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Gas-Electric Co-ordination and Information Sharing

October 27, 2026

Introduction

Gas-Electric Forum Meeting

Gas-Electric Co-ordination and Information Sharing (EB-2025-0227)

OEB Contact Information

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Agenda (1:00 – 3:00PM EST):

1	Introduction (2 mins)
2	Context (2 mins)
3	What we Heard (5 mins)
4	Modelling Best Practices (5 mins)
5	Draft Framework (15 mins)
6	Request for Feedback (10 mins)
7	Next Steps (2 mins)
8	IESO Presentation on Initial Subset of Regions (15 mins)
9	Q&A (70 mins)

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Housekeeping

- A copy of this deck and a request for input will be sent to forum participants after the meeting.
- Recording of the meeting is not permitted.
- Please mute yourself when not speaking.
- Please raise your hand to ask questions or type them in the comments section. We will respond to questions in order at the end of each section of the presentation.
- Questions can be sent to gaselectricforum@oeb.ca

Context

The OEB is required to set expectations for gas-electric co-ordination and information sharing.

Why it Matters

- Ontario is experiencing significant growth, electrification, and evolving energy needs.
- Gas and electricity planning largely occurs in silos. Some gas-electric co-ordination occurs but is ad hoc.
- A lack of co-ordination may impede growth, leading to higher energy prices or resulting in overbuilding as gas and electricity utilities plan to meet the same need.

OEB Progress to Date

- Published discussion paper with options for gas-electric co-ordination and initiated consultation forum.
- Solicited three rounds of written feedback.
- Held bilateral meetings with select forum participants.
- Submitted progress report with draft framework to Minister and shared it with consultation participants.

Purpose of today's meeting:

1. **Summarize the progress report.**
2. **Seek input on the OEB's draft gas-electric co-ordination framework.**

What we Heard

The OEB has consulted with forum participants to develop a draft framework centred on improving planning outcomes and providing value to ratepayers.

Examples of Feedback	Examples of OEB's Approach
Build on existing planning processes rather than create new ones.	Leverage existing planning processes, meeting forums (e.g., existing Technical Working Groups), and adjudicative processes and documents.
Focus on high-impact information with cross-sector relevance.	Focus on 11 high-impact information types.
Planning information would benefit from greater transparency, comparability and consistency.	Use standardized planning boundaries and information sharing templates.
Co-ordination provides greater value in some regions than others.	An initial subset of five regions will be selected for co-ordination.

Modelling Best Practices

Forum participants shared information on gas and electricity modelling best practices, including:

Best Practices	Impact on Gas-Electric Co-ordination
Gas and electricity forecasting relies on a wide range of inputs (e.g., weather assumptions, population growth, housing).	The OEB's framework ensures co-ordination on inputs with cross-sector impacts.
Community-level information, such as region-specific growth drivers, supports better planning.	Energy planning practices and capacity vary across communities. The OEB's framework will support communities' participation in co-ordination.
Scenario-based modelling helps planners address uncertainty and prepare for a range of potential outcomes.	The OEB's framework will provide greater visibility and comparability of the scenarios used across organizations.

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Draft Framework

Summary of Draft Framework

The OEB developed a targeted and scalable draft framework for gas-electric co-ordination.

1 Gas-electric co-ordination will occur in an initial subset of regions.

2 Within the initial subset of regions, gas-electric co-ordination will involve the following.

Activities	Utilities and IESO	Non-utilities*
Information sharing via standardized templates	✅	✅
Ongoing co-ordination forum meetings	✅	✅
Regional Technical Working Group (TWG) co-ordination meetings	✅	N/A
Localized utility-to-utility meetings	✅	N/A
Demonstrate co-ordination in applications to the OEB	✅	N/A

3 Gas-electric co-ordination will strengthen forecast transparency, comparability and accuracy. This will help optimize energy system buildout.

