Feedback Received and IESO Response

GTA West Regional Electricity Plan Public Webinar #2: Draft Needs and Initial Option Screening – April 2, 2026

The IESO hosted a public webinar on April 2 for the GTA West region to share the draft electricity needs and the outcome of the initial option screening. During the webinar, the IESO provided an overview of the regional electricity planning process, the GTA West electrical region, re-capped the demand forecast, and shared the electricity needs and initial option screening. The presentation material and recorded webinar are available on the engagement webpage.

The IESO appreciates the input received, which will be considered by the Technical Working Group[1] to develop the IRRP. Feedback was received from the following parties, and the full submission can be viewed on the engagement webpage:

- 368687 Ontario Limited
- City of Mississauga
- Econalysis Consulting Services on behalf of Power Works Union
- Minogi Corp. (Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation)
- Town of Halton Hills
- The Atmospheric Fund

Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Response

1 The Technical Working Group is lead by the IESO, and consists of the LDCs in the region (Alectra Utilities Inc., Burlington Hydro Inc., Milton Hydro Distribution Inc., Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc., Halton Hills Hydro Inc., and Hydro One Networks Inc. (Distribution)) and the local transmitter Hydro One Networks Inc.

The IESO appreciates the feedback received from participants. The tables set out below respond to the feedback received and are organized by topic.

A) Regional Electricity Needs & Option Screening

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
TAF wanted additional information around how incremental eDSM is defined.	Regional demand forecasts incorporate forecasted peak demand savings from the IESO's electricity Demand Side Management programs, specifically for energy efficiency and behind-the-meter solar and solar plus storage. These forecasts, adapted from the IESO's Annual Planning Outlook at the time the regional demand forecast was developed, are informed by current programmatic eDSM savings targets. Incremental eDSM refers to additional peak demand savings above and beyond those planned savings. While IESO delivers provincial Demand Response (DR) programs as part of the eDSM framework, DR is treated separately from other eDSM in regional non-wires evaluation (recognizing that the timing of provincial DR activations to meet provincial needs may not align with the timing of regional needs).

Additional information was requested around how wire and non-wire options were evaluated: • The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) inquired about the framework, criteria, weighting, and comparative analysis used to screen resource options, including how non-wires and wires solutions were evaluated and the results of that assessment. • The City of Mississauga wanted to better understand why non-wire options were screened out, especially in the City of Mississauga, and whether non-wire options could meet part of the needs. The City of Mississauga also wanted to understand how local factors will be considered in the evaluation.	The IESO appreciates this feedback and is committed to an open and transparent planning process. At this stage, the information that is available for public review is included in the presentation. The assessment is based on an IESO-developed Non-wire Analysis Assessment for the Integrated Regional Resource Plans (IRRPs). This guide provides an overview of the IESO's current process for considering NWAs when developing an IRRP, including process steps, screening mechanisms, hourly needs characterization, development of options, and economic evaluation methodology. As planning for the GTA West region continues to advance and the IESO considers community feedback, more detailed information can be shared about the full options analysis during upcoming webinars. More information will also be released with the final report. Additionally, as presented at the webinar, meeting the pace of growth in GTA West will require significant new electricity infrastructure. It is expected that to address these growth needs, solutions will include investments such as new transmission stations and lines, and other measures that can help maintain reliability while the region expands and longer lead-time infrastructure is in development. To date, the IESO has completed an initial technical screening of potential solutions. While standalone non-wire options cannot by themselves address these needs, the IESO will complete detailed evaluations of wires plus wires in combination with non-wires options to address the system needs identified, as well as other interim and operational measures to maintain system reliability. Specifically, in the City of Mississauga both station capacity (capability of a station to step-down power from the high voltage grid) and supply capacity needs (capability of transmission lines to deliver power into a local area) have been identified. These needs are linked to specific new community-scale developments such as Lakeview Village waterfront

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
	area and other developments such as the planned Pearson Airport expansion, among others. To address transmission system needs in the near and medium term the IESO will complete a detailed evaluation of potential options, while taking into account information provided by the community, developers and interested stakeholders about firm plans for district energy and other attributes of these developments that will offset the demand for additional power from the grid. For long-term needs identified at stations such as Churchill Meadows TS and Lorne Park TS, the potential need is forecasted toward the latter part of the 20-year planning horizon. Given this longer timeframe, there is an opportunity to continue monitoring growth and reassess the need in a future planning cycle, rather than committing to solutions in the current cycle when there is considerable uncertainty as to when and how the need will materialize. Sufficient lead time remains for the next planning cycle to appropriately evaluate and develop solutions. More information will be provided during upcoming webinars. At this milestone, the local perspectives regarding community priorities, such as preference for non-wire options, will be considered as planning continues to advance.

