

IESO Response to Feedback

South Georgian Bay/Muskoka Regional Electricity Planning Forecast Webinar - July 27, 2026

The IESO hosted a public webinar on July 27, 2026, for the South Georgian Bay/Muskoka region 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 provided an overview of the regional electricity planning process and shared the draft electricity demand forecast 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 Group¹ to develop the IRRP. Feedback was received from the following parties and the full submission can be viewed on the [engagement webpage](#):

- [City of Barrie](#)
- [Energy Corridor First Nation](#)
- [Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation](#)
- [Moose Deer Point First Nation](#)
- [Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury](#)
- [Town of Huntsville](#)
- [Town of New Tecumseth](#)
- [Township of Oro-Medonte](#)

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

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

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Scenarios should include both Historical Reliability Information and Planned Growth Summary: Moose Deer Point First Nation (MDPFN) expressed the need that demand growth should not be considered separately from the condition and reliability of the existing electricity system. Reliability information that should be included are: • The number, duration, cause, and seasonal timing of outages affecting MDPFN. • Total annual outage hours, average restoration times, and the longest restoration events. • The frequency of momentary and sustained interruptions. • The age, condition, capacity and configuration of the feeder, transformer, and other infrastructure serving the community. • The level of redundancy or alternate supply available to the community. • The effects of severe weather, vegetation, climate change, and remote access on outage frequency and restoration. • The scenarios should also include the anticipated timing and phased build-out of planned developments.	The IESO values feedback in reference to the reliability of supply, as expressed by the Moose Deer Point First Nation. In the framework of this regional plan, the aspects of reliability and restoration of service at the transmission level, are part of the scope of work; for this purpose, there are specific performance levels defined through reliability standards, such as in the Ontario Resource and Transmission Assessment Criteria, which the Technical Working Group (TWG) uses as a reference. The transmission system in the South Georgian Bay and Muskoka Region includes the high voltage circuits (115 kV and 230 kV) that supply electricity to the transformer stations in the region. The transformer stations in the proximity of the MDPFN are Waubaushene TS and Parry Sound TS. The reliable supply of electricity to these stations, as well as their adequate capacity to supply future growth and prompt restoration in case of outage contingencies, are part of the focus of this IRRP. Although the distribution of electricity from the transformer stations to the end-users belongs to the planning area of local distribution companies (LDCs) and falls outside the scope of work of this IRRP, the IESO will communicate these concerns to the (LDC), and will provide MDPFN with the pertinent contacts to address reliability and restoration issues at the feeder and customer level.
Recognition of current and future growth commitments in the forecast:	Thank you for your feedback and for sharing information on current and planned growth initiatives within your municipalities. The IESO recognizes the importance of

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• The town of Bradford West Gwillimbury emphasizes that forecast scenarios should be aligned with the maturity and certainty of known growth commitments. Verified industrial and employment-related demand that has progressed through formal planning, servicing, and development processes should be reflected in the Reference scenario rather than being deferred to a higher-growth sensitivity case. The distinction between Reference and High scenarios should be based on incremental growth assumptions beyond currently demonstrated commitments. BWG requests confirmation that these inputs have been reflected in the reference forecast. • Simcoe County emphasizes that long-term electricity forecasting should extend beyond active development applications and incorporate the full range of planned growth identified through municipal and regional land use planning. This includes considering population and employment growth projections, the development potential of designated lands, and major strategic, institutional, transportation, infrastructure, industrial, and government-led projects that may significantly influence future electricity demand. The feedback encourages a more forward-looking forecasting approach to	ensuring that electricity demand forecasts reflect both confirmed development commitments and anticipated long-term growth identified through municipal, regional, and provincial planning initiatives. The regional planning process assesses electricity needs over a 20-year planning horizon, using the best information available to the TWG. The plan is typically updated every five years to ensure forecasts and infrastructure plans remain current. Between planning cycles, the TWG, consisting of the IESO, transmitters, and LDCs, meets annually to monitor growth, emerging development activity, electrification trends, and changing system needs. This ongoing monitoring allows the TWG to identify significant shifts in growth assumptions and, where warranted, initiate a regional planning review ahead of the typical five-year cycle. The IESO acknowledges feedback regarding the importance of capturing both current development commitments and future growth opportunities. Through the forecasting process, the TWG works closely with LDCs to incorporate verified load commitments, including developments that have advanced through municipal planning, servicing, and development approval processes, into the Reference forecast. In addition to firm load commitments, the Reference forecast reflects broader growth trends and assumptions informed by municipal official plans, population and employment forecasts, approved land use designations, historical growth trends, and anticipated electrification of transportation, buildings, industry, and other sectors. The High forecast scenario builds upon the Reference forecast by incorporating additional growth that is more uncertain in nature, including potential development opportunities that are in earlier stages of planning, emerging economic development initiatives, strategic infrastructure projects, and other growth drivers whose timing, scale, or likelihood remain less certain. Conversely, the Low forecast scenario reflects the potential impacts of slower economic growth, delayed development timelines,

