IESO Response to Feedback

Regional Electricity Planning in South Georgian Bay/Muskoka – Scoping Assessment Webinar November 4, 2025

The IESO launched a new engagement initiative to seek early feedback on the electricity planning activities underway in the South Georgian Bay/Muskoka region. As part of this engagement, a public webinar was held on November 4, 2025 to provide an overview of the electricity planning process, the electricity needs that have been identified for the South Georgian Bay/Muskoka region so far, and to seek input on the draft Scoping Assessment Outcome Report to determine the most appropriate planning approach going forward to meet the region's needs. The presentation material and recorded webinar are available on the engagement webpage.

The IESO appreciates the input, which will be considered by the Technical Working Group[1] in the development of a long-term electricity plan – an Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) - and ongoing engagement activities.

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

- Armour Township
- District Municipality of Muskoka
- InnPower Corporation
- Lake Simcoe Regional Airport (LSRA) / County of Simcoe
- Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
- Town of Oro-Medonte

[1] The Technical Working Group is lead by the IESO and consists of the LDCs in the region and the local transmitter (Alectra Utilities, Elexicon Energy, Lakeland Power, EPCOR Electricity Distribution Ontario Inc., Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd., InnPower, Hydro One Networks).

- Solr Solvr
- Town of Collingwood

The section below summarizes feedback received related to key developments, projects, and initiatives, as well as local issues and concerns that participants recommended be taken into account in electricity planning for the South Georgian Bay/Muskoka electrical region.

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Additional inputs that should be considered in the development of the plan: • Town of Oro-Medonte strongly recommended to ensure economic development is accounted for, including growth along Highway 11, airport, industrial parks etc. • The Town of Collingwood recommended ensuring that municipal plans, population, electrification of natural gas and GHG reductions are included. • County of Simcoe recommended to ensure that the full Lake Simcoe Regional Airport development plan, and other key commercial and development plans in the area, such as Oro Station Motor Circuit, Burls Creek Event Grounds, Hollick Rd / Line 4 south employment lands, Oro Design etc., are included. • District Municipality of Muskoka suggests incorporating local municipal growth projections and updated population and housing forecasts from the District's Growth Strategy and Official Plan Review. It also suggests alignment with community energy and emissions planning objectives and account for recent trends in building electrification. • The District of Muskoka noted rapid housing and tourism growth	Thank you for your feedback and for providing examples of inputs for consideration. The IESO welcomes feedback from municipalities, Indigenous communities and other interested stakeholders on projects and initiatives that have the potential to influence electricity demand. The Scoping Assessment report aims to determine whether further study of a particular region is required or not based on the findings in the Hydro One Needs Assessment. Subsequent technical studies undertaken for the Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) are typically much more granular than at the scoping level, including forecasting needs and providing recommendations down to the specific Transformer Station level. At this stage of regional electricity planning, the Technical Working Group is recommending that an Integrated Regional Electricity Plan (IRRP) be developed to better understand electricity needs in the region, and address those needs through an integrated planning approach. The first step in the IRRP process is to develop draft electricity demand forecast scenarios that capture growth in this region. Given the number of individual municipalities in the region, and the number of participating LDCs, it is essential that community-level forecasts, policies and plans are integrated early into the LDC demand forecasts. The Technical Working group will develop forecast scenarios based on known demand drivers including economic development plans and projects, housing and population plans and development, municipal energy plans, and electrification and decarbonization targets. As a next step, we encourage you to contact your local distribution

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alongside decarbonization efforts, which will increase demand through electrification of fleets, heating, and wastewater facilities. They also highlighted interest in DERs such as solar, battery storage, and community energy hubs, as non-wires alternatives. It suggests future engagement should include Muskoka-specific data given its unique geography and seasonal demand variability. • The District of Muskoka emphasized the need to integrate municipal energy and climate plans with IESO planning timelines and address grid capacity constraints that could affect housing development and municipal facility upgrades. They also highlighted opportunities to pilot non-wires solutions in areas with seasonal demand variability and stressed the importance of resiliency planning for critical infrastructure, such as water and wastewater systems and emergency facilities, given increasing climate-related risks. • Solr Solvr suggested that the Scoping Assessment include more granular analysis of South Georgian Bay/Muskoka sub-regions to identify areas with the greatest demand and supply needs, and those most feasible for energy generation, particularly where large electrical sources exist.	companies (LDCs) to provide community growth plans and information to ensure their local forecasts capture projected growth in your municipalities. For assistance connecting with your LDC, please contact us at communityengagement@ieso.ca, and the IESO can help facilitate the connection. Once the forecasts are finalized, technical studies will be undertaken to identify infrastructure needs, including the system's ability to respond to disturbances which may be caused by extreme weather events. It is important to highlight that the scope of the IRRP includes the transmission supply to the step-down stations that deliver power to the local distribution systems. The IRRP scope does not replace the distribution system planning that is the responsibility of LDCs, and therefore, to the extent that reliability issues are deeply embedded in the distribution system (low voltage infrastructure directly connecting to homes and businesses), the IRRP can serve as a mechanism for sharing specific issues or concerns with LDCs to inform their planning and investment strategies at the distribution level. After infrastructure needs have been identified, the Technical Working Group will assess wire options and non-wire alternatives to address these needs, including Distributed Energy Resources (DERs). Thank you for your feedback on development timelines and possible implications with capacity constraints and agree that major infrastructure expansions take time to properly assess, plan, approve, and construct. We encourage you to provide as much detail as possible to your LDCs with your growth plans and timelines to ensure that growth is accounted for in their local demand forecasts. Thank you for your feedback on piloting non-wire opportunities in areas with seasonal demand variability. Through the new 2025–2036 electricity Demand Side Management (eDSM) Framework, the IESO is expanding

