

April 5, 2024

Mr. Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance
Ontario Energy Board
27th Floor 2300 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Mr. Hewson:

Re: Extension Notification for the Timelines of the Toronto, Ottawa, and Burlington-Nanticoke Integrated Regional Resource Plans

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is in the process of completing Integrated Regional Resource Plans (IRRPs) for Toronto, Ottawa, and Burlington-Nanticoke. The purpose of this letter is to notify the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) that the IESO requires up to an additional six months, as set out in section 21.2.2 (b) of the IESO's licence, to complete these three IRRPs.

Section 21.2.2 (b) of the licences states:

...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 per the 18-month timeline, triggered by the conclusion of the IESO led Scoping Assessment for each region, the publication date for each IRRP is as follows:

- Toronto IRRP on September 20, 2024
- Ottawa IRRP on September 20, 2024
- Burlington-Nanticoke IRRP on June 5, 2024

Based on the IESO's estimate on the additional time required to complete the IRRPs, the new expected publication date for each IRRP is as follows:

- Toronto IRRP on March 20, 2025
- Ottawa IRRP on March 20, 2025
- Burlington-Nanticoke IRRP on November 28, 2024

In the ongoing regional planning in the aforementioned regions, the Technical Working Group (TWG) comprised of the IESO, the transmitter and local distribution companies, has required more time to:

- create demand forecast scenarios that reflect different levels of electrification;
- gather input from communities and government on economic development in the region that needs to be serviced by electricity; and,
- coordinate with other utilities such as Enbridge.

In addition, changes underway in the province as part of the energy transition (i.e., changing supply mix and increasing electricity demand as a result of electrification and decarbonization) are resulting in a more electricity system needs – both in number and scope – which increases the time required to evaluate and engage on options to meet the needs. Details on the specific reasons for each IRRP are outlined below.

Toronto IRRP

There has been significant interest in studying a decarbonization scenario since the IRRP launched. Accordingly, the Toronto IRRP will evaluate options that would enable the retirement of Portlands Energy Centre. This introduces additional scope into the Toronto IRRP and, further, requires the IESO to plan for additional engagement to ensure governments, businesses, developers, Indigenous communities, the City of Toronto, and residents are informed of and provide input into efforts taken to decarbonize the electricity system in Toronto.

In addition, the development of the forecast scenarios has taken longer than anticipated due to their complexity, particularly for the high electrification forecast.

Ottawa IRRP

Similar to Toronto, there has been an interest to understand the decarbonization scenario for the city of Ottawa, specifically how the City's Energy Evolution plan translates to a demand scenario. The production of the reference demand forecast has taken additional time as it has required incorporating new assumptions regarding electrification, which take time to understand due to their complexity. Hydro Ottawa has elected to work with a third party consultant to develop their decarbonization and electrification demand scenarios.

The preliminary results of the demand scenarios suggest significant load growth which will directly impact the scale and scope of the options evaluated, and recommendations made as part of the IRRP. The extension will allow for a thorough analysis of these emerging needs and the options to address them.

Burlington-Nanticoke IRRP

As work has progressed on the plans for Caledonia-Norfolk and Brant sub-regions, a need to study new transmission, beyond the scope contemplated during the Scoping Assessment phase, has emerged. This has required additional time to assess, and engage on, the needs and options in both sub-regions.

The Working Group is also in the process of making updates to the demand forecast for the Hamilton sub-region to better account for electrification. Additional time is needed to consider

how this may impact the options already analyzed to address needs in the Brant sub-region, as there are linkages in the supply infrastructure.

Please contact me at 416-710-0620 or Beverly.Nollert@ieso.ca if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Beverly Nollert", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Beverly Nollert

Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs