

IESO Letter of Comment

ENWIN Utilities Ltd.

Renewable Energy Generation
Investments Plan

January 25, 2019

Introduction

On March 28, 2013, the Ontario Energy Board (“the OEB” or “Board”) issued its Filing Requirements for Electricity Distribution Applications, Chapter 5 – Consolidated Distribution System Plan. Chapter 5 implements the Board’s policy direction on an integrated approach to distribution network planning, outlined in the Board’s October 18, 2012 Report of the Board - A Renewed Regulatory Framework for Electricity Distributors: A Performance Based Approach.

The OEB issued the 2018 Edition for 2019 Rate Applications of Chapter 5 on July 12, 2018 wherein section 5.2.2 Coordinated planning with third parties, item d) states:

For REG investments a distributor is expected to provide the comment letter provided by the IESO in relation to REG investments included in the distributor’s DSP, along with any written response to the letter from the distributor, if applicable. The OEB expects that the IESO comment letter will include:

- Whether the distributor has consulted with the IESO, or participated in planning meetings with the IESO;
- The potential need for co-ordination with other distributors and/or transmitters or others on implementing elements of the REG investments; and
- Whether the REG investments proposed in the DSP are consistent with any Regional Infrastructure Plan.

ENWIN Utilities Ltd. – Distribution System Plan

On December 20, 2018, ENWIN Utilities Ltd. (ENWIN) provided its Renewable Energy Generation Investment Plan (Plan) to the IESO as part of its Distribution System Plan. The IESO has reviewed ENWIN’s Plan and provides its comments below.

IESO Comments

At this time ENWIN has no investments planned for connecting renewable energy generation, as previous investments to enable balancing load have previously been made. This technical solution enables ENWIN to connect more generation to specific feeders by increasing or decreasing the load thresholds depending on capacity needs at the feeder level. Therefore, the IESO has not provided comments on the need for coordination with others and whether the investments are consistent with any Regional Infrastructure Plan (RIP).

ENWIN Utilities Ltd. is one of five local distribution companies in the Windsor-Essex Region identified through the OEB regional planning process. It is a member of the Technical Working Group for the Windsor-Essex Region, and has been participating alongside E.L.K. Energy Inc., Entegrus Power Lines Inc. (Chatham-Kent), Essex Powerlines Corporation, Hydro One Networks Inc. (Distribution and Transmission), and the IESO.

The Windsor-Essex Region is going through its second round of regional planning with the first round completed with the publication of the IESO's Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) in April 2015,¹ and the Hydro One Networks Inc. Regional Infrastructure Plan (RIP) in 2015.² The current status of regional planning in the Windsor-Essex Region in which ENWIN participates is as follows:

- A Needs Assessment (NA) was carried out by Hydro One Networks Inc. for the Windsor-Essex Region in October 2017.³ The NA identified electricity needs that may require regional coordination, recommending that a further review be done through the Scoping Assessment (SA) process led by the IESO.
- After a two week comment period, the IESO finalized a Scoping Assessment Outcome Report and Terms of Reference for the Windsor-Essex Region IRRP, posted in March 2018.⁴
- An IRRP is currently under development and is expected to be published in Q3 2019.

The IESO looks forward to working further with ENWIN Utilities Ltd. during the IRRP phase, and appreciates the opportunity to comment on its Renewable Energy Generation Investment Plan at this time.

¹ IESO's IRRP for Windsor-Essex Region, April 2015: <http://www.ieso.ca/Get-Involved/Regional-Planning/Southwest-Ontario/Windsor-Essex>

² Hydro One Networks Inc., Regional Infrastructure Plan, December 2015: <https://www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/regional-plans/windsor-essex>

³ Hydro One Needs Assessment Report, Windsor-Essex Region, October 2017, <https://www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/regional-plans/windsor-essex>

⁴ IESO Scoping Assessment Outcome Report, Windsor-Essex Region, March 2018, <http://www.ieso.ca/Get-Involved/Regional-Planning/Southwest-Ontario/Windsor-Essex>