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ensure infrastructure planning can support both near-term development activity and longer-term economic and community growth objectives. • The town of New Tecumseth advised that they adopted an Official Plan Amendment 5 (OPA5) in July 2026 that proposes settlement boundary expansions for Alliston, Beeton, and Tottenham to accommodate future growth, and are awaiting County approval. The primary area identified for significant future employment and industrial development is the South Alliston expansion area, making it the key location for employment-related electricity demand growth. The Town also noted the Province is continuing to explore potential priority growth initiatives outside the proposed OPA5 expansion areas that could generate additional population growth, although the timing and outcome of these initiatives remain uncertain. The Town anticipates significant growth in development activity once planning approvals are in place for forecasted population and employment growth. • The town of Oro-Medonte encourages regional electricity planning to account for future population growth, employment land development, airport-related expansion, and emerging economic opportunities along the Highway 11 corridor and the Oro	or reduced electrification uptake. This scenario-based approach allows the regional planning process to evaluate a range of plausible future outcomes while ensuring that electricity infrastructure plans remain both reliable and adaptable to changing conditions. The IESO also recognizes the feedback regarding future growth areas identified through municipal growth management strategies, official plan updates, employment land planning, transportation corridors, institutional investments, airport-related development, and other strategic initiatives. Information of this nature is an important input into regional electricity planning and is considered alongside local utility data, municipal growth forecasts, and broader provincial planning assumptions when developing long-term electricity demand forecasts. The IESO encourages municipalities to continue sharing updated growth plans, economic development initiatives, major projects, and electrification objectives with their local distribution company to support ongoing planning activities between regional planning cycles. It is important to note that the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) cost allocation framework for transmission investment is designed to balance reliability, affordability, and efficient system development. Transmission investments must be demonstrated to be just and reasonable, ensuring that the electricity system is not overbuilt and that customers are not burdened with unnecessary costs. As a result, near- and medium-term infrastructure needs are generally assessed using Reference forecast assumptions that are supported by demonstrated demand, while additional growth scenarios are evaluated to understand future system needs and inform longer-term planning decisions. In addition, under the beneficiary-pays principle, costs for dedicated connection facilities are generally borne by the connecting customers, while costs for broader network facilities are shared among ratepayers who benefit from those investments. Through this approach, the IESO seeks to ensure that regional electricity planning remains responsive to both

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Station area, all of which are a part of their developing Growth Management Strategy. It also emphasizes the importance of considering developing projects and opportunities that may not yet be formally planned, to ensure future electricity capacity does not become a constraint on growth and investment. • The City of Barrie emphasizes that, despite uncertainty around the precise timing of development, long-term growth across Barrie and surrounding municipalities is supported by established municipal plans. It encourages electricity planning scenarios to be informed by municipal population and employment forecasts, as well as planned investments in supporting infrastructure, to better reflect the likely pace and location of future development. • The Town of Huntsville emphasizes the importance of ensuring municipal and regional growth forecasts and planning studies inform long-term electricity demand forecasting and infrastructure planning and referenced the 2024 District of Muskoka Growth Strategy.	confirmed growth and emerging opportunities while maintaining a reliable and cost-effective electricity system for Ontario consumers. The Reference, High, and Low load forecast scenarios have captured the cited municipal plans at different levels of certainty. The three scenarios will be used for planning: the reference scenario will provide the initial identification of needs, whereas the low and high growth scenarios will serve to refine needs and to define the most effective sequence of improvements. These forecast scenarios will be periodically revised to adjust for the changing perspectives that may occur. The IESO confirms that the forecast for the Bradford West Gwillimbury OPA-15 proposed development is being considered for the reference scenario; the low and high load growth scenarios account for this development in the same magnitude and timing as for the reference scenario. Further information on the considerations and assumptions applied by the LDCs to prepare the three forecast scenarios can be found in the Load Forecast Methodology document in the engagement webpage. Additionally, the IESO recently launched the Major Projects Identification Committee (MPIC) process. This process is voluntary and aims to capture early-stage project and site information, improving visibility into where new demand may emerge, informing electricity system plans and forecasts, and helping developers prepare for a formal grid connection application. Municipalities play a vital role in the MPIC process and would be involved with supporting early identification of major projects and submitting project information to the IESO via an intake form. You can review our May 25, 2026, presentation or the MPIC webpage for more information.
Adequacy of Electricity Capacity to Support Planned Growth:	Thank you for your feedback. The IESO recognizes the significant residential, commercial, and employment growth planned across Barrie and Southern Simcoe, including the

