

# REGIONAL PLANNING PROCESS REVIEW (RPPR) – OVERVIEW OF OUTCOMES

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The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) initiated a consultation process – [Regional Planning Process Review \(RPPR\)](#) – to improve the regional planning process in Ontario. Phase 1 of the RPPR culminated in the OEB’s Regional Planning Process Advisory Group (RPPAG) providing its recommendations in their [Report to the OEB](#). The OEB completed the RPPR on August 2, 2023 when it issued the final document in its [Implementation Plan](#) that was issued in response to the RPPAG’s recommendations. Below is a summary of the RPPR outcomes. In total, 10 documents were amended or created. The two RPPAG documents were endorsed by the OEB and posted on the OEB’s website.



## OEB DELIVERABLES

- [CDM Guidelines](#) – Amended to expand the scope to include Transmission infrastructure deferral and related cost responsibility guidance in such cases; i.e., socialize costs (p.14-17).
- [Transmission System Code & Distribution System Code](#) – Amended to ensure the most cost-effective investments are made to replace major transmission assets when they reach end-of-life (EOL) and need to be replaced. The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) will receive EOL information from all transmission asset owners, including applicable electricity distributors, with the necessary lead time (10-year outlook) to assess Non-Wire Alternatives (NWA).
- [Leave to Construct \(LTC\) Filing Requirements \(Chapter 4\)](#) – Amended to require new IESO Report to be filed by the transmitter that identifies all future planned regional / bulk system investments that have linkages and/or interdependencies to the applied-for transmission project to inform OEB Panel decisions; i.e., provide “big picture” (p.13).
- [LDC Application Filing Requirements \(Chapter 5\)](#) – Amended to require an electricity distributor to identify any inconsistencies between its Distribution System Plan (DSP) and any current Regional Plan, explain the reasons why, particularly where a proposed investment in its DSP is different from the recommended optimal investment in the Regional Plan (p.5-6).
- [IESO Licence](#) – Amended to require an “expedited” Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) to assess if an NWA investment is a solution under a scenario that was not initially contemplated. In response to another RPPAG recommendation, the IESO’s licence was not amended to require Planning Information to be shared with stakeholders. The IESO published a new document – [Regional Planning Information and Data Release Guideline](#) – which made a new licence obligation unnecessary.
- [Local Preference Bulletin](#) – Clarifies that, based on “local preference,” a local community may choose an alternative solution (e.g., DER) to the most cost-effective solution (e.g., wires) determined through a Regional or Distribution Planning process. Related guidance on cost responsibility was also provided.
- [Cost Responsibility Bulletin](#) – Guidance on circumstances where transmitters should allocate costs associated with transmission Network facility upgrades to a specific load or generator customer (typically, bulk system investments are socialized).

## RPPAG DELIVERABLES

- [Load Forecast Guideline for Ontario](#) – Guidance to electricity distributors to increase **consistency** among their load forecasts (e.g., same assumptions). While the focus was on distributors, the IESO and Hydro One will also follow the Guideline to ensure consistency across all entities in the sector.
- [Municipal Information Document - Enhanced Coordination between Municipalities and Entities in the Electricity Sector](#) – Identifies information that distributors need from municipalities to increase the **accuracy** of their load forecasts.