

Feedback Form

Regional Electricity Planning in Windsor-Essex – April 19, 2023

Feedback Provided by:

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Date: May 3, 2023

To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the [Windsor-Essex engagement web page](#) unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the Windsor-Essex regional electricity planning webinar held on April 19, 2023, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the draft Scoping Assessment Outcome Report posted on the IESO's [website](#). The draft report and webinar presentation, which provides an overview of these feedback requests, can be accessed from the [engagement webpage](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by May 3, 2023. If you wish to provide confidential feedback, please submit as a separate document, marked "Confidential". Otherwise, to promote transparency, feedback that is not marked "Confidential" will be posted on the engagement webpage.

Topic	Feedback
<p>What additional information should be considered as part of the Scoping Assessment?</p>	<p>The scoping assessment must account for plans for economic development and growth. At Invest Windsor Essex, we collaborate with a wide range of companies that are interested in establishing themselves in the region. We are eager to work with the IESO and provide information about opportunities for economic growth in the short and medium terms.</p> <p>We are concerned that the IESO may underestimate the potential electricity needs in the region. Our top priority for the upcoming IRRP study is to ensure that there is sufficient supply capacity in the short and medium terms, so that businesses feel confident to move forward with large-scale investments that create long-lasting employment and growth in our region.</p>
<p>What other considerations should be made regarding the areas identified as requiring further study through a regional planning approach based on local developments?</p>	<p>Although we recognize that there are plans to expand transmission in the medium and long term, we have significant concerns about the near-term connection capability in the region. We are in ongoing discussions with large-scale investors who are trying to understand the connection process. Therefore, we strongly encourage the IESO to collaborate closely with Hydro One and other stakeholders to explore innovative approaches (e.g., NWAs, DR, CDM, etc.) that could facilitate large-scale investments in the next two years instead of being discouraged or postponed until transmission capacity becomes available. The IRRP must prioritize restoring investor confidence in electricity supply and reliability in the region.</p>

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What other areas or specific considerations should be examined through regional planning?	<p>Considering the current connection constraints in the region, we believe that IESO, Hydro One, and other stakeholders should pursue a parallel track with a focus on innovative approaches.</p> <p>This will ensure that businesses can proceed with large-scale investments in the short term without any delay, while the IRRP is being formalized. It is evident that there is a significant need and constraint, and we think it would be imprudent to wait for the completion of the full study before addressing these short-term challenges.</p>

General Comments/Feedback

At Invest Windsor Essex, our mission is to drive economic prosperity in the Windsor-Essex region by attracting investment, supporting business growth, and creating jobs. We offer a range of services to businesses, including site selection assistance, funding and financing resources, market research and analysis, and support for export and trade initiatives. We work closely with local and regional partners to promote the region's assets, including its skilled workforce, strategic location, and strong transportation infrastructure. Our goal is to build a diverse and inclusive business environment that fosters entrepreneurship and innovation, and we work with a variety of industries, such as advanced manufacturing, agribusiness, renewable energy, and tourism, to achieve this.

Our top priority for this IRRP is to ensure that we can work with investors and provide them with reliable information about the capabilities of the electricity grid. Currently, we are assisting our clients in navigating a complex and often convoluted process to obtain information about the current capabilities of the electricity grid. Given the expected level of economic activity, we require improved processes to work with investors and offer solutions that enable their connection at preferred locations in the Windsor-Essex region.

We look forward to being active partners in this study and collaborating with the IESO, Hydro One, and other stakeholders on the next steps.