

# External Engagement Plan

## Toronto Third Line

### Introduction

Electricity demand in the Toronto region is projected to grow significantly over the coming decades. As part of the Toronto Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP), the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has identified the need for additional transmission capacity into Toronto to support long-term growth and system reliability.

The recommended solution is the Toronto Third Line (TTL), a proposed new underwater high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission connection between Clarington (Bowmanville Switching Station) and downtown Toronto via Lake Ontario.

On January 7, 2026, the Government of Ontario announced its intent to proceed with this first-of-its-kind underwater transmission project and proposed to direct the IESO to undertake a competitive procurement process to select a transmitter that will design, build, and operate the line.

The Toronto Third Line is intended to strengthen grid resilience, diversify supply pathways, and relieve emerging constraints on the existing transmission system in and around Toronto. As electricity demand continues to grow due to new housing, economic development, transit expansion and electrification, additional transmission infrastructure will help ensure electricity can be delivered reliably to homes, businesses and communities across the region.

The purpose of this engagement is to provide stakeholders, Indigenous communities, municipalities and interested participants with information about the Toronto Third Line project and the proposed competitive procurement process, while gathering input that may help inform the design of procurement documents and technical specifications.

Through this engagement, the IESO aims to build understanding of the project, maintain transparency throughout the procurement process, and provide opportunities for participants to share perspectives that may help inform the development of the Toronto Third Line procurement.

The IESO is committed to an open dialogue with stakeholders and communities to help understand their views about proposed changes that may affect them. For any questions about this engagement plan please contact [engagement@ieso.ca](mailto:engagement@ieso.ca).

## IESO Objectives

The objectives of this engagement are to support transparency, build understanding of the project and procurement process, and gather input that may help inform the design of the Toronto Third Line procurement.

<b>Engagement Objectives</b>	<b>Key Results</b>
Increase awareness and understanding of the Toronto Third Line project and the need for new transmission infrastructure in the Toronto region	Participants demonstrate a clearer understanding of the project and its role in supporting long-term electricity reliability
Provide education on competitive transmission procurement and how the process works	Stakeholders understand the structure and principles of competitive procurement
Maintain transparency and trust in the procurement process	Participants have access to consistent information and engagement opportunities
Gather input that may inform the development of the Request for Proposals (RFP), contract design and technical specifications	Feedback collected through engagement helps inform the development of procurement materials
Encourage informed participation in the procurement process	Industry participants and interested stakeholders understand the process and opportunities to participate

## Stakeholders and Communities

This engagement is expected to be of interest to a wide range of stakeholders and communities.

### **Key groups include:**

Transmission developers and industry participants

Qualified transmitters and potential project partners who may be interested in participating in the procurement process, including engineering firms, technology providers and infrastructure developers.

Indigenous communities

Municipalities

Electricity market participants

Generators, local distribution companies, large electricity consumers and other electricity sector participants interested in transmission system development.

Associations and interest groups

Financiers and infrastructure investors

General public and community organizations

## Approach

The engagement approach is designed to inform, involve and gather input from stakeholders and communities while ensuring transparency and fairness throughout the process.

This is a public engagement process, and engagement materials will be posted on the Toronto Third Line engagement webpage. Feedback provided by stakeholders or communities may be posted publicly where appropriate and with participant consent.

The IESO may use the following engagement tactics throughout the process:

<b>Tactics</b>	<b>Description</b>
Webinars	Engagement session webinars introduce the Toronto Third Line project and provide information on procurement design elements and key project considerations.
Technical Sessions (Targeted Discussions)	Technical sessions may be held with specific stakeholder groups to discuss detailed technical topics related to the project or procurement design.
Written Feedback	Feedback forms are for participants to submit feedback in writing.
Discussion or Design Briefs	Briefs will be provided in advance of engagements to be read by participants to ensure a detailed discussion can take place.
Other Outreach Activities	Targeted meetings or smaller group discussions may be conducted to gather additional input from stakeholders and communities.
Surveys	Surveys may be used periodically to gather feedback on engagement effectiveness or understanding of the process

## Proposed Engagement Schedule

The anticipated timing for engagement activities is outlined below. Specific dates and additional opportunities to participate will be communicated through the IESO website, the Bulletin and direct communications with stakeholders and communities.

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Engagement Activity</b>
Q1 -2026	Introduction of the Toronto Third Line project and overview of the proposed competitive procurement approach
Q2 - 2026	Engagement sessions to discuss procurement design concepts, including the RFP structure and contract approach

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Engagement Activity</b>
<i>Q3 -2026</i>	Engagement sessions to present draft procurement documents and technical specifications and gather feedback
<i>Q4 -2026</i>	Engagement sessions to discuss refinements to procurement design based on feedback received
Q4 -2026	Communication of final procurement design and next steps prior to launch
Q1 -2025	Launch of the Request for Proposals (RFP) and formal procurement process

## Additional Background and Resources

[Toronto Integrated Regional Resource Plan](#)

[Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)

[Minister Announcement](#)

[Transmitter Selection Framework/ TSF Registry](#)

## Related Engagements

[Transmitter Selection Framework](#)

[Regional Electricity Planning - Toronto](#)