Feedback Received and IESO Response

GTA West Regional Electricity Plan Public Webinar #3: Options Analysis – August 20, 2026

The IESO hosted a public webinar on August 20 for the GTA West region to review the electricity needs and the outcome of the options analysis. During the webinar, the IESO provided an overview of the GTA West electrical region, re-capped the demand forecast and electricity needs, and shared the detailed options analysis. 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:

- Batory Planning + Management
- City of Brampton
- City of Mississauga
- Econalysis Consulting Services on behalf of Power Works Union
- Minogi Corp. (Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation)
- TBEA Power Transformers Group
- Town of Milton

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.

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The section below summarizes feedback received.

Note on Feedback Summary and IESO Response

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

A) Options Analysis

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
Additional information was requested about the characteristics, location, and implementation implications of the new transmission infrastructure: • The Town of Milton asked whether the proposed new Milton transformer station (TS) would require land outside the existing hydro corridor and whether additional 500 kV or 230 kV lines would be required. • Batory Planning + Management requested information about the purpose, service area, land requirements, timing, implementation phasing, and coordination of the proposed Halton TS and Milton TS infrastructure, and asked whether the represented property could be affected.	Thank you for this feedback. The GTA West IRRP identifies electricity needs, evaluates alternatives, and recommends solutions required to maintain reliable supply. At this stage, recommendations identify the nature and general location of required infrastructure. Detailed routing, siting, property requirements, and final station configurations are determined during subsequent project development that will be led by the respective transmitter (e.g., Hydro One). The GTA West IRRP is coordinated with provincial-scale bulk and local planning so that the timing and dependencies of new stations, regional connections, and bulk-system reinforcements can be considered together. Infrastructure may be advanced in stages to address near-term reliability needs while preserving flexibility for future growth. No determination about acquisition or expropriation of a specific property is made through the IRRP. If a recommended project advances and property interests are required, the transmitter would engage affected property owners through applicable project-development and property-acquisition processes.
Participants provided feedback on demand growth • The City of Brampton would like greater certainty that the required electricity capacity and utility infrastructure is identified, planned and funded in a timely manner to support its rapid growth, housing and employment objectives, and investment readiness,	Ensuring adequate and timely supply to meet forecast growth is a core objective of regional and bulk planning. The GTA West IRRP forecast was developed with local distribution companies and uses the best available information about the timing, location, magnitude, and certainty of growth, including population, housing, electrification, economic development, and potential large loads.

and this capacity and infrastructure is delivered in alignment with the timing and location of planned development, particularly in key employment areas and major investment sites. • The Power Workers' Union reiterated concern that the regional planning is not based on sufficiently robust high growth demand scenarios and therefore risks under-delivering the infrastructure required to ensure reliability under plausible future conditions. • The Town of Milton asked how the GTA West IRRP interacts with the recently announced Provincial Data Centre Playbook, particularly where projects may compete for limited capacity.	The IESO uses a staged planning approach to advance projects required for near-term reliability, preserve flexibility where longer-term conditions are uncertain, monitor conditions that could accelerate needs, and avoid both underbuilding and prematurely committing to infrastructure. The South and Central Bulk Plan distinguishes between implementation-ready projects and projects for future consideration that depend on longer-term conditions or triggers. The GTA West IRRP applies a similar principle by identifying actions required for forecast needs while monitoring longer-term uncertainty. Actual demand, connection activity, electrification, distributed resources, development, and customer commitments will continue to be monitored. If growth occurs more quickly than forecast or material new loads emerge, the Technical Working Group can assess project timing and scope and determine whether an earlier review is warranted. Should higher growth materialize, the TWG can discuss whether an accelerated timeline is feasible for regional planning. The GTA West IRRP assesses regional needs and recommends solutions based on the best available demand information and customer commitments. Data centres may represent large and concentrated demands and can affect regional or bulk needs depending on size, location, timing, operating characteristics, and connection requirements. The IESO will continue to coordinate regional planning with applicable provincial policy and connection processes. Where proposed data centre loads become sufficiently certain and meet relevant planning criteria, their potential demand can be considered in regional and bulk planning. The Government of Ontario has passed Bill 40, *Protect Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act*, 2025, which provides authority to decline the connection of data centres that do not fully comply with Ontario's safeguards. The regulations are being developed with the intent that electricity costs - direct and indirect -

	are fully paid by the project proponent, in addition to community benefits and alignment with Ontario's economic priorities. Between regional planning cycles, we encourage the submission of early-stage project and site information for major projects through the IESO's Major Projects Identification Committees (MPIC) process to improve visibility into where new demand may emerge and inform electricity system plans and forecasts. Communities are also encouraged to share emerging local growth details with their local distribution company who will share that information with the IESO through forecast updates.
Participants requested greater clarity and provided input on distributed energy resources • The City of Mississauga requested further details on how DERs are being considered in the GTA West IRRP, in particular in different locations within their municipality. • The City of Mississauga requested clarification about district energy projects reflected in the GTA West IRRP, including for example at Lakeview Village, potential extensions to Rangeview, and opportunities near Cooksville Trillium Hospital were considered. • Minogi Corp. requested greater clarity and transparency regarding the assessment of non-wires alternatives and recommended that where non-wire analyses remain underway, final IRRP recommendations clearly identify the assumptions, achievable demand reductions, implementation requirements, timing considerations, and any residual need for wires infrastructure.	The IESO applies its Non-Wires Alternatives Assessment process when developing an IRRP. Standalone non-wires options cannot address every need identified in GTA West, but wires, non-wires, and integrated combinations are considered, where technically feasible. Distributed energy resources may contribute to where they provide sufficient, dependable, and locationally targeted peak-demand reduction during the hours in which the need occurs. Potential resources can include incremental eDSM, demand response, battery storage, solar or wind generation, distributed energy resources, district energy, geothermal systems, waste-heat recovery, and combinations, where applicable. Suitability depends on the magnitude, timing, duration, and growth of the need; the ability to target resources; expected persistence and availability; cost-effectiveness; and ability to implement before the need arises. Station-capacity and transmission supply-capacity needs may have different technical characteristics. Some needs may require foundational station or transmission infrastructure. In other cases, non-wires alternatives may defer infrastructure, address an interim shortfall, reduce the size of a wires investment, or form part of an integrated solution. Where an analysis remains underway, the final IRRP will provide available information on the intended role, expected demand reduction, timing, remaining wires need, and implementation considerations.

	District energy projects can affect the scale, timing, and profile of electricity demand depending on design, energy source, customer connections, and implementation schedule. The IESO developed a Guide to Assessing Non-Wires Alternatives during IRRPs. This guide summarizes various recent improvements made to better consider NWAs when developing an IRRP, including the process flow diagram, screening mechanism, hourly needs characterization, development of options, and economic evaluation methodology. Planning participants, rightsholders and stakeholders can refer to this guide to better understand what key activities to expect during the IRRP. If the approach and methodologies used to assess NWAs evolve, the IESO will update the guide. The GTA West forecast was developed with local distribution companies and reflects the best available information about known developments and major load drivers at the time. As new information becomes sufficiently firm, the Technical Working Group can consider whether it should be reflected in forecast updates, implementation planning, or a future regional cycle. We encourage continued sharing of anticipated in-service dates, development phases, energy sources, electrical requirements, and expected peak-demand impacts.
Participants requested an update on corridor planning and continued engagement with potentially affected landowners. • The Town of Milton requested an update on the Parkway Belt Transmission Corridor Study and the expected release of a refined or focused study area.	Thank you for this feedback. We acknowledge the interest in the status of the Parkway Belt West Plan Corridor Study and the importance of continued engagement with potentially affected landowners and municipalities. The Parkway Belt West Plan Corridor Study is separate from the regional planning process and is outside the scope of this regional plan. The regional plan will identify the need dates for transmission that could be constructed on the corridor. Regional planning does not determine transmission corridor locations or study area boundaries. We appreciate your interest in the Parkway Belt West Plan Corridor Study and are open to scheduling a meeting with interested parties to discuss the current status of the study, ongoing engagement activities, and next steps. For

