Regional Electricity Planning Barrie/Innisfil

Engagement Plan

INTRODUCTION

This Engagement Plan outlines the background, objectives and proposed timelines to engage with communities and other interested parties in the development of the 2022 Barrie/Innisfil sub-region Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP).

Examples of the input the IESO is seeking to inform the IRRP for the region include:

- Population and growth rate forecasts and information on local economic development, projected growth and future plans, especially around areas of intensification and electrification to determine the electricity forecast and needs for the region
- Options to address local needs indentified through the planning process over the near (up to five years) to medium term (up to 10 years)
- Opportunities to align community energy and climate action plans, community-based energy solutions, and other economic development plans, for implementation in the medium to long term (up to 20 years), with the IRRP

All interest parties are invited and encouraged to participate in this engagement initiative. Interested parties may include, but are not limited to, local municipalities, Indigenous communities, businesses, stakeholders and members of the general public.

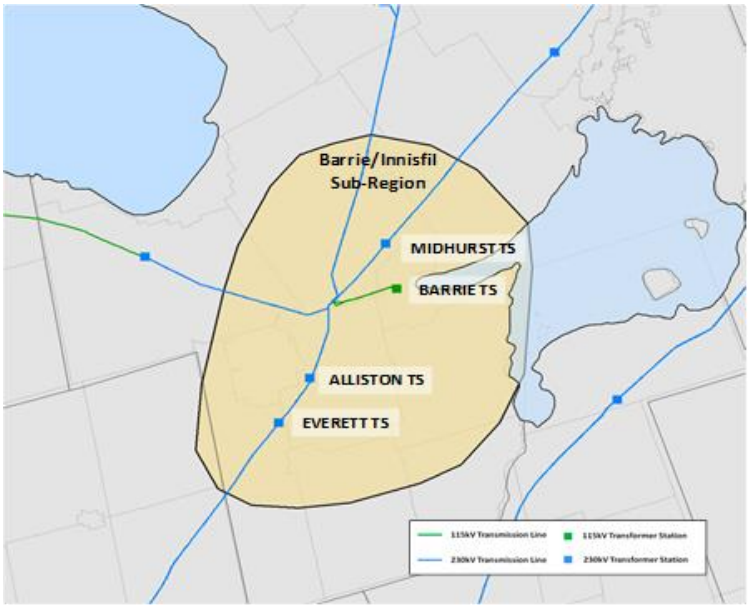
The IESO encourages all parties with an interest in participating in this regional planning initiative to contact **engagement@ieso.ca** to note their interest and ensure they receive communication on planning updates and engagement opportunities for the region.

This engagement plan may be subject to review and update as the process evolves.

ABOUT REGIONAL ELECTRICITY PLANNING

Regional electricity planning is about identifying and meeting local electricity needs to ensure the reliability of electricity supply in each of the 21 electricity regions across the province. Planning for

each region involves the creation of a 20-year outlook plan, considering the region's unique needs and characteristics, conservation initiatives and opportunities, local generation, transmission and distribution, and innovative resources. Regional planning is, however, only one part of transmission planning, which includes bulk and distribution system planning that also has the goal of maintaining a reliable and cost-effective electricity supply.



Each of these regions goes through a formal planning process at least once every five years, though at different times. The process unfolds differently each time depending on the region's unique needs and concerns.

More information about the regional electricity planning process can be found in the Appendix.

REGIONAL ELECTRICITY PLANNING IN BARRIE/INNISFIL

For regional planning purposes, the Barrie/Innisfil sub-region includes the townships of Essa, Springwater, Clearview, Mulmur, and Adjala-Tosorontio, the towns of Innisfil, New Tecumseth, and Bradford West Gwillimbury, as well as the City of Barrie.

Indigenous communities located in the sub-region or who may have an interest in planning in the area include Chippewas of Georgina Island, Huron Wendat, Kawartha Nishnawbe, Métis Nation of Ontario - Georgian Bay Métis Council, Métis Nation of Ontario - Moon River Métis Council, and Métis Nation of Ontario - Barrie South Simcoe Métis Council.

The current regional planning cycle began with the **Needs Assessment report** published by Hydro one on April 30, 2020, which identified areas that require further review and assessment, and may need to be coordinated with broader regional planning.

Following the Needs Assessment, the IESO engaged on and led the development of the **Scoping Assessment Outcome Report** that was published on November 30, 2020. The report determined that an integrated approach should be studied to address local identified electricity needs. This study will result in an Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) for the two sub-regions within the planning region for this planning cycle: Barrie/Innisfil and Parry Sound/Muskoka. A Barrie/Innisfil Technical Working Group, led by the IESO, including the transmitter and local distribution companies serving the region, will develop this IRRP taking into consideration input from communities and stakeholders.

Members of the Techinical Working Group include:

- Alectra Utilities
- InnPower

- Hydro One Networks Inc.

The IRRP will include recommendations to maintain reliability of supply to the region over the next 20 years (2021-2041). To develop the IRRP, the Technical Working Group will work to gather data, identify needs and issues, examine integrated options, recommended actions, and develop an implementation plan.