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The City of Barrie emphasizes the need to ensure that electricity transmission, distribution, and generation infrastructure can accommodate significant anticipated residential and employment growth across Barrie and Southern Simcoe. It highlights the importance of proactively planning for capacity requirements so that electricity supply does not become a constraint on future development and economic growth.	Province's broader housing and economic development objectives for the region. A key objective of the regional planning process is to ensure a reliable supply of electricity, and to support local growth and economic development while maintaining a reliable and cost-effective electricity system. Through the IRRP, the TWG assesses current system conditions, forecasts future electricity demand based on projected population, employment, and electrification trends, and identifies potential electricity needs across the region over the planning horizon. In addition to the reference forecast, the IESO develops multiple scenarios to test how the electricity system would perform under different conditions and to ensure planning decisions remain reliable and cost-effective. The TWG includes a high and low forecast scenario by evaluating a range of demand growth outcomes. This allows the TWG to proactively identify potential constraints and advance solutions before reliability issues emerge if demand grows more quickly than expected. Where future capacity requirements are identified, the TWG evaluates a range of solutions to ensure the electricity system can continue to support growth and development. These solutions may include traditional wires infrastructure investments, such as transmission and distribution system upgrades, as well as non-wires alternatives (NWAs), including energy efficiency and demand-side management (eDSM) programs, distributed energy resources (DERs), and other emerging technologies. The objective is to identify the most appropriate and cost-effective combination of solutions to address forecast electricity needs while maintaining system reliability. As growth projections and development activity evolve, the TWG continues to monitor the region through ongoing engagement with LDCs, municipalities, and other

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	stakeholders. This helps ensure that electricity planning remains responsive to changing development patterns, and that potential capacity needs are identified early enough to support future residential and economic growth across Barrie and Southern Simcoe.
Ensure timing of capacity needs reflect projected growth: BWG emphasized the Holland TS need date of 2027 opposed to the indicated 2030+, considering the capacity constraints currently experienced. BWG highlights the importance of aligning need dates with the pace of demand realization, while also considering risks related to project development, approvals, land acquisition, and implementation schedules. They referenced the 2025 GTA North IRRP and stakeholder input indicating broader capacity pressures across the area, reinforcing the need for proactive and timely system planning to avoid future reliability and growth-related constraints.	Thank you for your feedback. The IESO acknowledges the capacity constraints identified in Bradford West Gwillimbury and recognizes the importance of aligning electricity planning timelines with the anticipated pace of growth and demand realization in the community. The IESO recognizes that, based on current growth projections, electricity demand associated with planned development in Bradford West Gwillimbury is expected to begin materializing as early as 2027. Accordingly, the regional planning process is using this timeframe as a key planning assumption when assessing future supply needs and potential infrastructure requirements. The IESO also recognizes the importance of considering the lead times associated with project development, environmental and regulatory approvals, land acquisition, design, and construction when assessing the timing of future electricity needs and potential solutions. The 2025 GTA North IRRP recommended infrastructure that will also provide a supply alternative to the BWG projected growth. Although this supply alternative is being studied and complemented in the SGBM IRRP, and additional recommendations will be made, addressing the needs of the BWG projected growth in the most expedited way is already in process of implementation via the GTA North plan recommendations. The IESO further acknowledges that Holland transformer station (TS) was identified as an immediate need through the 2025 GTA North IRRP, and that the Kleinburg-Kirby Transmission Line project was recommended to support future growth and electricity demand across Northern York Region, including Bradford West Gwillimbury. The regional planning process will continue to evaluate system conditions to better support reliability, economic development, and community growth.