	information regarding the study, interested parties may also contact the project team directly.
Minogi Corp. emphasized the need to consider cumulative impacts and First Nation interests early in the planning process and recommended greater transparency on how these factors influence option evaluation and the selection of preferred solutions. ● Minogi Corp. recommended that the IESO clearly explain how cumulative effects and First Nation considerations inform the evaluation and selection of options, including the implications of new corridor and facility requirements, opportunities to use existing infrastructure, and routing or siting constraints, and ensure these factors are considered before preferred solutions are established.	The regional planning process is established by the OEB to identify the most cost-effective and efficient way to meet future regional electricity needs. Under the IESO's licence, the IRRP is required to identify the appropriate mix of investments in one or more of conservation and demand management, generation, transmission facilities or distribution facilities. In developing the plan, the IESO undertakes a high-level options screening to identify a range of technically feasible pathways capable of meeting the identified electricity system need. This work is limited to assessing potential solutions from a system planning perspective and is not an environmental assessment, project approval process, or detailed project evaluation. As a result, options are considered at a conceptual level, without detailed route selection, facility design, or site-specific environmental and socio-economic studies. Matters such as potential environmental effects, impacts on Indigenous rights, lands, interests and communities, and project-specific mitigation measures are outside the scope of the IESO's planning assessment and will be addressed in subsequent stages of project development, if and when a transmission solution is advanced and a transmitter is selected. Planning analysis: • Reflects the operational characteristics of existing and anticipated resources, including energy limitations • Assesses system performance under a range of operating conditions and uncertainties • Ensures all recommendations meet applicable reliability standards • IRRPs address reliability, load restoration, and load security needs at the transmission supply level, according to the Ontario Resource and Transmission Assessment

	Criteria. The final report will provide additional clarity on key planning assumptions relevant to system capability and performance. Should a transmission project proceed, the responsibility for undertaking project-specific environmental assessment, consultation, and regulatory approvals rests with the designated project proponent (for example, Hydro One or another eligible transmitter). For projects subject to Ontario's approved Class Environmental Assessment ("Class EA") for Transmission Facilities, the proponent must carry out the requirements of the Class EA process in accordance with the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and the approved Class EA document. The Class EA for Transmission Facilities mandates consideration of cumulative effects. This process is separate from the IESO's system planning activities and includes detailed environmental studies, consultation and engagement with Indigenous nations and other potentially affected parties, evaluation of alternatives, assessment of potential impacts, and the development of appropriate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring, and documentation measures prior to project implementation.
Minogi Corp. requested a clear description of relationships and dependencies among overlapping planning processes, such as GTA West IRRP and South and Central Bulk Plan, Northwest GTA Transmission Corridor work, and Highway 413 and Parkway Belt West Plan Study Area.	Thank you for this feedback. The GTA West IRRP forms part of Ontario's broader, integrated electricity-planning framework. It is informed by and coordinated with provincial electricity planning, the Annual Planning Outlook, the South and Central Bulk Plan, local distribution-company planning, municipal growth and land-use plans, community energy plans, provincial policy direction, and relevant generation, conservation, and procurement initiatives. Bulk and regional planning are interdependent. Bulk infrastructure enables regional solutions, while regional needs inform bulk-system requirements. The GTA West IRRP identifies regional needs and solutions; the South and Central Bulk Plan addresses broader high-voltage needs and transfer capability; and corridor,

