so that definitive costs and firm potential can be estimated.

IESO Response:

The [November 13 webinar presentation](#) described an IRRP Addendum Study that will address the need for long-term reliable supply to the regional 115 kV transmission system. This study will evaluate non-wires alternatives as well as transmission and/or distribution solutions. This study will be carried out in 2020, after the IRRP is completed. The Working Group will continue to engage with communities and stakeholders as part of the Addendum Study. More information on engagement activities related to the Addendum Study will be provided in Q1 2020.

9. It is very important for the IRRP Working Group to engage at a working level with local community associations, councillors, business groups, and delivery partners before finalizing the IRRP – particularly in the Kanata Stittsville area where targeted non-wires options are planned.

IESO Response:

The IESO has engaged at several levels throughout the development of the Ottawa Sub-region IRRP from City of Ottawa staff to City Councillors, and nearly 70 interested parties that participated in the public webinars. The IESO is committed to continuous engagement through the [Eastern Ontario Regional Electricity Network](#) and to hear from and receive input from broader regional and community members.

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10. OREC and CoEnergy would be please to participate in the finalizing and implementation of the recommendations in the Ottawa 2019 IRRP.

IESO Response:

The IESO appreciates the interest, insights and feedback from OREC and CoEnergy, and we look forward to your continued engagement through the [Eastern Ontario Regional Electricity Network](#) and the Ottawa regional planning Addendum Study.