The goal of the IRRP is to illustrate how the integration of the forecasted electricity demand growth, energy efficiency and demand management with transmission and distribution system capability, relevant community plans, other bulk system developments, and the potential of distributed energy resources (DERs) was considered in the development of this long-term plan. Both non-wires and wire solutions will be examined and communities and stakeholders will be engaged on the options.

This is the second IRRP for the Barrie/Innisfil sub-region, with the first **Barrie/Innisfil IRRP and Barrie/Innisfil Muskoka IRRP Appendix** published in 2016.

2022 BARRIE/INNISFIL INTEGRATED REGIONAL RESOURCE PLAN (IRRP)

The Technical Working Group is responsible for gathering data and assessing the adequacy and security of the electricity supply to the Barrie/Innisfil sub-region and, through this engagement, recommend an integrated set of actions to meet the needs of the sub-region. Below are the preliminary needs as identified by Hydro One in their Needs Assessment Report. Based on outcomes of that report, the Working Group will focus on identifying and addressing the following priority areas [1]:

1. Ability of the local transmission network to deliver a reliable supply of electricity to customers in the area:
    - Supply capacity needs for the near-term supply on the 44 kV feeder level for Barrie TS; subsequent to the Barrie Area Transmission Upgrade (BATU) project underway following the first IRRP
    - System capacity needs for the medium-term supply under certain generation assumptions on circuits M6E and M7E supplying Muskoka, Midhurst, Orillia and Bracebridge TS
2. Need to replace aging transmission assets and potential opportunities to better align investments with evolving power system priorities:
    - E8V and E9V, D1M and D2M, and under certain generation assumptions, M6E and M7E circuits reached end-of-life in the near-to-medium term and require replacement

[1] Through the IRRP process additional needs may be identified or the ones identified may be revised.

ENGAGEMENT GOAL, OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The objective of this engagement plan is to ensure that interested stakeholders and community members understand the scope of the IRRP and are in a position to provide input into the development of the document.

The IESO is also seeking input to ensure the IRRP:

- Aligns with community perspectives on local needs
- Incorporates options to meet the growing electricity demand in the Barrie/Innisfil sub-region
- Ensures a reliable source of electricity in the sub-region over the next 20 years.

Through the planned initiatives to engage stakeholders and community members, the IESO will seek input on:

- Population and growth rate forecasts
- Local economic development
- Plans and projects that may have an impact on local growth rates and electricity demand (e.g. regional transit expansion, electrification, large incremental loads connecting to the system, significant DER projects, etc.)
- Options for addressing local electricity needs, including non-wires alternatives (e.g., conservation and demand management [CDM] and DERs) and local support and interest for developing these options in the near (five year), medium (10 year) and long term (20 year)
- Information from municipal plans including the implementation of those projects that could impact electricity use, specifically from community energy plans, climate action plans, energy reporting/CDM plans, official plans and secondary plans

Topics out of scope for discussion include:

- Projects and plans already underway as part of the previous planning activities
- Policy-level decisions or direction
- Existing program rules

INTERESTED PARTIES

Input into the development of the IRRP is encouraged and welcomed from any community member or interested stakeholders, however, those that may be particularly interested include:

- Municipalities within the planning area (e.g., planning, sustainability, climate change and economic development staff)

- Indigenous communities
- Large industrial customers
- Generators
- Consumer groups and associations (e.g., consumer/resident associations, Business Improvement Areas, homebuilders associations, etc.)
- Other public sector associations (e.g., hospitals and school boards)
- Local Boards of Trade and/or Chambers of Commerce
- Academia and research organizations (e.g., colleges and universities)
- Environmental groups and associations
- Energy service providers

The IESO will also conduct targeted outreach to specific stakeholders and communities where specific local needs and issues need further investigation. The content and outcome of these discussions will be shared through the other activities that will be undertaken as part of this engagement initiative.

APPROACH AND METHODS FOR DEVELOPING THE IRRP

Any work done with the community and interested stakeholders will be conducted in accordance with the IESO's **Engagement Principles.**

This is a public engagement process. Materials will be posted on the dedicated **web page**. In addition, any information/input supplied by interested parties will be posted (with consent).

Input will be collected from interested parties through a number of different channels, including virtual and face-to-face meetings (as appropriate), webinars, conference calls and/or written feedback. The IESO will consider all relevant input and illustrate how feedback was considered in the development of the final recommendations.

This engagement will be supported by:

- Public engagement to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to provide input in the development of the Barrie/Innisfil IRRP. Details will be posted on the engagment webpage.
- Targeted outreach with specific stakeholders and communities, where identified necessary. A summary of discussions will be shared as part of the final report.

