Feedback Form

Regional Electricity Planning in Windsor-Essex Area – December 12, 2023

Feedback Provided by:

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To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the Windsor-Essex engagement webpage unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the Windsor-Essex electricity planning engagement webinar held on December 12, 2023, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the draft electricity demand forecast scenarios and Engagement Plan. A copy of the presentation as well as a recording of the session can be accessed from the engagement web page.

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by **January 5, 2024.**

Topic	Feedback
What additional information, if any, should be incorporated in the proposed electricity demand scenarios? How can the proposed	Reference and High Demand Scenarios are a good start for demand scenarios. As actual demands over the planning horizon will be somewhere in the middle, a

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scenarios best capture the range and uncertainty of growth potential while informing near-term infrastructure investments?	third scenario may be beneficial that highlights a "reasonable / probable" demand level. It is unfortunate that funding will be based on reference scenario, as the region's infrastructure will continue to lag demand. The identification of milestones triggering significant expenditures (i.e. infrastructure upgrades, conservation program launches, supply contracts) as well as expanded planning windows will assist in recognizing patterns and trends, allowing for adequate planning in-step with regional growth. Milestones should be developed with decision criteria (go, no-go) based on the high demand scenario. A shift in methodology could allow for project funding being obtained prior to firm contracted demand.
What local issues and concerns should be considered in the electricity planning?	Consider existing system constraints and recommend options to rectify bottlenecks locally. Consider opportunities for Distributed Energy Resources (DER) resources or non-wire solutions to offset anticipated growth. Impacts of climate change associated with rising temperatures may accelerate reliance on the electricity system in the later years of the forecast. Development of local Conservation Demand Management (CDM) programs or incentives to encourage community, institutions, and industry to conserve energy and / or generate supply. Understand that current or proposed projects are beyond the scope of the IRRP, but recommend linkages be presented detailing system impacts in the event projects are delayed or cancelled. IESO's recently closed Long Term 1 (LT1) Procurement RFP highlighted challenges facing the region as the majority of proposed projects were eliminated from

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	contention due to system capability in connecting projects to the system (i.e. deliverability).
What information is important to provide to participants throughout this engagement?	Assumptions regarding what is or is not included in forecast. For example: economic growth, population growth with % growth rate, rate of electrification for Assumptions regarding what is or is not included in forecast. For example: economic growth, population growth with % growth rate, rate of electrification for vehicles/home, etc. The assumption list is an important aspect of the IRRP that should be tracked by IESO and communicated to the municipalities and Invest Windsor Essex. If the region is engaged, we can assist in monitoring actuals, identify trends and patterns from emerging technologies, and engage IESO and local LDCs for action as required. Share methodology used in scenario analysis with stakeholders and allow for feedback and recommendations. Do this early and obtain group consensus
Does the proposed Engagement Plan provide sufficient scope and opportunities for input?	The proposed Engagement Plan, although high-level, does provide opportunities for input. The current approach is somewhat siloed with one-on-one meetings with stakeholder groups. While an important engagement tool one-on-one meetings do not provide a platform for wider multi-faceted discussions. As we move beyond the forecast gathering stage, it is recommended a regional approach to discussions on regional priorities and input on proposed solutions be held prior to public webinars #2 and #3. This can be accomplished through collaboration meetings/workshops between municipal, economic development, technical working group (utilities), and interested stakeholders (i.e. greenhouse, institutions, industry, transportation).

General Comments/Feedback

With each engagement session, additional gaps in the forecast are revealed. Electrification plans of logistical companies (short- and long-haul trucking, shipping) were discussed for the first time at the December 12th webinar. Previous engagements focused on input from LDC and municipal sources. Corporate plans tend to remain independent from LDC and municipal inputs unless infrastructure is required.

Understand that there comes a time to finalize the forecast. Propose a "checklist" of items for consideration for future forecasts, complete with responsibilities, stakeholders, and pathways for obtaining data. Identify the following:

- Industry and transportation stakeholders with electrification plans,
- Pathways for interested stakeholders to ensure their information is collected,
- Which entity is responsible for coordinating the collection of data (multiple LDCs in the area),
- Data to be collected by stakeholder (i.e. LDC, municipality, economic development, industry, transportation, etc.)
- Which entity(ies) are owners of data, and
- Timeline and schedule for annual updates, etc.

Communication with stakeholders is key. As a municipal representative, I'm at times left confused regarding the roles and responsibilities of IESO, the LDCs, and the various stakeholder groups in the process of developing demand forecasts. Several comments were made during the public webinar #1 by IESO staff regarding the forecast that identified a gap for me.

(1) Demand forecasting is completed independently for several IESO initiatives (i.e. Regional Planning, Bulk Planning, Annual Planning Outlook, Procurements, etc.), with several groups responsible for forecasting within the IESO. Although individual forecasts can refer to other forecasts, each forecast has the potential of being developed with different assumptions and inputs. It is more than the differences associated to the time-period for which a forecast is based upon, it involves the types of data deemed appropriate for inclusion in individual forecasts (i.e. electrification plans for utilities (home heating, personal vehicles), vs. municipalities (public transit, fleet, buildings), vs. companies (process load, logistics/transportation)). This approach creates confusion that may lead to misunderstandings regarding completeness of forecasts.

It is challenging to determine whether feedback and recommendations from prior engagements have been incorporated into the forecast or not. This corresponds to the assumption list remark above. There is a perception that recommendations need to be communicated on several occasions by several stakeholders for them to be reflected in report outs and engagement sessions.

Once the IRRP is at the recommendation phase, we recommend the report detail decision points for required actions based on progression against the demand forecast. Expectation is the identification of actions that can be done short-term (1-2 years), medium-term (3-5 years), and long-term (6+ years) to meet demand.

Once the IRRP report is published, we recommend annual summaries be provided to municipalities, Invest Windsor Essex, and utility stakeholders which detail actual demand against forecasted demand for both reference and high demand scenarios.

In addition, once the IRRP report is published, we would recommend that IESO facilitates communications as the region moves into the distribution planning phase. There are several LDCs serving the area with varying capacity and funding available to implement necessary infrastructure improvements at the local level. Recommend that IESO take a leading role in advocating for changes to the regulatory process, thereby making it easier for smaller LDCs with limited resources to implement report recommendations.

As the APO will be released in March 2024, how will the forecast and findings from that document and the ongoing Central-West Bulk Study be aligned to the IRRP for Windsor-Essex? Will the concept of the High Demand Scenario be incorporated in additional IESO planning documents?