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	programs to support residential, commercial, and municipal sectors. You can visit the Save on Energy website to learn more about the program offerings. We also encourage you to sign up for the quarterly newsletter for information on upcoming programs and updated incentives.
Specific considerations that should be examined through regional planning: • MSIFN is investing in battery storage, renewable natural gas, and renewable energy generation, and recommended that the South Georgian Bay/Muskoka IRRP prioritize decarbonization pathways.	Thank you for your feedback. The IESO understands the importance of decarbonizing our electricity system and appreciates MSIFN expressing their interest in decarbonized solutions. The Technical Working Group will assess the needs in the South Georgian Bay/Muskoka region to understand opportunities for clean electricity solutions where, and if applicable.
Additional considerations provided for battery energy storage systems, specifically: • Armour Township recommended considering the full impact of battery energy storage systems (BESS), such as lifecycle impacts, integration challenges, etc. • Armour Township also recommended that proposed BESS developments are in areas served by full-time fire services and connected to municipal water systems rather than relying on tanker shuttles.	Thank you for your feedback on battery energy storage systems (BESS). Once electricity needs are identified in the region, we evaluate wire and non-wire alternatives, including BESS technologies, to identify the most cost-effective option to meet the needs. Community perspectives are a key consideration before recommendations are made through the regional electricity planning process. Provincially, the IESO currently has an active procurement process to secure new supply which includes BESS technologies. The Municipal Support Confirmation (MSC) is a mandatory requirement of the proposal submission for projects on Municipal Project Lands. The MSC confirms that the developer has completed or committed to completing engagement to the municipality's satisfaction. Without an MSC, the proposed project will not be successful under the procurement. The IESO encourages municipalities to set their own expectations and standards with the proponent.
The Town of Collingwood identified challenges with connecting large customers	Thank you for your feedback regarding connecting large customers. We encourage you to work closely with your

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due to timing and cost uncertainty in connections.	LDCs to communicate connection requests and to ensure large connection requests are included in your local forecasts. Ongoing collaboration with municipal representatives and the Technical Working Group will ensure that local growth needs and infrastructure requirements are reflected in future planning activities.
Town of Collingwood wanted to better understand how the needs in the scoping report were identified.	Thank you for your question. Hydro One identified the needs based on preliminary information in their Needs Assessment. The purpose of the IESO-led Scoping Assessment, which was just completed, is to determine the need for an IRRP, for a more comprehensive identification of needs and solutions. The Scoping Assessment recommended that an IRRP be developed for the South Georgian Bay/Muskoka region. The next steps will be to develop a demand forecast and identify the electricity needs. Engagement is a key aspect of the regional electricity planning process, and we will inform all interested parties of the next engagement to ensure your feedback is considered. For more information on how the needs were identified please visit Hydro One's Needs Assessment Report.
Additional considerations on improving consultation and engagement: • MSIFN requested a government-to-government consultation framework, early engagement in planning, and integration of Michi Saagiig knowledge keepers in route selection, impact assessments, and monitoring. They emphasized accountability, intergenerational stewardship, and a holistic approach to energy projects, along with early review of the draft IRRP and a bilateral meeting with IESO to discuss these priorities. • The District of Muskoka expressed appreciation for the IESO's proactive engagement and emphasized the	Thank you for your feedback. The scope of an IRRP is to identify potential investments in transmission and/or distribution infrastructure required to meet the electricity needs of a region over the next 20 years. The Duty to Consult is delegated to the proponent after a proponent is selected by the Ministry of Energy and Mines. Following the delegation letter, consultation will begin with the potentially impacted First Nations. The proponent is also responsible for conducting an Environmental Assessment as part of the project development process. If the project meets criteria under the Impact Assessment Act, a federal impact assessment may be triggered. The IESO remains committed to ongoing, meaningful dialogue with communities to help shape long-term

