Feedback Form

Regional Electricity Planning in the GTA East Region – April 20, 2026

Feedback Provided by:

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Date: April 26, 2026

To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the GTA East engagement webpage unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the GTA East regional planning webinar held on April 20, 2026, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the identified electricity needs and initial screening of potential options. A copy of the presentation as well as recording of the session can be accessed from the engagement web page.

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by May 11, 2026.

Topic	Feedback
What feedback do you have on the wire and non-wire options that will be	The Town of Ajax supports a planning approach that prioritizes solutions that reduce electricity demand and associated GHG emissions before advancing new supply or

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considered to meet the region's electricity needs?	any major infrastructure projects. Specifically, we recommend the following order of consideration: • **Energy conservation and demand management (CDM) / non-wires alternatives:** Delivered collaboratively by IESO and LDCs, funding and incentives for aggressive, targeted programs such as building and home energy retrofits, heat pump and efficiency incentives, off-peak energy storage solutions, and conservation outreach and education will remain essential to reducing demand and deferring the need for expensive new infrastructure. • Prioritizing CDM before any energy generation or infrastructure expansion supports local resilience by reducing peak demand on constrained assets, improving demand response, and diversifying supply close to load. • **Renewable Distributed Energy Resources (DERs):** Prioritize rooftop solar PV, balcony/backyard solar PV, municipal and government facility/parking lot solar PV, coupled with battery storage and net metering, to significantly reduce peak demand, reduce dependency on centralized infrastructure, and build energy resilience towards extreme weather and energy crises created through global conflict. Appropriately sited wind energy generation and battery storage should also be prioritized where community fit, constraints, and grid integration allow. • These renewable energy generation solutions should be advanced because they are extremely scalable and modular, and achieve very short construction timelines (a few years) compared to other wire solutions which can take 10 to 15 years to construct. • Solar and wind energy generation should also be prioritized as they can be built at a fraction of the cost that other renewable energy generation solutions, like nuclear and hydroelectric power, can be built at. Canada lags significantly behind other G7 countries in increasing solar and wind energy generation as part of our overall energy production.

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	• **Wires solutions:** Consider transmission/distribution expansions and new/expanded stations only where CDM and distributed renewables cannot reliably address the identified need within the required timeframe.
What additional information should be considered in the evaluation of wire and non-wire options?	The Town of Ajax recommends that the evaluation include information that enables a transparent, like-for-like comparison of wires and non-wires alternatives and clearly reflects the improved cost-benefit of non-wires options, including: • **Avoided and deferred infrastructure value:** quantification of avoided/deferred station and line upgrades, reduced losses, and reduced need for peak demand resources (so the economic value of demand reduction and flexibility is not understated). • **Timing and deliverability:** realistic in-service timelines (including permitting/procurement), with schedule risk and the value of phasing/modularity. (non-wires options can deliver earlier benefits and defer larger capital spend). • **Co-benefits and impacts:** greenhouse gas reductions, local air quality, noise, land-use compatibility, construction disruption, and community acceptance, including equity considerations for access to CDM programs. • **Reliability and resilience outcomes:** impacts to outage frequency/duration, ability to support critical facilities, and performance during system stress events, extreme weather, or global conflicts. The importance of improving self reliance on energy generation cannot be understated. Including avoided-cost and risk-adjusted comparisons in the above areas will better capture the benefits of non-wires alternatives, particularly their ability to be deployed in increments, reduce near-term system costs, defer higher-cost investments, and be targeted to areas and regions that need it most.

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Are there other types of information that would be helpful for us to provide in future engagements to enhance understanding of community perspectives and insights?	It will be helpful to provide full costing information for energy generation options on a per kWh basis. This will show that solar and wind generation are the cheapest form of renewable energy generation (especially compared to nuclear generation).

General Comments/Feedback

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