Ontario Energy Board | Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario

Ontario

BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

November 26, 2026

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO AMEND A CODE

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM CODE AND THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM CODE TO STREAMLINE REGIONAL PLANNING PROCESS

BOARD FILE NO.: EB-2026-0245

To: All Licensed Electricity Transmitters
All Licensed Electricity Distributors
Independent Electricity System Operator
All Participants in Consultation Process EB-2026-0245
All Other Interested Parties

What You Need to Know

- **The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is proposing amendments to the Transmission System Code (TSC) and Distribution System Code (DSC) to streamline regional planning by eliminating the Scoping Assessment stage and shortening the Regional Infrastructure Planning stage.**
- **The proposed changes are intended to reduce the regional planning process by up to five months and support broader reforms aimed at making electricity planning more responsive to Ontario's evolving energy needs.**
- **Stakeholders are invited to provide comments on the proposed amendments by December 17, 2026.**

The OEB is giving notice under section 70.2 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (Act) of proposed amendments to the TSC and the DSC. The proposed amendments aim to streamline the regional planning process as set out in OEB's March 2026 Report to the

Ministry of Energy and Mines, *Review of Ontario's Regional and Bulk Electricity Planning Processes* (Report).

A. Background

The OEB identified two opportunities in the Report to achieve time savings in the regional planning process:

- Eliminate the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) 90-day Scoping Assessment stage.
- Take steps to reduce the duration of the lead transmitter's Regional Infrastructure Planning stage by two months, unless there is a material change during that process.

On September 17, 2026, the OEB issued a letter launching the Regional Planning Reform Implementation initiative. One of the four workstreams set out in the letter included implementing the recommendations described above. The letter stated that the OEB intended to amend its regulatory instruments as follows:

- Issue a notice of proposed amendments to the TSC and the DSC, for stakeholder comment, to remove any references to the Scoping Assessment stage and reduce the duration of the Regional Infrastructure Planning stage.
- Under delegated authority and on the OEB's own motion, amend the licence of the IESO to remove the requirement to complete a Scoping Assessment.
- Update the Filing Requirements for Electricity Transmission Leave to Construct (LTC) Applications to remove any references to the Scoping Assessment.

With this Notice, the OEB is moving forward with proposing amendments to the TSC and the DSC.

B. Proposed Amendments to the TSC and the DSC

Appendix A and Appendix C to this Notice contain the proposed amendments to the TSC and the DSC, respectively, showing both additions and deletions. Appendix B and D to this Notice contain the clean versions of the relevant provisions of the TSC and the DSC, respectively, as they would appear if all proposed amendments were adopted.

The proposed amendments to the TSC would eliminate the Scoping Assessment stage and reduce the timeline for completing or updating a Regional Infrastructure Plan. The proposed amendments to the DSC are limited to removing references to the Scoping Assessment to align with the revised regional planning process.

The following sections provide a high-level summary of the proposed amendments.

1. Proposed TSC amendments

For eliminating the Scoping Assessment stage, the OEB is proposing the following amendments:

- Revoke the definition of “Scoping Assessment” in section 3C.1.
- Revoke subsection 3C.2.2(e) since it requires a transmitter to participate in the Scoping Assessment.
- Amend subsection 3C.2.2(f) to replace references to the Scoping Assessment with Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) for the purpose of identifying that a regional infrastructure planning process is required for a region.
- Amend subsection 3C.2.2(g) to replace the Scoping Assessment with the Needs Assessment for identifying needs that require an IRRP process.

The above changes will streamline the regional planning process by enabling regions that require coordinated regional solutions to proceed directly from the Needs Assessment stage to the IRRP stage.

The OEB is proposing to amend subsection 3C.2.2(f) to reduce the timeline from six months to four months for the lead transmitter to complete or update a Regional Infrastructure Plan. To provide transmitters with sufficient time to adjust their planning processes, the four-month requirement will apply on or after October 31, 2027. This will allow transmitters to explore and implement measures to compress the regional infrastructure planning process and is consistent with the Report which discussed “taking steps” to reduce the timeline. For example, the OEB understands that a transmitter is implementing pilot projects in two regions to test ways to make the process more efficient and adjust based on lessons learned. The first pilot is already underway, and the transmitter has indicated that process efficiencies are already being achieved. The second pilot will be implemented in 2027. After October 31, 2027, where the new four-month timeline cannot be met, the lead transmitter will be permitted to take up to two additional months, but the transmitter will need to notify the OEB in writing to explain the reasons additional time is needed. That notification requirement is intended to promote transparency and accountability.

