

Feedback Form

Regional Electricity Planning in the GTA North Region – July 8, 2025

Feedback Provided by:

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Date: July 29, 2025

To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the GTA North [engagement webpage](#) unless otherwise requested by the sender.

Following the GTA North webinar on July 8, 2025, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the needs and options screening analysis. For more information on GTA North Regional Electricity Planning, please visit the [engagement web page](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by July 29, 2025.

GTA North Regional Planning

Feedback shared in the below table will be shared publicly, unless otherwise noted.

| Topic | Feedback |
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| What feedback do you have on the screening of high-level potential options? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The screening of all options for near- and long-term needs should continue to prioritize solutions that accommodate station and transmission infrastructure within existing corridors and avoid the need for expanded or new corridors in Markham that impact current and future planned development and adjacent communities. Impact mitigation for all new or upgraded infrastructure adjacent to existing communities and developed areas will need to be prioritized and addressed in the subsequent EA and detailed approval stages. - While it is understood that the design is currently at a preliminary and high level, further investigation will be required during detailed design, along with close coordination with the municipalities, particularly if the construction of a large high-voltage duct bank is being considered. Given the congested municipal Right-of-Way (ROW), detailed investigation is essential to assess the potential impact of such construction on the ROW, future operation and maintenance (O&M) requirements, and the effect on municipal utilities, infrastructure, and ROW assets. We currently only permit utility infrastructure to take place within the boulevard space. - What are the expected land use requirements and impacts of the options to address longer-term needs associated with new or expanded existing TS in Markham/Vaughan/Richmond Hill? (i.e. all those shown from slides 21 to 24 in the presentation) If such preliminary assessments have yet to be completed, what is the current timeframe for when they would be and then shared with municipalities? |
| What additional information should be considered as we screen high-level potential options? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Markham District Energy (MDE) Wastewater Energy Transfer Project - https://www.markhamdistrictenergy.com/news_event/markham-district-energy-announces-worlds-largest-wastewater-energy-transfer-project/ - Given the significant amount of growth anticipated across York Region over the next decade, direct coordination with relevant municipal staff is recommended to help ensure that long-range municipal land use plans with updated growth forecasts (e.g. |

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| | <p>official plans, secondary plans, master plans for transportation, water, etc.) are appropriately considered and incorporated into screening criteria, especially in regards to plans which will permit and facilitate development of new community areas and infrastructure which might overlap with IESO's preferred options (e.g. Markham's Future Urban Area Planning District and a new stepdown station in North Markham or new Buttonville to Armitage transmission line), to better harmonize municipal and provincial planning for growth and capacity building projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please note the City will be updating detailed growth forecasts as part of the City of Markham Official Plan Review, which is currently underway, and has been undertaking detailed build out analyses in several secondary planning studies for key growth areas in the City. This information can be provided to support IESO's forecasting to help align the timing of delivery of electricity infrastructure with growth and demand. |
| <p>What are your perspectives on the phase out of York Energy Center?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is an existing infrastructure the provides 400MW of electricity to York Region and should be used until the end of its lifespan, rather than terminating a contract renewal in 2035. The focus should be on finding alternative fuel sources away from the existing source of natural gas. The risks of losing this energy source in 2035 forces all York Region municipalities to react to the impacts of increasing transformer stations, poles and wires across existing and new community areas which typically requires long-term education and engagement for Council, municipal staff and the larger community (i.e. residents). This reaction does not account for the increase in demand for electricity due to the increase in population size across York Region. - How much would the possible phase out of the YEC affect the preference for/prioritization of each of the long-term options presented? For several of these options, it seems like they would add a desirable/necessary layer of redundancy and resilience to the transmission system, regardless of whether or not the YEC is eventually phased out. |
| <p>What information should be provided in future engagements?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IESO should consult with Regional and Municipal Councils prior to the EA process, once final preferred options to meet electricity demands are identified. Markham also suggests a presentation to Council, which can be arranged through staff. - With the multitude of parties involved in long-term electricity planning, providing info and context about related events and |

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| | venues outside of IESO's public consultation meetings could be a valuable resource for municipal staff less familiar with these processes, and/or who would like to establish stronger direct relationships and co-planning capacities with generator and transmission companies as well as LDCs. |

South and Central Bulk Plan

Feedback shared in the below table will be kept confidential.

| Topic | Feedback |
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| What feedback do you have on the preliminary options identified? | Option screening for the GTA North IRRP and South/Central Bulk Plan should prioritize use of existing available corridors for upgraded and new infrastructure and avoid the need for new or expanded corridors through existing and future planned development that would result in significant community impacts. Underwater options for routing new transmission from Darlington to the GTA should not be prematurely screened out if they are technically feasible. Options for 500 kV routes into the GTA should be carried forward to the EA stage and selected based on a consideration of options and full evaluation of their net environmental and community impact. The South/Central Bulk System Plan should provide for a reasonable range of alternatives to be considered. |
| What additional information needs to be considered regarding the options? | The construction of a new 500 kV line in Markham or elsewhere in the GTA will require comprehensive and tailored public consultation and engagement given the anticipated concerns regarding visual and perceived health impacts of high voltage transmission lines. It is recommended that IESO conduct a broader public consultation on the IRRP and South-Central Bulk System planning process and option screening prior to the plans being finalized in Q4 2025. |

General Comments/Feedback

Please note that all feedback gathered on this form are from staff in Sustainability & Asset Management, Operations, and Planning & Urban Design. This form and the GTA North electricity planning documents were not circulated to Mayor and Council as the IESO feedback form deadline falls within Council's summer break timeframe. It is requested that IESO, Hydro One and Alectra staff that can speak more specifically to the electricity planning shortfalls and upgrades that impact Markham provide a presentation to Council in the Fall, prior to the EA process to discuss the short to long-term infrastructure details and plans, as well as a communications plan for the public. In 2005, the City of Markham received a large public backlash towards the transmission lines through the Rodick Road corridor that ultimately halted the expansion of the corridor. Markham would not want to repeat the same concerns again with the expansion of transmission infrastructure through our existing community areas. Early public communications is highly recommended to avoid additional backlash. Another public example from a 2023 article: Hydro project in Markham paused after 230kV line backlash.

Link: [Hydro project in Markham paused after 230kV line backlash](#).