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
As the Technical Working Group (TWG) continues planning, participants shared transmission considerations including the importance of continued early engagement and the utilization of existing corridors: • Minogi Corp. (Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation) recommended continued coordinated, early planning among agencies and proponents to address cumulative environmental, land use, First Nation, and community impacts where transmission planning intersects with other major corridor initiatives, such as the Highway 413 corridor, to preserve routing flexibility and support informed, integrated regional infrastructure decisions. • The Town of Halton Hills recommended to prioritize the use and strategic expansion of existing transmission corridors over creating new corridors, as this approach minimizes land use impacts, improves sustainability, and more efficiently supports growing regional electricity needs.	Thank you for this feedback. The IESO agrees that early engagement in the planning process reduces potential conflicts and impacts to the interests of impacted parties. The IESO also notes the feedback shared regarding prioritizing existing corridors. All feedback is considered throughout the development of each IRRP milestone. Where possible, the IESO will consider options within existing corridors, while also evaluating technically feasible, cost-effective, and reliable options to meet electricity needs. However, precise siting or routing considerations for individual transmission options are outside the scope of the regional plan. Once the regional plan is published, a transmitter will lead the development, construction, operation and maintenance of any transmission options, including the outreach and consultation. As part of this process, there will be an environmental assessment (EA) and consultation with Indigenous communities will occur as part of that process. The process will include opportunities to provide feedback on next steps including project siting, environmental and property impacts. The EA process evaluates the alternative means of carrying out the solution, including analysis and selection of a preferred route. The transmitter will also be responsible for obtaining all other required approvals and permits to construct the facilities, and the processes for these approvals and permits may provide additional opportunities for feedback on routing and siting.

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Municipal engagement throughout this process continues to be important: • City of Mississauga recommended more regular and on-going interactions with municipalities. • Town of Halton Hills recommended continued engagement to provide more information about land needs, infrastructure requirements, impacts and timing.	Municipal engagement within the GTA West region has been instrumental in gathering information and insights on electrical demand drivers, including local economic development, growth plans, community energy and electrification plans, and climate targets. To date, the IESO has hosted several municipal targeted meetings, which have included the City of Mississauga staff, at key milestones to share details about the plan development, answer questions and understand perspectives. As the plan continues to be developed, the IESO will continue to host these meetings and will continue to include the City of Mississauga and other municipalities within the geographic study area. Once recommendations have been identified through the regional plan, the timing of recommendations will be shared. The timing is based on the electricity needs, informed by the load forecast and customer commitments, as well as implementation timelines of the optimal solution. Construction timelines will be shared through the EA process by the transmitter.

B) General Feedback

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
Additional clarification was requested on the final forecast presented: • The Atmospheric Fund wanted to better understand how demand forecasts account for large load flexibility, demand-side management integration, consistency and coordination across LDCs, avoidance of double counting, use of standardized and regionally aligned methodologies, and	Thank you for providing this feedback. The Technical Working Group (TWG) shared for public review the draft demand forecast that considers economic growth, residential growth, and electrification in June 2025. At the time the IESO hosted a webinar to share details about how the forecast was developed, along with key details about the forecast. Learn more by visiting the engagement page. The IESO published the IRRP Forecast Methodology Document, and the corresponding data tables, to the GTA West engagement site. The Forecast Methodology covers the assumptions and approach used to create the demand forecast, as provided by

the application of scenario-based analysis to address uncertainty. • Power Workers Union raised concerns that IESO planning relies too heavily on a reference demand forecast instead of a high-growth scenario that includes additional transmission-connected large loads (such as data centres), risking underbuilt infrastructure and reduced reliability in a rapidly growing demand environment where planning should instead prioritize sufficient, resilient capacity.	the participating Local Distribution Companies (LDCs). Should there be additional questions please let us know. Thank you for your feedback regarding developing scenario planning. To meet the region's needs, the forecast was developed with close coordination between LDCs and the IESO. Both a summer and winter demand forecast were developed, with the winter forecast making additional assumptions for long-term electrification trends which have the potential to drive higher winter peaks. At this stage, the IESO identified the electricity needs and completed an initial option screening. The next milestone involves completing a detailed options analysis. Once recommendations have been identified, the timing of recommendations is based on the electricity needs, informed by the load forecast and customer commitments, as well as implementation timelines of the optimal solution. Regional planning is completed at regular intervals to ensure planning is flexible and responsive to a range of future outcomes. Future planning cycles will develop a high forecast scenario. Please note, should higher growth materialize, the TWG can discuss whether an accelerated timeline is feasible for regional planning.
The Atmospheric Fund shared a few additional questions regarding supply and emissions: • How are future supply gaps resolved in the analysis? • What assumptions are made regarding the generation mix (e.g., non-emitting vs emitting sources) in these cases? • Are the emissions implications of these	Supply gaps and assumptions about generation mix are out of scope for the regional plan. Please visit the Annual Planning Outlook page to learn more. The IESO does not prepare greenhouse gas emissions forecasts at a regional planning level, however provincial level forecast is available in the 2025 Annual Planning Outlook Capacity Expansion Scenario, Costs, and Emissions Module. The IESO's latest Annual Planning Outlook identifies system needs and planned actions into the next decade that are needed to ensure the reliability, affordability and sustainability of Ontario's electricity system.

assumptions explicitly modeled?	
Perspectives were shared related to the Narrowed Area of Interest (NAI) under the Northwest GTA Transmission Corridor Identification Study: • 368687 Ontario Limited objected to the proposed refinements to the Narrowed Area of Interest (NAI). They recommended for the corridor to be co-located with the Highway 413 lands within the MTO FAA, and for regular public information sessions to be provided for impacted landowners by the Northwest GTA corridor. • The Town of Halton Hills shared that refinements to the Narrowed Area of Interest (NAI) extend further into the Town and now affect additional rural and agricultural properties; recommended for continued engagement with impacted landowners.	Thank you for this feedback. The IESO has shared this feedback with the Ministry of Energy and Mines. Siting considerations for solutions are outside the scope of the regional plan. The regional plan will identify the need date for the Northwest GTA Corridor transmission line. It is expected that this line will be developed in stages, as supply customer needs emerge. Feedback regarding the corridor study can be directed to NWGTAtransmissioncorridor@ontario.ca.