	transportation, and land-use initiatives proceed through separate processes with their own mandates and decision points. The final IRRP will describe material dependencies and distinguish decisions made through the IRRP from bulk planning, corridor identification or protection, detailed routing and siting, environmental assessment and permitting, transmitter-led development, and implementation of non-wires solutions.
The City of Mississauga requested additional information on incremental energy demand-side management (eDSM) as a potential option to address future electricity needs. • The City sought clarification on what additional programs are being contemplated beyond those currently in place, the level of customer participation or uptake assumed for these programs, and whether any proposed initiatives would be targeted toward electrically constrained areas where demand reduction could provide the greatest benefit.	Regional demand forecasts incorporate peak-demand savings from planned IESO electricity demand-side management programs. Incremental eDSM refers to additional peak-demand savings beyond those already incorporated in the forecast. For the detailed options analysis, incremental eDSM represents additional conservation or demand-management activity that could be targeted to a specific area and need. The analysis considers the amount, timing, persistence, and location of the peak-demand reduction required to defer or reduce infrastructure needs. If incremental eDSM forms part of a recommended solution, program design, delivery model, eligibility, incentives, and customer-uptake strategy would be considered during implementation planning. Stream 2 eDSM allows local distribution companies (LDCs) to develop and deliver local electricity demand-side management programs that address both local distribution-system benefits and broader, upstream benefits to the IESO-controlled electricity system. Municipalities and other regional stakeholders are encouraged to engage their LDC on potential program opportunities.
The City of Mississauga reiterated its preference for phasing out natural gas-fired electricity generation. • Mississauga noted its Council-endorsed preference to phase out gas-fired generation.	Provincial supply gaps and generation-mix assumptions are outside the scope of the GTA West regional plan, and the IESO does not prepare greenhouse-gas emissions forecasts at the regional-planning level. The City's preference has been noted and will be shared with the appropriate IESO teams. Provincial supply-mix and emissions considerations are addressed through broader

	system-planning processes rather than an individual IRRP.

B) General Feedback

Feedback / Common Themes	IESO Response
Participants emphasized early, regular, direct, and coordinated engagement. • Town of Milton recommended sharing information early and engage affected landowners. • City of Mississauga recommended continued one-on-one municipal meetings to help municipalities understand the IESO's planning process and to share community feedback • Batory Planning + Management requested continued involvement in the engagement process and requested the IESO consider a one-on-one meeting before decisions are made. • Minogi Corp. requested timely information, clear maps, plain-language materials, clear process distinctions, updated assumptions, and coordinated notifications.	The IESO values Indigenous, municipal, landowner, industry, stakeholder, and community input and recognizes the importance of early, ongoing, and meaningful engagement. The GTA West IRRP engagement includes public webinars, publication of materials, written feedback, targeted municipal discussions, direct engagement with Indigenous communities, and meetings where appropriate. Feedback helps refine assumptions, options, and recommendations. Engagement will continue as the IRRP is finalized and, where recommendations proceed, as projects move into development and implementation. The final IRRP will summarize engagement and clarify future opportunities related to transmitter-led planning, routing and siting, environmental assessment, Indigenous consultation, property engagement, and implementation of non-wires solutions. The IESO will seek to preserve continuity by documenting relevant feedback and making it available to responsible teams. Project-specific routing, siting, property, and approval decisions are not made through the IRRP engagement process.
Minogi Corp. welcomed continued engagement and information sharing as recommendations are refined, emphasizing that First Nation and community engagement should occur early enough to influence decisions and recommended transparent communication on how feedback has informed recommendations, ongoing updates as assumptions evolve, and continued opportunities for participation as projects advance through subsequent planning, routing, siting, environmental assessment, and implementation stages.	The IESO recognizes that Indigenous engagement is critical to the success of electricity infrastructure projects in Ontario. The IESO values Indigenous input and recognizes the importance of ongoing, meaningful engagement. The IESO undertakes engagement activities to share information and gather input as part of its planning role. Input into the GTA West regional plan can be provided to the IESO by continuing to provide written feedback in response to engagement sessions or posted documents, or by requesting a dedicated one-on-one meeting with the Indigenous Engagement Team.

	Feedback received through these processes is considered, where relevant, in planning activities.
TBEA Power Transformers Group highlighted the need for early engagement with reputable local and global equipment suppliers, proactive planning for long-lead equipment such as power transformers, and regular in-person collaboration between engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) organizations and power technology providers.	Thank you for this feedback. The IESO recognizes that equipment supply, transformer lead times, labour availability, permitting, and construction requirements can affect project schedules and delivery certainty. Implementation considerations are part of evaluating and staging infrastructure. The IESO considers lead times and implementation risks when determining when planning or project-development activities should begin. Once a transmission recommendation moves into project development, the transmitter is responsible for detailed engineering, procurement strategy, supplier engagement, equipment specifications, construction planning, scheduling, and delivery. Early project development can help identify equipment availability and other delivery risks. The IESO will share this feedback with relevant planning and transmitter teams. Supplier qualification, commitments, and procurement decisions are managed by the responsible transmitter or utility through established procurement processes.