The proposed amendment to subsection 3C.2.2(f) also addresses instances where a material change in forecasted load occurs during the regional infrastructure planning

process.[1] In such instances, the Technical Working Group (TWG) – the IESO, the lead transmitter and the applicable licensed electricity distributors – would determine by consensus which of the following two options should be used to address the material change: (1) the IESO to undertake an expedited IRRP under subsection 21.2.2(h) of its licence; or (2) an extension of the regional infrastructure planning process from four months to six months under the proposed amendment. Currently, there is only one option – an expedited IRRP which must be completed in 12 months. This proposed change would introduce more flexibility in the process and time savings of up to 10 months, where the TWG concludes a regional infrastructure planning process extension of two months is the more appropriate approach.

These amendments are therefore intended to make the Regional Infrastructure Planning stage more efficient under routine circumstances, provide a reasonable regulatory framework for transmitters to achieve the time savings and introduce optionality when unexpected material changes arise during the planning process.

2. Proposed DSC amendments

The OEB is proposing the following changes:

- Revoke the definition of the Scoping Assessment in section 8.1.1.
- Remove the reference to the Scoping Assessment from the definition of “lead transmitter” in section 8.1.1.
- Remove the reference to the Scoping Assessment in section 8.2.1.

These amendments are consistent with those related to the TSC (i.e., remove the requirement for transmission-connected distributors to participate in the Scoping Assessment).

C. Changes to other regulatory instruments

As noted above, the OEB also intends to amend the IESO’s licence and the Filing Requirements for Electricity Transmission LTC Applications to address the elimination of the Scoping Assessment. The amendments to the IESO’s licence and the LTC Filing Requirements will be consistent with the final code amendments.

[1] The Report discussed a material change in the “load forecast”, which is a term used in the TSC. The proposed amendment intentionally refers to a material change in “forecasted load.” The OEB’s intent is to clarify that the TWG does not need to wait for the precision associated with a refined “load forecast” to make the decision.

As discussed in the September 17th letter, the OEB aims to release a complete package of the amended regulatory instruments discussed above when it issues the final notice of code amendment.

D. Anticipated Costs and Benefits

The OEB expects the costs of implementing the proposed amendments to the TSC and the DSC will be exceeded by the benefits associated with the streamlined regional planning process. In addition to the benefits discussed above, those set out below will also be realized.

Eliminating the Scoping Assessment stage will reduce the staff resources required for the IESO, transmitters and distributors.

Reducing the regional infrastructure planning stage from six to four months is expected to accelerate the development of wires solutions, with the allowance for an extension of two months to help ensure the quality of plans is maintained.

Transmitters, distributors and the IESO may incur incremental costs to revise internal procedures to reflect the revised process. Transmitters may also incur incremental costs associated with notifying the OEB where additional time is required to complete a Regional Infrastructure Plan. However, these costs are expected to be relatively low.

E. Coming Into Force

The OEB proposes that the proposed amendments to the TSC and the DSC, as set out in Appendix A and Appendix C to this Notice, come into force on the date that final notice of TSC and DSC amendments are published on the OEB website.

F. Invitation to Comment

The OEB invites written comments from any interested stakeholder on the proposed TSC and DSC amendments. Anyone interested in providing written comments is invited to submit them by **December 17, 2026**. Written comments must be received by the Registrar by **4:45 p.m.** on that date.

Instructions for Submitting Comments and Cost Eligibility Requests

Stakeholders are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB **do not include personal information** (as that phrase is defined in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*), unless filed in accordance with rule 9A of the OEB's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Stakeholders must quote file number **EB-2026-0245** for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the OEB's online filing portal.

- Filings should clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number and e-mail address
- Stakeholders must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the Regulatory Electronic Submission System (RESS) Document Guidelines found at the Filing Systems page on the OEB's website
- Stakeholders are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet set up an account, or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact registrar@oeb.ca for assistance.

G. Cost Awards

Cost awards will be available, under section 30 of the Act, to those that are eligible to receive them in relation to written comments provided on the proposed TSC and DSC amendments in this Notice. Any participant previously found eligible for an award of costs in the OEB's letter dated **October 23, 2026**, is eligible for an award of costs in relation to comments on these proposed amendments and need not reapply.

Appendix E contains important information regarding cost awards for this notice and comment process, including in relation to eligibility requests and objections. The deadlines for filing cost eligibility requests and objections will be strictly enforced to facilitate a timely decision on cost eligibility.

This Notice, including the proposed TSC and DSC amendments in the appendices and all related written comments received by the OEB, will be available for public viewing on the OEB's website at www.oeb.ca.

Any questions regarding the proposed amendments to the TSC and the DSC described in this Notice should be directed to IndustryRelations@oeb.ca. The OEB's toll free number is 1-888-632-6273.

