IESO Response to Feedback

Regional Electricity Planning in the London Area – Forecasting October 2, 2026

The IESO hosted a public webinar on October 2, 2026, for the London Area as part of its engagement to inform the development of a long-term electricity plan - Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP). During the webinar, the IESO shared the region's electricity needs and initial screening of potential options for input. The presentation materials and recorded webinar are available on the engagement webpage.

The IESO appreciates the input, 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:

- City of London
- City of St. Thomas & St. Thomas Economic Development Corporation
- Township of Southwold

The section below summarizes feedback received related to recommended solutions to address local needs, as well as local issues and concerns that should be considered in the electricity planning for the London Area electrical region.

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[1] The Technical Working Group is lead by the IESO and consists of the LDCs in the region and the local transmitter (Entegrus Powerlines Inc., ERTH Power Inc., London Hydro Inc., Tillsonburg Hydro Inc., Hydro One Networks Inc.)

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The City of London and City of St. Thomas provided feedback regarding the demand forecast: • Noted demand from electrification of transportation and space heating to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 should be taken into account. • Requested confirmation that LDCs' growth forecast align with local planned and anticipated development in St. Thomas. • Noted that St. Thomas and Central Elgin are experiencing significant housing expansion already approved or underway.	The Technical Working Group (TWG) recognizes that electrification of transportation, buildings, and industry may influence future electricity demand in the London Area. These factors have been considered in the development of the regional demand forecast and will continue to be monitored as planning progresses. The TWG has included residential growth assumptions in its demand forecast which are consistent with the 2024 Growth Analysis study referenced by the City of St Thomas.
The City of London and the Township of Southwold provided feedback about potential energy solutions: • Emphasized the importance of electricity planning that supports climate objectives, electrification, and resilience. • Expressed support for non-emitting distributed energy resources, demand-side management, and energy efficiency, and encouraged consideration of climate and resilience benefits when. evaluating future electricity infrastructure. • Supported grid reinforcement that enables the integration of energy storage and electricity generation resources, noting that these resources can	The TWG recognizes the important relationship between electricity planning, electrification, community resilience, and broader climate objectives. The TWG appreciates the City of London's continued participation throughout the London Area IRRP process and its perspective on the role that electricity infrastructure can play in supporting long-term community and economic objectives. The feedback received regarding climate objectives, resilience, and non-emitting energy resources will help inform the ongoing evaluation of alternatives and the development of recommendations within the London Area IRRP. As part of the London Area IRRP, the TWG is continuing to assess a range of potential wire and non-wire solutions to address identified electricity needs across the region. This includes consideration of distributed energy resources (DERs), electricity demand-side management (eDSM), energy storage, and other alternatives where they are technically feasible and capable of addressing identified system needs. Screened-in options will continue to be

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contribute to a more resilient electricity system. • Noted that future communications and engagements should speak to how recommendations help support London's climate goals.	evaluated based on factors including reliability, technical feasibility, timing, cost-effectiveness, and community considerations. For details regarding the analysis of non-wire alternatives during IRRPs, the IESO has developed a guide to the current general approach for evaluating non-wires alternatives. The IESO welcomes additional information on renewable energy sources and encourages interested parties to learn about opportunities available under the Local Generation Program and through Save on Energy.
The City of St. Thomas, the St. Thomas Economic Development Corporation, and the Township of Southwold provided feedback highlighting significant regional growth and emphasized the importance of timely electricity infrastructure: • Expressed concern about the lack of capacity at Edgeware Transformer Station (TS) resulting in missed opportunities. • Noted strong support for new supply resources including local solar, wind, gas, and battery storage, which are supported by City Council. • A proactive approach to transmission development is needed, with planning, environmental assessments, and design completed ahead of demand growth so infrastructure can be deployed quickly when required.	The TWG appreciates the detailed information provided by the City of St. Thomas and the St. Thomas Economic Development Corporation (EDC) regarding current and anticipated industrial, commercial, and residential development activity within the region. Information provided through engagement activities is an important input to the regional planning process and helps inform demand forecasting assumptions, needs assessments, and the evaluation of potential solutions. The TWG recognizes the significant growth occurring in the St. Thomas area and has explicitly accounted for direct and indirect demand growth resulting from the Yarmouth Yards development. The TWG appreciates the additional information provided regarding development activity, employment lands, housing growth, customer connection interest, and economic development initiatives. This information contributes to the TWG's understanding of regional growth trends and helps inform the assessment of future electricity infrastructure requirements. The TWG has identified that latest growth trends in St. Thomas are exceeding historical trends and is leveraging both the reference and high growth scenario forecasts when making recommendations. The TWG also confirms that the approx. 9 MW connection referenced by the EDC is reflected in the demand forecast.