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Infrastructure cost allocation as a barrier to economic development: The town of Bradford West Gwillimbury raises concerns that the current approach to allocating infrastructure connection costs places a disproportionate financial burden on early customers seeking service. It suggests that high upfront costs may inhibit project viability, discourage investment, delay growth, and create challenges for attracting and retaining major development opportunities.	Thank you for your feedback. The IESO recognizes Bradford West Gwillimbury's concerns regarding the cost allocation associated with connecting new load, including the significant upfront capital contribution requirements and the potential impact these costs may have on development and investment within the municipality. However, these matters fall under the regulatory authority of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). The OEB establishes the regulatory framework that governs transmission connection processes, approves utility transmission rates and capital investments, and determines the circumstances under which infrastructure costs are recovered from the broader ratepayer base versus being directly assigned to connecting customers through capital contribution requirements and other charges.
Consideration for non-wires alternatives (NWAs) as an interim solution to infrastructure needs: The town of Bradford West Gwillimbury supports the proactive use of non-wires alternatives (NWAs) as interim capacity solutions, encouraging their assessment and recognition as near-term tools to bridge infrastructure gaps and support growth until permanent system upgrades are in place.	Thank you for your feedback and for recognizing the potential role of non-wires alternatives (NWAs) in supporting near-term electricity needs. As part of the regional planning process, the IESO evaluates both wires and non-wires solutions to address identified electricity system needs in a cost-effective and reliable manner. In preparation for the next planning milestone, the IESO will assess the potential for NWAs to help manage demand and reduce the magnitude of identified electricity system needs in Bradford West Gwillimbury. While NWAs are not expected to fully address the scale of forecast load growth identified in the Town, they may provide meaningful reliability, operational, and customer benefits. Depending on their technical potential and customer participation levels, NWAs may help reduce peak demand, alleviate localized system constraints, and potentially defer or complement traditional infrastructure investments while longer-term system upgrades are being developed and implemented. The IESO developed a guide to the current general approach for evaluating non-wires alternatives (NWAs)

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	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 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.
Consideration for emerging electrification trends: The Town of Oro-Medonte recommends that electricity forecasting account for broader electrification trends, including transportation, building heating, energy storage, distributed energy resources, and emerging industrial technologies, which may drive demand beyond traditional growth-based projections. It encourages the use of scenario-based planning that evaluates higher-growth and accelerated development outcomes alongside baseline forecasts. The feedback emphasizes the importance of ensuring sufficient system capacity and resilience to support future investment, economic competitiveness, and sustainable long-term growth across the region.	Thank you for your feedback and for recognizing the important role electrification plays in long-term electricity planning. The TWG closely monitors emerging electrification trends and incorporates them into regional electricity demand forecasts. Forecast assumptions are informed by current policy direction, industry outlooks, and local and provincial initiatives related to electric vehicle adoption, transportation electrification, heat pumps and building heating, distributed energy resources (DERs), energy storage, industrial electrification, and other emerging technologies that may influence future electricity demand. The IESO recognizes the importance of evaluating these trends as part of long-term regional planning. By considering both projected growth and evolving electrification patterns, the regional planning process seeks to identify infrastructure requirements early and ensure the electricity system can continue to support reliability, economic competitiveness, sustainability objectives, and future investment across the region. The IRRP is considering three load growth scenarios. The Reference scenario will serve to determine the needs and the respective solutions, whereas the Low and High growth scenarios will serve to refine those needs and to guide the best sequence to implement solutions.
Planning for Emerging Energy Infrastructure and System Impacts:	Thank you for your feedback.

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• Simcoe County highlights concern that emerging data centres and battery energy storage facilities are not yet supported by clear provincial planning policies or assessment frameworks, creating uncertainty for long-term electricity forecasting and infrastructure planning. • The Town of Huntsville highlights that large electricity-intensive projects, particularly data centres, could significantly alter future electricity demand and may not be fully reflected in current planning assumptions. It recommends a more proactive and adaptive planning approach that considers the suitability of locations for large-load developments, directs investment toward areas with adequate capacity, and incorporates mechanisms to reassess and update electricity plans when major new loads emerge. The overarching concern is ensuring that unexpected large-load growth does not adversely affect system capacity, reliability, or service to existing customers and communities.	The IESO recognizes that emerging large-load developments, such as data centres, as well as emerging energy infrastructure, including battery energy storage systems (BESS), can significantly influence future electricity system needs and present challenges for long-term forecasting and infrastructure planning. Given the evolving nature of these technologies and the pace of development, the IESO continues to monitor these trends closely through both provincial and regional planning processes. Data centres are a particular area of focus due to their potential to introduce substantial new electricity demand over relatively short timeframes. To better understand and plan for these impacts, the IESO has developed resources, including this paper on large step loads. The IESO is aware of the system impacts these large loads can have and, as a result, large loads seeking to connect to the grid are generally required to undergo a System Impact Assessment (SIA) to assess potential impacts on the reliability of the integrated power system. This process helps ensure that new connections can be accommodated while maintaining reliable service to existing customers and communities. The IESO is also currently engaging with stakeholders on technical requirements and connection considerations for large computational loads, including data centres. Additional information is available through the IESO's engagement on Technical Requirements for Large Computational Loads Connecting to the Ontario Power System. In addition, the IESO recently launched the Major Projects Identification Committee (MPIC) process to provide municipalities, Indigenous communities, utilities, and developers with an additional mechanism to share information on significant emerging projects. This process helps ensure that major future electricity needs are identified early and considered as part of ongoing electricity planning and infrastructure development.