**Non-utilities refer to municipalities, Indigenous communities and transit agencies.*

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Where co-ordination will occur

Background

Since energy and infrastructure needs are location specific, gas-electric co-ordination information sharing should occur between organizations within the same geographical boundaries*. However, gas and electricity planning boundaries are not currently aligned.

Approach

The existing 21 electricity planning regions will be used as the geographical standard. Participants will be grouped by these regions for gas-electric co-ordination information sharing.

To limit burden and enable the application of lessons learned, co-ordination will be required in an initial subset of five of these regions, based on where the value of co-ordination is greatest. Additional regions will be added over time, as needed.



21 electricity regions

**Geographical boundaries refer to the planning boundaries of planners. Utilities typically define these boundaries by the location of energy infrastructure.*

Information Types

Information sharing in the initial subset of regions will involve the following information:

These forecasting results can reveal demand and electrification trends

1. Forecast demand
2. Historical demand
3. Forecast connections

These forecasting inputs can be cross-checked between gas and electricity planners

4. Heating split assumptions
5. Heat pump assumptions
6. Weather assumptions
7. Population assumptions
8. Economic growth assumptions
9. Housing assumptions
10. Fuel switching assumptions
11. Other sector trends and public policy assumptions

Information will be shared using standardized templates. The granularity of each information type will be determined through the development of the templates.

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Standardized Templates

Gas and electricity utilities, the IESO, municipalities, Indigenous communities and transit agencies will share information using standardized Excel templates.

Example of a simplified information sharing template

Information Type	Sub-Category	Source	2026	2027	2028
Weather Assumptions	Heating/Cooling Degree Days				
	Max/Min Temperatures				
	Weather Normalization				

Forum participants supported using templates to ensure consistent formatting, units and granularity.

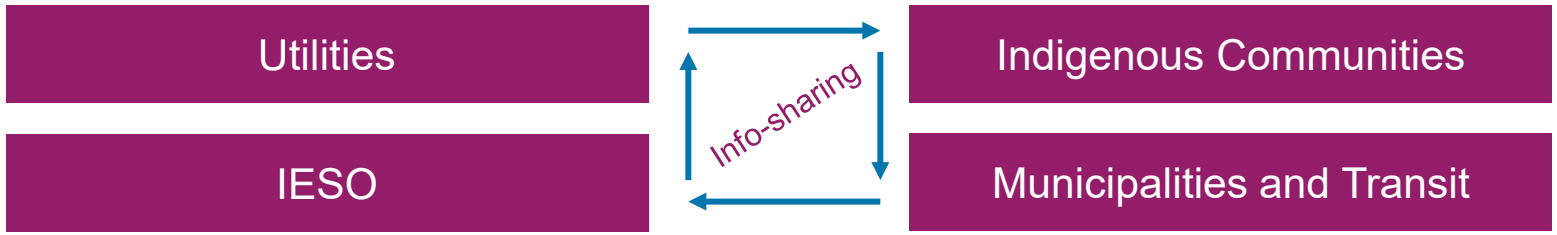
Some forum participants currently use templates to share information with each other. These will be leveraged.

The OEB will set the template's broad parameters and ask planning experts to lead its development in the fall.

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Information Transfer and Access

The OEB supports direct information sharing, using standardized templates, provided that planning entities get access to the information needed to enable co-ordinated and integrated planning.



Publishing information online improves transparency, but it would require additional effort. The OEB seeks additional feedback about how shared information, including publicly available data, will be used.

Participants will be responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information that they share. Confidential and sensitive information will be protected, as needed.

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Timing

Background

Gas-electric co-ordination information sharing will occur on a regular schedule. A regular schedule will enhance the responsiveness of planning to growth, ensure that co-ordinated information is consistently current across utilities' planning and respond to forum participant feedback that information sharing should occur sufficiently in advance of infrastructure decisions.

Approach

In the initial subset of regions, utilities and non-utilities will share completed templates based on the following schedule.

1. At the beginning of active electricity regional planning to inform the Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) process.