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	As presented during the Needs and Options Screening milestone, the London Area is expected to experience substantial growth over the planning horizon, resulting in several electricity needs across the region. The TWG is currently evaluating potential solutions to address these needs, including transmission and transformation infrastructure as well as non-wire alternatives where appropriate. This evaluation considers reliability requirements, timing, technical feasibility, cost-effectiveness, community considerations, and coordination with broader bulk system planning initiatives. The TWG appreciates feedback regarding the importance of infrastructure timing and the potential implications that delayed infrastructure may have on economic development opportunities. The IESO serves as Ontario's electricity system planner, assessing future electricity needs and developing adaptive plans that support reliability and growth. In this cycle of regional planning, three forecast scenarios were developed for the London Area region, using a range of growth and demand forecast assumptions. Instead of relying on a single static forecast, the IESO evaluates a reference case alongside high and low demand scenarios to bracket potential outcomes. This adaptive planning approach enables the IESO to identify infrastructure needs and establish plans that can respond to different growth futures, helping to mitigate the risk of overbuilding or underbuilding the system. The London IRRP will evaluate transmission, generation, storage, conservation, and other solutions, to identify the optimal set of infrastructure recommendations needed to address identified system needs. The IESO's role is planning and recommending solutions; project development, siting, routing, permitting, construction, and ownership are undertaken later by the selected transmitter and other approval authorities.

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	Regional plans are typically updated and evaluated every five years but can be initiated sooner if regional conditions change significantly. To support this adaptive approach, the TWG meets annually between planning cycles to share information on growth, development, and emerging trends, helping determine whether existing plans remain appropriate or if additional planning work should be triggered. Municipalities and other stakeholders are encouraged to continue sharing growth and energy-related information through their local distribution company. Additionally, the IESO's new Major Projects Identification Committee (MPIC) process introduces a structured, voluntary approach that enables project developers, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders to share information on proposed projects and site-based development opportunities at an early stage. This information will help the IESO better understand where and when electricity demand may emerge, improving coordination across government, utilities, and planning partners. MPICs complement the IESO's regular electricity planning activities as an early mechanism to share growth information.
The City of St. Thomas provided feedback about potential wires options and upcoming recommendations: • Noted strong Council support for a new 230 kV and 500 kV transmission line and new 500 kV TS, and that local municipal permitting and approvals would be expedited to support development. • Consideration to utilize the capacity being built on the St. Thomas Line from the Centennial TS, unlocking	The TWG recognizes the importance of timely electricity infrastructure to support growth and economic development in the region and thanks all those who have participated in the transmission development process, including the City of St. Thomas. As part of the regional planning process, the TWG evaluates a range of alternatives to address identified electricity needs, considering reliability, technical feasibility, timing, cost-effectiveness, community considerations, and coordination with broader provincial planning initiatives. Consistent with the regional planning process, recommendations are developed based on identified system needs and the evaluation of both wire and non-wire alternatives.

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capacity by transitioning to a network asset.	The London Area IRRP has identified a station capacity need at Edgeware TS beginning in 2027 and has screened-in wires options to address this need. The IRRP has also identified a supply capacity need on the 230 kV facilities serving the St. Thomas area, including the W44LC and W45LS circuits between Buchanan TS and Centennial JCT, beginning in 2027. The TWG agrees that rapid interim recommendations are needed to address needs arising in 2027 before wires options have been implemented. In addition, the IRRP has identified a need for additional bulk system reinforcement over the medium-to-long term and is assessing a potential new 500 kV autotransformer station ("St. Thomas TS") alongside 230 kV reinforcement alternatives. As part of the London Area IRRP, the TWG will continue to assess alternatives to address these needs, considering the broader regional load outlook, forecast sensitivities, implementation timelines, and coordination with provincial planning initiatives. Recommendations to address identified needs will be developed through the regional planning process and shared during the next public engagement milestone. The IRRP will develop and recommend solutions to address identified needs, which will be shared during the next public webinar in Q1 2027.
The Township of Southwold provided feedback regarding engagement tools and information sharing: • Suggested use of digital mapping tools to better visualize future electricity needs. • Requested information that could help proponents understand where generation and storage projects may be more readily integrated into the electricity system.	The TWG appreciates the feedback regarding opportunities to enhance stakeholder engagement and improve access to planning information. The TWG will consider opportunities to improve the presentation of regional planning information in future engagement activities. The IESO also encourages proponents interested in generation or storage opportunities to participate in future procurement engagement activities and connection assessment processes, which help identify system capabilities, constraints, and infrastructure requirements. To support growth and enable more informed planning, the Ontario Energy Board has launched the **Centralized Capacity Information Map**, a tool

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	that provides transparent and accessible information on available electrical grid capacity for both load and DER connections across the province. The map is populated with data provided by electricity distributors and is updated at least quarterly, helping municipalities, developers, businesses, and utilities make more informed decisions by providing timely visibility into available system capacity. In addition, the IESO provides a suite of publicly accessible system mapping tools, including the Ontario System Maps, which provide information on the province's transmission and generation network, as well as regional planning and electricity system infrastructure. These resources help municipalities, developers, businesses, utilities, and Indigenous communities better understand existing system conditions, identify potential connection opportunities, and inform future development and investment decisions.