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	From a provincial policy perspective, the Ministry of Energy and Mines continues to consider broader legislative and policy requirements related to large electricity-intensive developments in order to balance economic development objectives with electricity system reliability and affordability. The Province recently announced the Data Centre Playbook, which proposes a framework for evaluating data centre developments based on factors such as economic development, digital sovereignty, community benefits, and environmental considerations. Public feedback received through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) and Ontario Regulatory Registry (ORR) consultation processes will help inform the final framework. Storage resources such as BESS are increasingly being considered as a solution available to address electricity system needs by improving operational flexibility, supporting reliability, and helping defer or complement traditional infrastructure investments where appropriate. The IESO recognizes that the policy and planning framework for these emerging resources continues to evolve. The IESO supports the development of BESS projects where they provide value to the electricity system, enhance reliability, and help address regional electricity needs. As part of ongoing system monitoring and regional planning activities, the TWG tracks proposed storage projects and considers their potential impacts and benefits as information becomes available. This includes assessing how storage resources may influence future system needs and contribute to regional electricity solutions. Through this adaptive planning approach, emerging BESS developments can be incorporated into future planning assessments as projects mature.
Recognition of growth in rural municipalities: The town of Oro-Medonte emphasizes that regional electricity planning should recognize the long-term growth potential of rural municipalities. The town highlights the need to	Thank you for your feedback and for recognizing the growth occurring across rural municipalities. The TWG considers growth projections across all municipalities within the region, not only urban centres. Through the forecasting process, local distribution companies compile information on municipal growth plans, population and employment forecasts, historical growth trends, local development activity, and electrification

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consider future investment, employment, and economic development opportunities in strategically located rural communities alongside current electricity demand. The feedback also stresses that sufficient electricity capacity must be planned well in advance to support future growth and avoid infrastructure limitations that could hinder development opportunities. The town recommends ensuring that municipalities of all sizes have meaningful opportunities to provide input and contribute to the planning process.	initiatives to help ensure forecast assumptions accurately reflect regional growth. The IESO also conducted a municipal survey in January 2026 to gather information directly from communities and better understand local growth opportunities, priorities, and emerging electricity needs. The IESO recognizes that rural municipalities can play an important role in supporting future investment, employment lands, economic development, and broader regional growth. As such, municipalities of all sizes are important planning partners, and local knowledge is a valuable input to the regional planning process. The IESO is committed to providing meaningful opportunities for municipal participation and encourages ongoing engagement with local distribution companies and the IESO to ensure emerging growth opportunities are reflected in future planning activities. The IESO also recognizes the importance of planning electricity infrastructure proactively to support future growth and avoid capacity constraints that could limit development opportunities. While regional planning is typically conducted on a five-year cycle, the TWG meets annually between planning cycles to monitor growth and can initiate further planning activities if significant changes in demand or development activity emerge.
Ongoing communication, transparency and coordination between electricity planning partners: The town of Bradford West Gwillimbury expresses strong support for the existing engagement process while identifying opportunities to strengthen collaboration, transparency, and information sharing throughout the planning cycle. It calls for more frequent	Thank you for your feedback. The IESO values transparent communication, collaboration, and information sharing throughout the regional planning process. We recognize the importance of working closely with municipalities, local distribution companies (LDCs), transmitters, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders to ensure local growth plans, emerging developments, and community priorities are appropriately reflected in regional electricity planning. In alignment with the IESO's External Relations Engagement Framework, engagement is designed to provide stakeholders with multiple opportunities to participate throughout the planning cycle. At each planning