DATED at Toronto, **November 26, 2026**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Ritchie Murray

Digitally signed by Ritchie Murray
Date: 2026.11.26 14:55:50 -05'00'

Ritchie Murray
Registrar

Attachments:

Appendix A:	Proposed Amendments to the Transmission System Code – Comparison Version to the Current Code
Appendix B:	Proposed Amendments to the Transmission System Code – Clean Version
Appendix C:	Proposed Amendments to the Distribution System Code – Comparison Version to the Current Code
Appendix D:	Proposed Amendments to the Distribution System Code – Clean Version
Appendix E:	Cost Awards

Appendix A

to

Notice of Proposed Amendments to the

Transmission System Code and the Distribution System Code

November 26, 2026

EB-2026-0245

Proposed Amendments to the Transmission System Code – Comparison Version to the Current Code

Note:

- Underlined text indicates proposed additions.
- Strikethrough text indicates proposed deletions.
- Where the *[INSERT DATE]* placeholder is used, it is to indicate the date the final notice of code amendments is published.

The definition of "scoping assessment" in section 3C.1.1 is amended as follows:

Note: "scoping assessment" definition revoked by amendment, effective *[INSERT DATE]* ~~"scoping assessment" means a process led by the IESO to determine the form of regional planning process (regional infrastructure planning process or integrated regional resource planning process) that is required for a region~~.

Section 3C.2.2 is amended as follows:

(e) Note: Subsection 3C.2.2(e) revoked by amendment, effective *[INSERT DATE]* ~~where a needs assessment for a region indicates that a scoping assessment is required, participate in the scoping assessment as may be reasonably required by the IESO~~;

(f) where ~~a scoping assessment~~ an Integrated Regional Resource Plan identifies that a regional infrastructure planning process is required for a region, complete or update a Regional Infrastructure Plan for the region within six months of the date of receipt of the ~~scoping assessment~~ Integrated Regional Resource Plan from the IESO, and post the Regional Infrastructure Plan on its website upon its completion. On or after October 31, 2027, the Regional Infrastructure Plan shall be updated or completed within four months. Where a Regional Infrastructure Plan has not been completed within four months, the transmitter shall take no longer than six months to complete the Regional Infrastructure Plan and shall notify the Board in writing explaining the reason(s) a Regional Infrastructure Plan could not be completed within four months, identify the applicable region and the

additional time required, up to a maximum of two additional months. Where there is a consensus among the IESO, the lead transmitter and the applicable licensed electricity distributors in a region that: (i) a material change in forecasted load has occurred during the regional infrastructure planning process; and (ii) an expedited Integrated Regional Resource Plan under subsection 21.2.2(h) of the IESO's licence is not necessary, the transmitter shall take no longer than six months to complete or update the Regional Infrastructure Plan;

(g) where a ~~scoping assessment~~ needs assessment identifies that an integrated regional resource planning process is required for a region, (i) participate in the integrated regional resource planning process as may be reasonably required by the IESO, and (ii) subject to section 3C.2.3, provide the IESO with such information as the IESO may from time to time reasonably require for the purposes of the integrated regional resource planning process within 30 days of receipt of a request by the IESO for the information;

Appendix B

to

Notice of Proposed Amendments to the

Transmission System Code and the Distribution System Code

November 26, 2026

EB-2026-0245

Proposed Amendments to the Transmission System Code – Clean Version

The definition of "scoping assessment" in section 3C.1.1 is amended as follows:

Note: "scoping assessment" definition revoked by amendment, effective *[INSERT DATE].*

Section 3C.2.2 is amended as follows:

(e) Note: Subsection 3C.2.2(e) revoked by amendment, effective *[INSERT DATE]*;

(f) where an Integrated Regional Resource Plan identifies that a regional infrastructure planning process is required for a region, complete or update a Regional Infrastructure Plan for the region within six months of the date of receipt of the Integrated Regional Resource Plan from the IESO, and post the Regional Infrastructure Plan on its website upon its completion. On or after October 31, 2027, the Regional Infrastructure Plan shall be updated or completed within four months. Where a Regional Infrastructure Plan has not been completed within four months, the transmitter shall take no longer than six months to complete the Regional Infrastructure Plan and shall notify the Board in writing explaining the reason(s) a Regional Infrastructure Plan could not be completed within four months, identify the applicable region and the additional time required, up to a maximum of two additional months. Where there is a consensus among the IESO, the lead transmitter and the applicable licensed electricity distributors in a region that: (i) a material change in forecasted load has occurred during the regional infrastructure planning process; and (ii) an expedited Integrated Regional Resource Plan under subsection 21.2.2(h) of the IESO's licence is not necessary, the transmitter shall take no longer than six months to complete or update the Regional Infrastructure Plan;

