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BY EMAIL

April 28, 2022

**To: Regional Planning Process Advisory Group (RPPAG) Members
All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Licensed Electricity Transmitters
Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)
All Other Interested Stakeholders**

**Re: OEB Response to RPPAG Recommendations to Improve the Regional
Planning Process
Regional Planning Process Review
Ontario Energy Board File Number: EB-2020-0176**

This letter is in response to the RPPAG's [Report to the Ontario Energy Board \(OEB\)](#) dated December 20, 2021, which provided recommendations to improve the Regional Planning Process in Ontario.

The OEB has reviewed the report and found there are essentially two types of recommendations. The RPPAG has asked the OEB to consider a number of recommendations related to providing guidance to the sector, amending licences or codes to prescribe certain actions by licensed entities, and filing new information as part of OEB applications. Other recommendations would be addressed by the RPPAG (e.g., revisions to the report that sets out the regional planning process) or specific members of the RPPAG.

The OEB has considered the recommendations and intends to move forward with those that require action to be taken by the OEB. The OEB has implemented a recommendation through its updates to the Conservation and Demand Management (CDM) Guidelines issued in December 2021. On April 14, 2022, the revised filing requirements for distributor rate applications included a new requirement that distributors identify if there is any inconsistency between their distribution system plan and the regional plan that covers their service area. Further to an RPPAG recommendation to support leave to construct (LTC) applications, the OEB will require transmitters, who are filing for LTC after May 1, 2022, to include a report by the IESO that summarizes all planned bulk and regional plan investments with linkages to the transmission investment proposed in the LTC application. To address the remaining recommendations, the OEB has developed an implementation plan set out in the Appendix to this letter.

The OEB endorses all of the recommendations that require the RPPAG to take some form of action and will look to that group to set out its work plan. OEB staff will continue to work with the RPPAG members.

The OEB wants to take this opportunity to thank the members of the RPPAG for their efforts in providing these recommendations and commitment to improving the regional planning process.

Please direct any questions relating to this letter to Chris Cincar, Senior Policy Advisor at 416-440-7696 or chris.cincar@oeb.ca.

Yours truly,

Nancy Marconi
Registrar

Appendix

OEB Implementation Plan: RPPAG Recommendations

OEB Action	Description	Target Date 2022/23
Amend CDM Guidelines	Broaden scope to include transmission deferral, require a joint application where multiple local distribution companies (LDCs) are involved and include cost responsibility guidance that aligns with Transmission System Code (TSC) – proportional benefit	Completed
Amend Filing Requirements for Electricity Distribution Rate Applications	Require LDCs to identify where there is an inconsistency between their Distribution System Plan (DSP) and Regional Infrastructure Planning (RIP), and explain the reasons why	
Establish New Filing Requirement for LTC Applications	Require transmitters to file an IESO document that summarizes all planned transmission investments (in related bulk & regional plans) with linkages to the transmission investment proposed in an LTC application	
Provide Guidance to Industry	<p>New Bulletin to inform communities that they have a choice to opt for a “premium” solution (e.g., DER, rather than wires) to reflect “local preferences” and the cost responsibility for the premium option.</p> <p>Update 2006 Bulletin that explains when Network upgrade costs should be paid for by specific customers (to increase awareness, increase clarity and reflect changes in the TSC since issued)</p>	<p>Q2 (Jul-22 to Sep-22)</p>
Propose Amendments to OEB Regulatory Instruments	<p>Add to the IESO licence an obligation to make planning information available to interested stakeholders</p> <p>Revise IESO licence to address scenario where a material change occurs during the RIP process and requires a return to Integrated Regional Resource Planning (IRRP) process</p> <p>Amend codes to ensure all transmission asset owners report end-of-life (EOL) information related to major transmission assets to IESO, prior to Needs Assessment (10-year outlook)</p>	<p>Q3/Q4 (Oct-22 to Mar-23)</p>