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technical engagement between planning partners, improved access to forecasting methodologies and capacity information, enhanced coordination across utilities and municipalities, and sufficient time for stakeholders to review and provide meaningful input. • The town of Oro-Medonte highlights regular communication and information sharing from LDCs is valued, as it helps maintain continuity, supports knowledge transfer among changing staff, and ensures stakeholders remain informed about long-term planning initiatives and future system needs. • The City of Barrie emphasizes the importance of the TWG providing regular updates on land requirements, project timelines, and planning progress throughout the engagement process. It also highlights the need for continued communication and follow-through with identified stakeholders to maintain momentum, sustain interest, and reinforce confidence in the planning process and its outcomes. • Simcoe County notes that broader provincial growth initiatives may drive electricity demand beyond what is currently reflected in municipal planning documents and forecasts. To address these challenges, the feedback recommends stronger and more	milestone, the IESO conducts targeted municipal and stakeholder engagement activities, hosts public webinars, and makes planning materials publicly available through the project engagement webpage. Where possible, materials are shared in advance of engagement sessions and may include presentation materials, forecasting methodologies, data tables, and other supporting documentation to support informed review and feedback. The IESO is committed to being open and transparent about information and data that inform power system plans. Data pertaining to Ontario total demand, long-term outlooks for demand and supply, and system capabilities are regularly maintained on the IESO website. Information specific to individual system plans is generally provided through the IESO's public website, including the engagement pages dedicated to each region and/or bulk planning study. Other plan or system information, such as regional planning guidelines and transmission asset data referenced on its Planning Information and Data webpage will continue to be made accessible from this page. The IESO agrees that ongoing communication between planning partners is critical to maintaining a common understanding of future growth, electricity needs, and available system capacity. LDCs play an important role in this process and serve as a key point of contact for municipalities and local stakeholders. The IESO encourages municipalities to continue to engage regularly with their LDCs and share information on growth forecasts, development activity, economic development initiatives, electrification plans, and major projects between planning cycles. The IESO appreciates the feedback regarding opportunities to enhance transparency, provide sufficient time for stakeholder review, and maintain regular communication throughout the planning process. This feedback will be considered as part of ongoing efforts to improve engagement and information sharing. Continued communication is important to keep stakeholders informed of planning progress, and the IESO will continue to provide

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regular coordination among municipalities, utilities, and system planners to improve information sharing, align growth assumptions, and develop a common understanding of future electricity needs and available system capacity. They also noted that the IRRP would benefit from discussions with the Provincial government.	updates through future planning milestones and engagement activities. The IESO further recognizes the importance of coordination across municipalities, communities, utilities, system planners, and provincial planning partners, particularly as regional growth and provincial initiatives continue to evolve. The IESO regularly engages with provincial ministries and other planning partners to understand emerging policy directions and growth initiatives and incorporates relevant information into provincial and regional planning activities where appropriate. It is important to note that the regional planning process identifies future electricity needs and recommends potential solutions but does not directly undertake infrastructure development. Where transmission infrastructure is recommended through an IRRP, the transmitter is responsible for subsequent project development activities, including environmental assessment requirements, routing considerations, land requirements, community engagement, and project implementation timelines. Through these subsequent processes, stakeholders will have additional opportunities to obtain project-specific information and provide input on proposed infrastructure developments.
Utility Coordination and Infrastructure Planning to Support Growth: The City of Barrie supports stronger utility coordination and continued infrastructure investment to efficiently meet future growth needs.	The IESO agrees that strong coordination among utilities, municipalities, transmitters, and other planning partners is essential to ensuring electricity infrastructure is developed to support future growth. The regional planning process is designed to bring these partners together through the TWG, which works collaboratively to identify future electricity needs, assess available system capacity, and evaluate potential solutions to address emerging constraints. The IESO will continue to work closely with utilities and municipal stakeholders throughout the planning process to

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	support reliability and enable future growth across the region.
Outage Frequency Moose Deer Point First Nation (MDPFN) inquired whether the current system has enough reliable capacity to support existing residents, essential services and the community's planned growth. Solar generation and battery storage should complement, not replace, necessary grid reliability and capacity improvements.	Reliability remains the primary objective of the IRRP plan. 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 This IRRP will 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.
Load Planning Data, Climate Resilience & System Security Energy Corridor First Nations (ECFN) inquired about: • what the process is that the LDC's used to solicit load planning data from Indigenous communities? • how the individual LDC's provided feedback into the demand forecasts? Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN) shared that given the projected 78% summer load growth and 89% winter load growth over 20 years (pp.20–21), Indigenous-specific data is essential to avoid under-forecasting and misaligned infrastructure investments.	Thank you for your feedback and for highlighting the importance of Indigenous community growth, electrification, climate resilience, and energy sovereignty considerations. The IESO recognizes that ensuring electricity forecasts reflect Indigenous community plans and priorities is important to supporting reliable and cost-effective electricity infrastructure planning. The development of regional electricity demand forecasts is a collaborative process involving local distribution companies (LDCs), transmitters, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders. LDCs are responsible for preparing regional load forecast inputs using information available through customer connection requests, municipal planning processes, discussions with local communities, historical load trends, known development plans, and electrification initiatives. The IESO encourages Indigenous communities to continue sharing growth projections, development plans, and electrification objectives directly with their LDCs and through the regional

