

May 27, 2020

VIA Email

Mr. Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance
Ontario Energy Board
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Independent Electricity System Operator

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Dear Mr. Hewson:

Re: Extension Notification for Integrated Regional Resource Planning Timelines

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is engaged in integrated regional planning activities for several regions of the province. This letter is to notify the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) that due to reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic the IESO is forecasting delays for the completion of Scoping Assessments under the timelines set out in the IESO's license.

21.2 Regional Planning Obligations

Section 21.2.2 (a) of the IESO's license states that the Licensee shall:

Complete a scoping assessment to determine the appropriate regional planning approach, for a region, within 90 days of being notified by the lead transmitter that regional planning is necessary; specifically, whether an integrated regional resource planning process is required first or a regional infrastructure planning process should proceed immediately.

and (b) states:

Complete an Integrated Regional Resource Plan, within 18 months of determining that an integrated regional resource planning process is necessary for a region, and ...

Where an Integrated Regional Resource Plan has not been completed within 18 months, the Licensee shall take no longer than two years to complete the Integrated Regional Resource Plan and shall notify the Board in writing explaining the reason(s) an Integrated Regional Resource Plan could not be completed within 18 months, identify the applicable region and the additional time required, up to a maximum of six additional months;

As set out in section 21.2.2 above, the IESO is required to complete a Scoping Assessment within 90 days of being notified by the lead transmitter that regional planning is necessary, and to also complete an Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) within 18 months of completion of a Scoping Assessment determining that an IRRP process is necessary for a region, but to take no longer than two years (a maximum of six additional months).

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In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated challenges with work flow delays, the IESO found it necessary to assess the timelines required to complete the Scoping Assessments for the current regional planning processes underway.

Specifically, COVID-19 has created delays in the IESO's work as a result of staff working from home with limited access to tools as well as receipt of data requests from external parties, in addition, a limited ability to seek and receive needed information from stakeholders and communities to create effective demand forecasts needed to inform regional planning reports. The IESO has also consulted with a broad spectrum of stakeholders and communities who have expressed some uncertainty about near and long-term business plans as well as their ability to engage under these circumstances.

Due to these challenges, the IESO is notifying the OEB of delays forecast up to 90-180 days to complete Scoping Assessments for the regions listed below, following publication of the region's Needs Assessment.

- London Area
- South Georgian Bay/Muskoka
- Northwest Ontario
- Sudbury/Algoma

Despite the delays forecast to complete these Scoping Assessments, which are based on current assumptions, the IESO believes it can complete the required IRRPs within the required 18 months. However, with continued uncertainty around a return to normal business operations amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ability for stakeholders to engage with the IESO, this assessment continues to be monitored and should the IESO require additional time to complete the IRRPs for the above mentioned regions the IESO will inform the OEB as required by the IESO's license.

Please contact me at 416-957-3594 or Devon.Huber@ieso.ca if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Devon Huber
Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs

cc: Ryan Holder, Manager, Industry Policy & Compliance - OEB