

Peterborough to Kingston Regional Electricity Planning Public webinar #3 – September 28, 2021

The IESO hosted a public webinar for the Peterborough to Kingston long-term electricity plan – Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) – on September 28, 2021 to seek input on recommendations to meet regional needs in the final IRRP. The presentation material, recorded webinar and final IRRP are available on the [engagement webpage](#).

Feedback was received from the following parties and the full submission can be viewed on the engagement webpage:

- [City of Kingston](#)

The section below summarizes the themes that emerged from the feedback submitted and IESO responses. The IESO appreciates the feedback received, which has been considered by the Peterborough to Kingston IRRP Technical Working Group¹ as potential options to meet the region's future electricity needs continue to be evaluated.

Theme 1: The important role of municipalities in infrastructure planning

Feedback: It is important that the long-term plan and ongoing stakeholder engagement activities within the Peterborough to Kingston planning region recognize the unique role that municipalities play with policies that affect land use planning and economic development. An example being that the City of Kingston will begin updating its Official Plan in 2022, which may consider an expanded urban boundary; adding to further electricity constraints in the coming years. The City also has pending incentive programs in development that can contribute to the successful uptake of conservation and demand management (CDM) and non-wires alternatives (NWA) in the residential and commercial sectors within the City. There are concerns of timing challenges associated with siting new transmission stations and local generation systems, as well as scaling-up effective and well-resourced CDM programs when capacity constraints are already present today in terms of accommodating ongoing development interests in the area. Decarbonization targets are also having a growing demand on power. There are also low-cost financing and grant options available to municipalities for innovative and sustainable development opportunities.

¹ The Peterborough to Kingston IRRP Technical Working Group consists of the IESO, Eastern Ontario Power, Elexicon Energy, Kingston Hydro, Lakefront Utilities, Peterborough Utilities, Hydro One Networks, and the IESO

IESO response:

Throughout the IRRP process, municipalities and LDCs are engaged to provide insight on priorities that drive future electricity needs, including economic development. This insight is leveraged to develop the load forecast and solutions. Consistent with this approach, the IESO also relies on municipalities and LDCs to provide insight into municipal and regional official plans such as community energy and climate action plans as an important source of input data to their demand forecast. Other common considerations included known connection applications and typical electrical demand for similar customer types.

The IESO appreciates all the important considerations related to conservation and demand management (CDM) and non-wires alternatives that the City of Kingston has identified. The IESO notes these inputs have helped to shape the timeline and scope of the recommended options in the IRRP. On this basis, we recognize the importance to continue to engage and work with the City between planning cycles to support the implementation of the recommendations within the plan. To that end, one of plan's recommendations states that all parties continue to work together beyond this planning process in order to begin implementing the outlined solutions.

The IESO and Working Group is open to further discussing the best way to help facilitate these ongoing discussions to learn and understand the City's pending CDM and other relevant programs that can help meet power system needs cost-effectively. The IESO's East Ontario Regional Electricity Network is also a way to keep engaged in an ongoing, broader dialogue in the region.

Theme 2: Increased exploration on local generation and conservation and demand management

Feedback: The City agrees with the assessment that upgrades are required immediately on Gardiner TS. However, a more expedient prioritization of options such as local generation and CDM is necessary, and the City should be an active participant in the assessment of opportunities. The City strongly recommends that planning discussions for local generation and storage, along with other distributed energy resource opportunities start in 2022 so that the solution(s) can be implemented if, and when, required in the near term while the planning of a new TS is further considered.

IESO response: The IRRP recommends that the IESO, with the Technical Working Group, will review CDM achievement, the uptake of provincial distribution generation (DG) projects, and actual demand growth in the Peterborough to Kingston Region on an on-going basis. Furthermore, this information will be used to determine when decisions on the long-term plan are required, and to inform the next cycle of regional planning for the area. Information on CDM and DG is also a useful input into the ongoing development of non-wires alternatives as potential solutions to defer needs or manage growth in the area.

The IESO and Utilities Kingston is open to an ongoing dialogue with the City of Kingston in between planning cycles, as well as leveraging the IESO's East Ontario Electricity Network as a mechanism for continued discussions.

Theme 3: More frequent engagement in between planning cycles to assess potential electricity infrastructure solutions

Feedback: There is a need for key stakeholders with economic development interest and related policy levers to be more frequently engaged in assessing potential electricity infrastructure solutions in between formal planning cycles.

IESO response: The IESO recognizes the need to reconvene and collaborate with key stakeholders between planning cycles as there are a number of matters and initiatives that have the potential to change and evolve. The recommendations in the IRRP report support the continued collaboration of members of the Technical Working Group.