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Current scenario inputs rely primarily on municipal and LDC data, the IESO notes that “LDCs...serve as conduits for municipalities to communicate growth, development, and electrification plans” (Draft Forecasting Presentation, p.16). MSIFN requests that the IESO: • Integrate Michi Saagiig community growth projections and planned developments into the Reference and High scenarios. • Include Indigenous-led DERs, battery storage, renewable natural gas, microgrids, and community solar as explicit scenario drivers. • Add sensitivity analyses for cumulative electrification impacts, including EV adoption, heat-pump transitions, and community energy sovereignty initiatives. • Clarify how “potential demand growth that is less certain” (p.19) will be evaluated when Indigenous communities identify future projects not yet formally committed. MSIFN requests that the IRRP address extreme weather impacts on supply security and restoration needs (Appendix, p.31), including how Indigenous communities will be involved in identifying: • Load restoration needs • Load supply security needs • Asset replacement priorities	planning engagement process so this information can be considered in future forecast updates. The IESO acknowledges the importance of Indigenous-specific growth projections and planned developments. The TWG considers information provided through engagement activities, direct submissions, local utility inputs, and other planning processes when developing load forecasts. Projects identified by Indigenous communities that have a high degree of certainty may be reflected in the Reference forecast, while initiatives that remain at an earlier stage of development may be considered within the High growth scenario or through sensitivity assessments, depending on their level of maturity and specific load and timing information that can be made available. The IRRP also considers the effects of electrification, including electric vehicles, building electrification, DERs, energy storage systems, and other technologies. Scenario-based planning enables the TWG to assess how different levels of electrification and future development could affect regional electricity needs over the planning horizon. Indigenous-led DER, storage, renewable generation, and community energy initiatives can contribute to future planning assessments where sufficient project information is available. The IESO recognizes that climate change and extreme weather events can affect system reliability and restoration requirements. Regional planning assessments evaluate the adequacy and reliability of the transmission system under a range of operating conditions and contingencies consistent with established planning criteria and reliability standards. The scope of the IRRP assesses transmission system needs and identifies recommendations required to maintain reliable electricity supply to the transmission delivery points supplying local distribution systems. Distribution-level outage response, restoration, and asset replacement priorities remain the responsibility of the applicable LDC. The IESO will continue to engage with Indigenous communities throughout the planning process to better understand community perspectives regarding reliability, resilience, and future electricity needs.

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Diverse Feeder and Non-Wire Solutions Energy Corridor First Nations (ECFN) suggests implementing diverse Feeder and Non-Wire solutions to help address: • Service Quality: How is this being addressed in the plan? From Indigenous communities within the ECFN service territory (Barrie to Sudbury) there are a number of quality issues that are affecting both the large-scale infrastructure (water pumps) and individual homes (power surges damaging equipment). • Service Resiliency: How is the loss of supply being addressed in the Plan? SAIDI and SAIFI indicators published with the OEB allow for the exclusion of “loss of supply” in the calculation. • Distributed Energy Projects – ECFN communities are exploring additional DER and BESS projects within their corridor. What is the forum(s) for inclusion in the Long-Term (High Reference scenario) forecasts?	The IESO recognizes the service quality concerns raised by ECFN communities. Issues such as power surges, voltage fluctuations, and impacts to customer equipment are generally addressed through local distribution planning and utility operations rather than regional transmission planning. However, the IRRP will consider whether any transmission system limitations are contributing to reliability concerns in the area and will coordinate with the relevant distributors as appropriate. The IESO also acknowledges the importance of transmission planning in supporting potential generation opportunities. The South Georgian Bay/Muskoka Plan is part of a broader, integrated electricity planning framework in Ontario. It is informed by and co-ordinated with: • The Annual Planning Outlook • Regional electricity planning processes (IRRP) • Provincial policy direction • Ongoing generation and procurement initiatives • Interconnection Impact Assessments The use of a portfolio-based approach allows the IESO to consider system needs holistically and evaluate how different combinations of solutions perform under a range of future scenarios, including varying demand levels and supply outcomes. The IESO will continue to update plans as new information becomes available through its annual planning cycle to ensure that investments remain co-ordinated, flexible, and responsive to changing conditions. The IRRP will study supply and capacity needs in the region serviced by the E26 and E27 transmission lines serving Waubaushene TS, in the ECFN area. Recommendations will be made where necessary to resolve reliability needs involving these elements.
Rights-Based Considerations Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation’s (MSIFN) treaty rights, cultural heritage, and stewardship responsibilities	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.

