Greater Ottawa Scoping Assessment Webinar

Feedback

The IESO hosted a public webinar for regional planning in Greater Ontario on February 14, 2023. The purpose of the webinar was to seek input on the draft Scoping Assessment Outcome report and the most appropriate planning approach going forward to meet the needs. The presentation material and recorded webinar are available on the engagement webpage.

This document summarizes feedback received under the following key themes:

- Study Considerations
- Data Sources
- Engagement Design

The IESO appreciates the input, which will be considered as the Greater Ottawa Region Scoping Assessment Outcome report is finalized. Feedback was received from the following parties and the full submissions can be viewed on the engagement webpage:

Feedback Received

- **City of Ottawa**
- **Gillian Cooper**
- **University of Ottawa**

Theme 1- Study Considerations

Feedback Provider: City of Ottawa, University of Ottawa

Feedback: IESO should incorporate a review of opportunities and cost benefits for distributed energy resources such as virtual net metering and micro grids, alternative energy sources such as storage, as well as reducing demand (i.e., energy efficiency) to address electricity needs in Ottawa.

The University of Ottawa noted that, for example, other micro grids could diminish the likelihood of having power outages, especially as the number of climate change induced weather-related outages increases.

IESO Response: Thank you for the input. Through the regional planning process, the technical working group consisting of the IESO, transmitter, and local distributors identify various alternatives to address the transmission system issues forecasted to arise over the next 20 years. These alternative solutions include transmission, generation, storage, demand response, energy efficiency and distributed energy resources. As part of the process to select a recommended solution, the alternatives are compared against each other, taking into consideration factors such as cost effectiveness, robustness of the solution, and other qualitative benefits. A challenge when evaluating options is quantifying benefits beyond generating and transmitting the electricity such as broader societal benefits around decarbonization, and customer's choice around their supply of energy and a higher degree of reliability.

The Ontario Energy Board carried out a consultation on its Framework for Energy Innovation (FEI) which aimed to facilitate the deployment and adoption of innovative and cost-effective solutions, including distributed resources, in ways that enhance value for energy consumers. It also aimed to increase regulatory clarity in the treatment of innovative technologies and approaches. The Ontario Energy Board issued their Report in January 2023, setting out the OEB's policies and next steps with respect to the integration of DERs into distribution system planning and operations. As part of the Regional Planning process the IESO will continue to work with the technical working group to explore opportunities for distributed energy resources to meet forecasted electricity needs and to consider policies and next steps outlined in the OEB's Report.

Theme 2- Data Sources

Feedback Provider: City of Ottawa

Feedback: The City of Ottawa expects large customers' electrification plans, which has a big impact on electricity demand, will be driven by corporate ESG goals and commitments to implementing and financing these goals. The IESO should collect information (e.g., through surveys) from these customers and the City of Ottawa would welcome being involved in such an endeavour.

IESO Response: Thank you for this insight. As part of regional and bulk planning processes, the IESO collects data from local distribution companies, municipalities, Indigenous communities, businesses, and other interested parties to help inform the development of the IESO models. We will continue to collect this information as part of the upcoming processes.

Feedback Provider: City of Ottawa

Feedback: During the regional planning work the IESO should review technology adoption, such as through learning curves, for emerging solutions such as heat pumps and electric vehicles to help forecast how market penetration might evolve thus impacting future electricity demand.

IESO Response:

Thank you for the feedback. Regional planning demand forecasts are developed by the local distributors in each region. The IESO and the rest of the technical working group works collaboratively with the local distributors to support the development of these forecasts by sharing information such as historical electricity demand trends, and future outlooks for distributed generation, energy efficiency, and electrification.

Further, the Greater Ottawa Scoping Assessment is recommending the City of Ottawa, Hydro Ottawa, Hydro One distribution, and the IESO to participate in focused discussions on the impacts of the City's Energy Evolution and GHG emission reduction targets on the demand forecast. The feedback around technology adoption for emerging solutions can be incorporated into these focused discussions and brought forward during the IRRP engagement process where stakeholders and communities have the opportunity to offer feedback on the demand forecast scenarios.

Theme 3- Engagement Design

Feedback Provider: Gillian Cooper

Feedback: When asking local community members for feedback, the IESO should provide more detailed information to prepare individuals for providing responses, as well as provide more specific questions tailored to the presentation topics.

IESO Response: Thank you for the feedback. The IESO is committed to helping to ensure that interested parties are kept informed and are provided with opportunities for purposeful engagement to contribute to electricity planning initiatives such as this one. We are continuously striving to enhance our engagement practices to increase opportunities for input. We will endeavour to incorporate this input into future engagements.

The IESO regularly communicate with communities and stakeholders and interested parties through emails, IESO weekly Bulletin, public webinars, and targeted outreach meetings to help these groups stay up-to-date on the IESO's work and opportunities for engagement participation. We encourage you to visit the IESO website to subscribe to receive these updates.

Feedback Provider: City of Ottawa, University of Ottawa
Feedback: The IESO should incorporate local community needs, insights and preferences during this round of regional planning. Local community members in Ottawa have a strong knowledge base and have provided valuable insights to the City of Ottawa in the past.

IESO Response: As noted above, the IESO values the input from communities and other interested parties to support purposeful engagement activities. Throughout the IRRP process, we will invite

interested parties to a series of webinars and targeted outreach activities to seek input on the regional demand forecast, electricity needs, options analysis, and recommendations including the evaluation of technically feasible and cost-effective solutions. Through these engagement and outreach activities, communities will have the opportunity to provide feedback and discuss the potential solutions identified.