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# Major Projects Identification Committees (MPIC) Process

Framework and Participation Overview

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# 1. Introduction

The Integrated Energy Plan (IEP) directed the IESO to formalize Major Projects Identification Committees (MPICs) as a mechanism to support the early identification of major projects and strengthen demand forecasting and system planning. In response, the IESO is implementing a structured major projects intake process, designed to complement existing electricity planning and connection processes, that will provide earlier, consistent visibility into large load development across the province. This document outlines the framework for the MPIC process, including how information on emerging projects and development trends is collected, validated, and used to support system planning in Ontario.

## 2. Purpose

The MPIC process is intended to support more proactive, coordinated, and forward-looking electricity system planning by:

- Capturing early-stage information on major projects and development activity
- Improving visibility into where and when electricity demand may emerge
- Supporting more informed demand forecasting, including inputs to the Annual Planning Outlook (APO) and regional and bulk planning
- Enhancing coordination across government, utilities, and planning partners.

The process supports Ontario's economic growth objectives by improving coordination between electricity system planning and emerging development activity.

## 3. Scope

The MPIC process consists of three components:

### 3.1 Intake Process

The IESO will maintain a standardized intake process through which proponents and other entities may submit information related to:

- Proposed major projects
- Early-stage developments and site opportunities

Submissions are:

- Voluntary
- Not an application for connection
- Not a trigger for formal IESO processes or programs (e.g., System Impact Assessment (SIA) or Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP)).

The intake process serves as an early signal mechanism, enabling the IESO to better understand emerging demand.

## 3.2 Validation and Engagement

The IESO will engage with relevant entities to validate and contextualize information submitted via the intake form.

The committee structure will be flexible, rather than static, in order to be responsive to external factors and emerging project development trends.

The IESO will identify committee participants (including Project Validators and Project Originators, as appropriate) to support the validation of submitted information and the development of major project insights.

Validation activities may include, but are not limited to, confirming project timing, scale, and likelihood, identifying high-development areas or regional development trends and providing insights to support IESO planning processes.

The IESO may disclose commercially sensitive and confidential information, as necessary, to Project Validators that have executed a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) with the IESO to support the validation of information submitted and the formation of major project lists.

## 3.3 Use of Information

Information collected through the MPIC process will be used to:

- Inform demand forecasting (including APO inputs)
- Support regional and bulk system planning processes
- Improve understanding of future system needs and timing
- Enhance coordination with:
  - Relevant provincial ministries and agencies
  - Local distribution companies (LDCs)
  - Transmitters
  - Gas utilities
  - Municipalities
  - Indigenous communities and organizations
  - Local and regional development agencies
- Inform the connections process for projects.

To ensure transparency and provide interested parties with a view towards major project development in Ontario, the IESO intends to develop aggregated and non-identifiable major project insights, which will be shared publicly.

- This means that aggregated and non-identifiable insights, such as regional trends, sector-level demand, and general timelines, will be publicly shared with stakeholders and communities either through existing IESO planning products (i.e. APO) or via a dedicated report/report(s) so that

that stakeholders and communities across Ontario understand what sectors, project types or regions are of heightened interest for potential major projects.

### 3.4 Out of Scope

The MPIC process:

- Does not approve, prioritize, or endorse projects
- Does not guarantee connection to the electricity system
- Does not influence resource or transmission procurement outcomes
- Does not replace formal IESO processes (e.g., SIA, planning, procurement)
- Is not a regulatory or decision-making forum.

## 4. Participation Model

### 4.1 Approach

Participation in the MPIC process is:

- Voluntary
- Flexible and purpose-driven
- Designed to support information sharing and validation.

The IESO will determine committee participation on a case-by-case basis, taking into account project-specific factors such as project type, geographic location, sector relevance, and relevant and/or affected parties.

### 4.2 Types of Participants

Participants may include:

- Provincial ministries and agencies
- LDCs
- Transmitters
- Gas utilities
- Municipalities
- Indigenous communities and organizations
- Local and regional development agencies
- Project developers and proponents.

Participants may act as:

- **Project Originators** (providing project information); and/or
- **Project Validators** (providing contextual insight).

### 4.3 Roles

Project Originators may include developers, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and/or other entities. They:

- Provide project or site development information through the IESO's intake form
- Update information periodically as projects evolve
- Engage with the IESO, as needed, for clarification.

Project Validators may include provincial ministries and agencies, LDCs, transmitters, gas utilities, municipalities, Indigenous communities and organizations, local and regional development agencies, and/or other relevant entities.

They:

- Provide high-level, contextual input
- Support validation of submitted information and formation of major project lists
- Contribute based on organizational knowledge and perspective
- Must enter into an NDA with the IESO and comply with all applicable confidentiality obligations.

Participation as a Project Validator does not imply endorsement of any specific project.

## 4.4 Participation Expectations

Committee participants are expected to:

- Engage in a collaborative and good-faith manner
- Protect and respect the confidentiality of any information that may be shared as part of the MPIC process.

# 5. Process and Timing

## 5.1 Process Lifecycle

Information submitted through the MPIC process will generally follow these steps:

1. Submission of project information through the intake form
2. IESO review of information for completeness and relevance
3. IESO follow-up with Project Originators, as needed
4. Periodic sharing of relevant project information with applicable Project Validators, generally aligned with planning cycles such as the APO, and more frequently where appropriate based on project activity, emerging trends, or planning needs
5. Validation and contextual input from Project Validators, including through meetings convened by the IESO, where appropriate
6. Integration of insights into IESO planning processes
7. Development of aggregated and non-identifiable major project insights to support transparency, public awareness and public reporting.

## 5.2 Consideration of Information

Participation in the MPIC process enhances the IESO's early visibility into projects and supports system planning readiness.

Projects that are not identified may be less visible in early-stage planning, particularly where information is not otherwise available.

## 6. IESO Responsibilities

The IESO will:

- Facilitate the MPIC process
- Review and assess submitted information
- Engage relevant participants for validation
- Integrate insights into:
  - Demand forecasting
  - Regional planning
  - Bulk system planning
  - Connections process planning.
- Coordinate with participants to ensure:
  - Consistency of data
  - Avoidance of duplication.

## 7. Transparency and Communication

The IESO will publish educational and informational materials, including:

- Intake guidance
- FAQs
- Process overview materials
- Educational material related to the IESO's connection process and/or other initiatives
- Aggregated and non-identifiable insights, such as regional trends, sector-level demand, and general timelines, to support system-wide visibility.

## 8. Review and Evolution

The MPIC process will evolve over time to reflect:

- Stakeholder and participant feedback
- System planning needs
- Government policy direction.

To ensure the MPIC process remains effective, flexible, and aligned with Ontario's energy objectives and support for economic growth, the IESO may refine:

- Intake requirements
- Validation approaches
- Participation models

- Other aspects of the MPIC process, as needed.