Feedback theme/topic	IESO response
must be central to planning. MSIFN seeks government-to-government relationship, integration of Indigenous knowledge, and alignment with UNDRIP and the TRC Calls to Action.	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 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.
Environmental Protection & Cumulative Impacts MSIFN requests that the IRRP assess cumulative impacts on lands, waters, species, and harvesting areas. The Engagement Plan notes the region's reliance on 230 kV and 115 kV circuits (Engagement Plan, p.4), which may require expansion—raising potential impacts on Michi Saagiig territory.	For transmission projects that fall within Ontario's approved Class Environmental Assessment for Transmission Facilities, the project proponent (for example, Hydro One or another eligible transmitter) is responsible for carrying out the Class EA process under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and the approved Class EA document. That process includes environmental analysis, consultation with Indigenous communities and other potentially affected parties, consideration of alternatives, and the identification of mitigation, monitoring and documentation measures.
Indigenous Participation, Engagement, and Economic Reconciliation MSIFN is actively investing in battery storage, renewable natural gas, and renewable energy generation. The IRRP must evaluate opportunities for Indigenous-led DERs, NWAs, and conservation initiatives.	The IESO recognizes that Indigenous engagement and economic participation are 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 South Georgian Bay/Muskoka regional plan can be provided to the IESO by continuing to provide written feedback in response to engagement sessions or

Feedback theme/topic	IESO response
MSIFN shares its position that Indigenous Nations must share in the economic benefits of infrastructure built on their territories. Hydro One's 50% equity model for large transmission lines (Waasigan, St. Clair, Chatham–Lakeshore) should be adapted for: • Transmission upgrades (e.g., M6E/M7E) • Station capacity upgrades (Everett TS, Alliston TS, Midhurst TS, Wallace TS) • DER procurements • Battery storage deployments • Energy efficiency programs targeting First Nation-owned enterprises MSIFN also encourages exploring majority Indigenous ownership and leveraging federal funding to reduce ratepayer costs. MSIFN requests: • Dedicated Indigenous-specific engagement sessions at each IRRP milestone. • Technical workshops with MSIFN staff to review data, assumptions, and proposed solutions. • Co-development commitments for any options affecting Indigenous lands, rights, or interests. • Early review of the draft IRRP in Q3 2026, consistent with MSIFN's November 2025 request. • Early engagement with the Technical Working Group, noting that the TWG currently lacks Indigenous representation. Moose Deer Point First Nation (MDPFN) requests to work with IESO and Hydro	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. The IESO is subject to policy direction from the Ministry of Energy and Mines with respect to the inclusion of requirements related to Indigenous economic participation in any IESO programs or procurements. The IESO will share MSIFN's feedback with the Ministry to inform the approach for any transmission projects arising from the South Georgian Bay/Muskoka Plan. 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, including by offering funding to support assessment and development of opportunities for partnerships and participation in new or existing energy infrastructure projects. The IESO Indigenous Engagement Team encourages Indigenous communities to reach out with any questions that they may have regarding the IESP at iesp@ieso.ca. 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. While a Regional Plan reflects high-level, non-confidential feedback received through engagement with Indigenous communities, it is an IESO planning document that makes recommendations regarding adequacy, safety, sustainability and reliability of electricity supply across the province, and is not subject to external review or approval.

Feedback theme/topic	IESO response
One on a community energy and resilience assessment covering projected loads, outage history, system capacity, EV charging, solar, battery storage, backup power and microgrid feasibility. MDPFN should be directly engaged during the identification of needs, evaluation of options and development of recommendations. Information should be provided in plain language with enough time for leadership and staff to review it. The community also requests a written response explaining how its reliability concerns and planned developments will be addressed through the IRRP, a Regional Infrastructure Plan, Hydro One's distribution planning or another formal process. MDPFN requests a dedicated technical meeting with the IESO, Hydro One and the appropriate distribution and transmission planning representatives before the needs and options analysis is finalized. Energy Corridor First Nations (ECFN) shared that there are a large number of Indigenous Communities that are potentially affected by this Regional Planning initiative, and it is not clear how the input from these communities is incorporated into the plan.	