PROPOSED ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE FOR THE BARRIE/INNISFIL IRRP

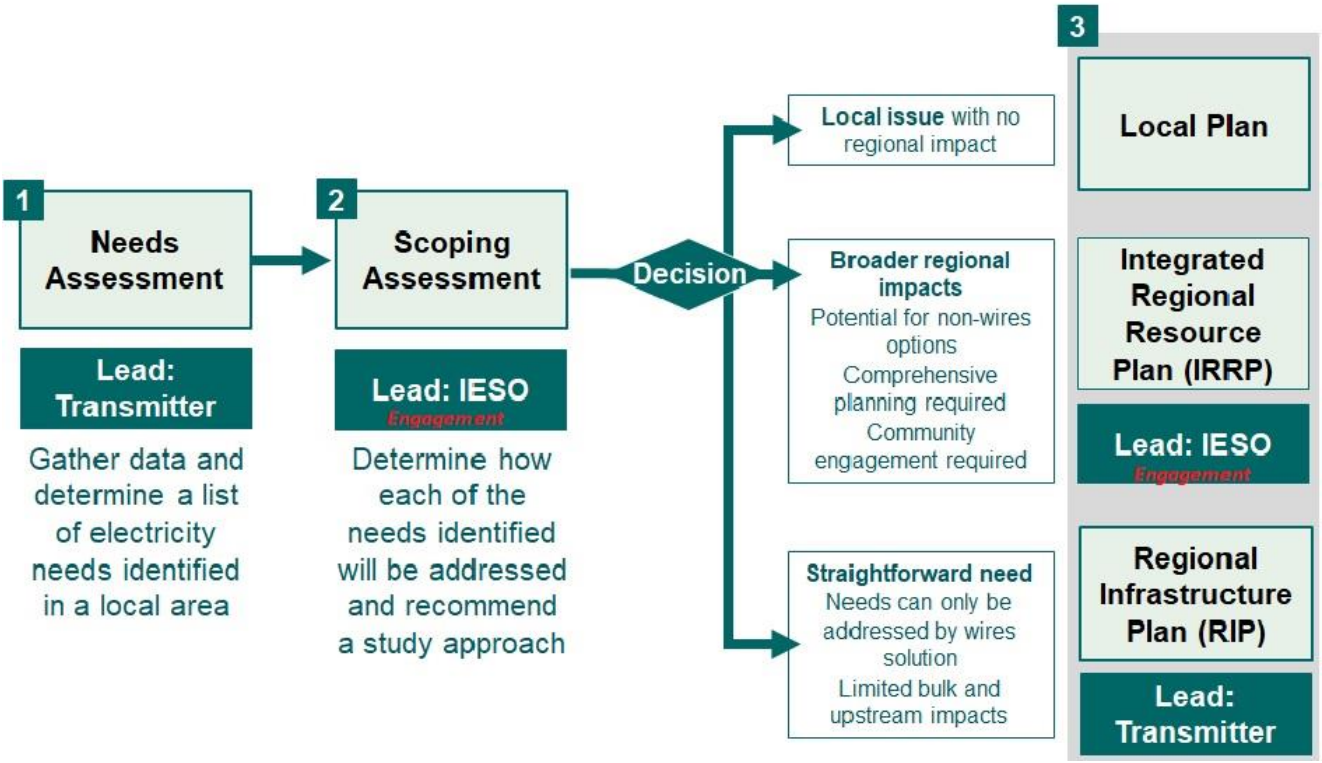
Date	Event/Objective	Expected Actions/Notes
September 8, 2021	**Webinar #1:** • Provide update on planning activities underway • Summary of preliminary regional demand forecast and needs, summary of draft engagement plan	• Seek input on draft engagement plan, electricity demand forecast and preliminary needs identified • Post feedback and IESO response to feedback, including rationale (by September 29, 2021)
Late Q4 2021	**Webinar #2:** • Overview of options screening • Overview of range of potential solutions to be examined • Outline next steps	• Seek input on option screening and range of potential solutions to be examined • Post feedback and IESO response to feedback, including rationale
Q1 2022	**Webinar #3:** • Overview of IRRP and recommendations, including details on evaluation of alternatives • Discuss considerations for communities and interested parties to consider in their medium- to long-term planning	• Seek input on further discussions needed to initiate near-term projects • Post feedback and IESO response to feedback, including rationale
Q2 2022	Finalize Parry Sound/Muskoka IRRP	• Post final report and response to feedback • Close engagement • Conduct survey on engagement process

APPENDIX – REGIONAL PLANNING PROCESS

Regional planning is ongoing, with electricity reliability evaluated at least once every five years in each region. Community engagement is a critical part of the planning process and the IESO encourages all interested parties to join this discussion to:

- Learn more about the regional planning process and local electricity needs
- Provide input into shaping a community's electricity future by discussing options for meeting local needs, including applicable non-wires alternatives, and discussing the local community's support for development of these options
- Share perspectives for future growth in the area, and how to work together to shape the area's future electricity supply
- Determine opportunities for coordinating and aligning local planning activities and initiatives with the regional planning process

The following diagram illustrates the steps, parties and outcomes of the regional planning process.



For more information, visit the Regional Planning Process webpage at:

https://www.ieso.ca/en/Get-Involved/Regional-Planning/About-Regional-Planning/How-the-Process-Works