(g) where a needs assessment identifies that an integrated regional resource planning process is required for a region, (i) participate in the integrated regional resource planning process as may be reasonably required by the IESO, and (ii) subject to section 3C.2.3, provide the IESO with such information as the IESO

may from time to time reasonably require for the purposes of the integrated regional resource planning process within 30 days of receipt of a request by the IESO for the information;

Appendix C

to

Notice of Proposed Amendments to the

Transmission System Code and the Distribution System Code

November 26, 2026

EB-2026-0245

Proposed Amendments to the Distribution System Code – Comparison Version to the Current Code

Note:

- Underlined text indicates proposed additions.
- Strikethrough text indicates proposed deletions.
- Where the *[INSERT DATE]* placeholder is used, it is to indicate the date the final notice of code amendments is published.

The definitions of "lead transmitter" and "scoping assessment" in section 8.1.1 are amended as follows:

"lead transmitter" means a transmitter that is leading a regional planning process or is involved in ~~a scoping assessment or~~ an integrated regional resource planning process in a region;

Note: "scoping assessment" definition revoked by amendment, effective *[INSERT DATE]* ~~"scoping assessment" means a process led by the IESO to determine the form of regional planning process (regional infrastructure planning process or integrated regional resource planning process) that is required for a region~~;

Section 8.2.1 is amended as follows:

8.2.1 A transmission-connected distributor shall participate in regional planning upon being requested to do so by the transmitter that is leading a regional infrastructure planning process or by the IESO that is leading ~~a scoping assessment or~~ an integrated regional resource planning process for the region within which the distributor's licensed service area is located, in whole or in part, and shall do so to such extent and in such manner as may reasonably be required by the lead transmitter or the IESO;

Appendix D

to

Notice of Proposed Amendments to the

Transmission System Code and the Distribution System Code

November 26, 2026

EB-2024-0126

Proposed Amendments to the Distribution System Code – Clean Version

The definitions of "lead transmitter" and "scoping assessment" in section 8.1.1 are amended as follows:

"lead transmitter" means a transmitter that is leading a regional planning process or is involved in an integrated regional resource planning process in a region;

Note: "scoping assessment" definition revoked by amendment, effective *[INSERT DATE]*;

Section 8.2.1 is amended as follows:

8.2.1 A transmission-connected distributor shall participate in regional planning upon being requested to do so by the transmitter that is leading a regional infrastructure planning process or by the IESO that is leading an integrated regional resource planning process for the region within which the distributor's licensed service area is located, in whole or in part, and shall do so to such extent and in such manner as may reasonably be required by the lead transmitter or the IESO;

Appendix E

to

Notice of Proposed Amendments to the

Transmission System Code and the Distribution System Code

2026-11-26

EB-2026-0245

Cost Awards

Cost Award Eligibility

The OEB will determine eligibility for cost awards in accordance with its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. Any participant in this process intending to request cost awards (and that has not already been determined eligible for cost awards in the OEB's letter dated October 23, 2026) must file a written submission with the OEB by **December 3, 2026,** identifying the nature of their interest in this process and the grounds on which they are eligible for cost awards (addressing the OEB's cost eligibility criteria in section 3 of the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*). An explanation of any other funding to which the participant has access must also be provided, as should the name and credentials of any lawyer, analyst or consultant that the person intends to retain, if known. All requests for cost eligibility will be posted on the OEB website.

If an electricity transmitter or distributor has any objections to any of the cost eligibility requests, those objections must be filed with the OEB by **December 10, 2026**. Any objections will be posted on the OEB website. The OEB will then make a final determination on the cost eligibility of the requesting participants.

Eligible Activities

Cost awards will be available in relation to providing comments on the proposed TSC amendments in Appendix A and the proposed DSC amendments in Appendix C, to a **maximum of 5 hours.**

Cost Awards Determination

The OEB will apply the principles in section 5 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards,* when determining the amount of the cost awards. The maximum hourly rates in the OEB's Cost Awards Tariff will also be applied. The OEB expects that groups representing the same interests or same type of participant will make every effort to communicate and co-ordinate their participation in this process. Cost awards are made available on a per eligible participant basis, regardless of the number of advisors that an eligible participant may wish to retain.

Cost awards will be recovered from all rate-regulated electricity distributors (65% of the costs awarded) and all rate-regulated transmitters (35% of the costs awarded). Within the distributor class, costs awarded will be apportioned based on respective customer numbers. Within the transmitter class, apportionment between transmitters will be based on the percentage of revenue of each transmitter (using the most recent calendar year).

The OEB will use the process in section 12 of its *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* to implement the payment of the cost awards; i.e., the OEB will act as a clearing house for all cost award payments in this process.