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importance of continued collaboration with municipalities and utilities to align local growth and sustainability goals. They recommended future sessions or breakout discussions tailored to Muskoka's distinct energy needs and growth pressures, as broader regional discussions may not fully capture these. The District also encouraged ongoing dialogue with municipal energy staff and early integration of climate and energy transition considerations into the planning process. • Town of Armour recommended ensuring transparent communication with municipalities about safety, environmental, and infrastructure impacts, especially technologies like BESS to ensure planning aligns provincial objectives with municipal capacity.	planning in regions across Ontario, as your input is appreciated in helping shape an inclusive and collaborative planning process. The IESO recognizes the importance of early engagement and values the insights and perspectives offered by Indigenous communities and is committed to ongoing engagement that may include meeting one-on-one to address any inquiries that the communities may have. The IESO also acknowledges that regions and municipalities have distinct energy needs and drivers. The IESO is committed to a collaborative and inclusive engagement process. We understand needs can be unique to specific areas within the region. To accommodate targeted discussions, the IESO hosts several targeted municipal engagements throughout the regional planning process. Before each of the key planning milestones, the IESO will meet with municipalities to present key updates and solicit feedback that will influence the final IRRP recommendations. These engagements provide an opportunity to discuss electricity concerns and preferences in your community. Thank you for your feedback on transparent communication with municipalities. The IESO offers several resources in the LT2-RFP Municipal Guide to help communities stay informed about safety, environmental and infrastructure requirements associated with procurement projects, such as BESS technologies. We encourage you to review the document for more information. Should you have questions about the LT2 RFP process, you can reach out to communityengagement@ieso.ca.
MSIFN recommend extending equity and revenue-sharing opportunities to station capacity upgrades (e.g., Everett TS, Alliston TS, Mindhurst TS, Wallace TS), transmission line upgrades (e.g., M6E/M7E), DER and battery storage procurements, and energy	The IESO believes that Indigenous engagement and economic participation is critical to the success of electricity infrastructure projects in Ontario. The IESO offers funding support through the

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efficiency programs targeting First Nation-owned enterprises.	Indigenous Energy Support Program (IESP). The IESP promotes broad equitable participation in Ontario's energy sector for Indigenous communities and organizations by supporting community capacity building, including energy planning and energy infrastructure development, as well as the building of energy knowledge and awareness, and skills related to energy projects. The IESO Indigenous Engagement Team encourages Indigenous communities to reach out with any questions that they may have with regards to the IESP at iesp@ieso.ca.
Solr Solvr inquired about an area of land identified in the LT2 RFP process that was not feasible.	Thank you for your feedback. The LT2 RFP process is out of scope for the South Georgian Bay/Muskoka regional electricity plan. Proponents can access information regarding LT2 RFP connectivity guidance in the Preliminary Connection Guidance documents for both Energy and Capacity projects. These documents include maps and tables that highlight transmission constraints and available capacity across Ontario and provide valuable insight into which areas may be more suitable for development.
MSIFN noted that the Draft Terms of Reference mentions input from local communities and Indigenous groups but lacks specifics. They recommended detailed planning with IESO representatives to structure and operationalize enhanced consultation processes.	Thank you for your feedback. The IESO remains committed to ongoing, meaningful dialogue with communities to help shape long-term planning in regions across Ontario, as your input is appreciated in helping shape an inclusive and collaborative planning process.
MSIFN emphasized their right to share in economic benefits from energy infrastructure development on traditional lands and waters. They called for meaningful participation in decision-making, economic opportunities, and authentic Indigenous partnerships in the South	Thank you for sharing. The IESO does not own or build infrastructure projects. Our role in regional planning is to conduct technical studies to understand how electricity demand is materializing in a region and to make recommendations to address identified needs. The transmitter is responsible for preparing the Regional Infrastructure Plan and implementing these

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Georgian Bay/Muskoka IRRP, aligning with IESO's and Ontario's reconciliation goals. MSIFN highlighted Hydro One's equity partnership model, offering First Nations 50% ownership in large-scale transmission projects, to new transmission builds, refurbishments, intertie reinforcements, and station upgrades. They suggest exploring majority First Nation ownership with MSIFN and other Michi Saagiig Nations as priority partners and leveraging federal funding programs to maximize benefits for ratepayers.	recommendations, including leading the environmental assessment and route selection processes. The IESO believes that Indigenous engagement and economic participation is critical to the success of electricity infrastructure projects in Ontario. The IESO offers funding support through the Indigenous Energy Support Program (IESP). The IESP promotes broad equitable participation in Ontario's energy sector for Indigenous communities and organizations by supporting community capacity building, including energy planning and energy infrastructure development, as well as the building of energy knowledge and awareness, and skills related to energy projects. The IESO Indigenous Engagement Team encourages Indigenous communities to reach out with any questions that they may have with regards to the IESP at iesp@ieso.ca.