2. Before the Annual Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings during non-active planning, to support the monitoring for major load or forecasting changes.

Templates will be completed and shared based on IRRP results when those results become available.

Since the intervals above are region-specific (e.g., active and non-active planning schedules are different for each of the 21 regions), the exact timelines for information sharing are to be determined.

Gas-Electric Co-ordination Meetings

Gas-electric co-ordination meetings will ensure regular dialogue between planners. Rather than creating new forums, existing meeting processes are being augmented to include gas-electric co-ordination.

	Meeting	Purpose	Utilities and IESO	Non-utilities
Broad gas-electric co-ordination meetings:				
1	OEB-led co-ordination forum meetings	Monitor progress and discuss improvement opportunities	Attend	Attend
2	IESO-led regional planning public engagement sessions	Regular dialogue between utilities, IESO and public	Attend	Attend
Technical gas-electric co-ordination meetings in the initial subset of five regions:				
3	Regional Technical Working Groups (required)	Technical discussion on regional forecasting, infrastructure needs and opportunities for localized co-ordination (see below)	Attend	Not applicable
4	Localized utility-to-utility meetings (encouraged)	Technical discussion on detailed infrastructure needs and risks	Attend	Not applicable

Information will be shared, via standardized templates, based on a schedule set by the OEB to allow participants to review the information and support meaningful meeting discussions about forecast assumptions and outcomes.

Information Application

The OEB plans to require utilities to demonstrate that they have considered gas-electric co-ordination in their rate applications and facility applications to the OEB.

Utilities' applications to the OEB will describe the following:

- **Actions**: How the utility co-ordinated with others and what it achieved
- **Impact**: How shared data and discussions with others shaped the application
- **Alignment**: Where planning assumptions and outcomes align, and why divergences exist

This approach will support better co-ordinated infrastructure proposals from utilities to the OEB. These requirements will also ensure co-ordination is visible in the OEB's evidentiary record. This will inform the consideration of cross-sector impacts and risks by the OEB and participants in adjudicative proceedings.

Impact of Gas-Electric Co-ordination

Approach: The OEB will use regulatory instruments to provide certainty, structure and consistency to gas-electric co-ordination information sharing. Implementing the OEB's framework will achieve the following:

Near-term and ongoing impacts:

- **Improved data sharing** and forecasting comparability and accuracy.
- **Strengthened co-ordination**, responsiveness and dialogue.
- **Better-informed applications** and regulatory review.

Right-size energy system buildout

(avoiding overbuilding and underbuilding gas and electricity infrastructure; and informing the timing of infrastructure buildout)

Future activities and impacts:

- **Monitor progress and identify improvement opportunities** through the OEB-led co-ordination forum.
- **Add additional regions** to gas-electric co-ordination, as appropriate.
- **Establish the use of consistent planning assumptions and scenarios** in the medium term. Gas-electric co-ordination will inform this work by showing where gas and electricity assumptions and scenarios align and where and why they differ.

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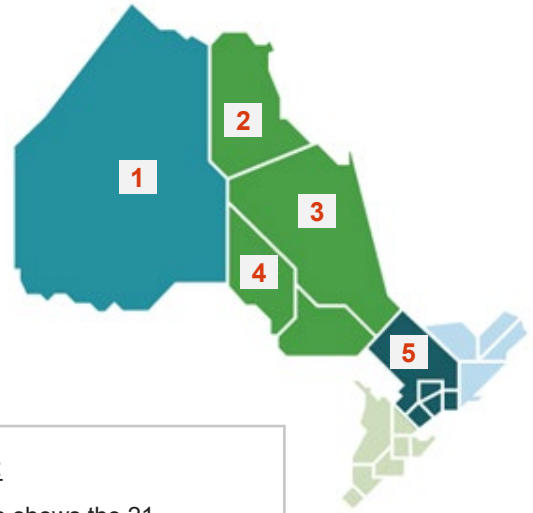
Request for Feedback

Planning boundaries for gas-electric co-ordination

Currently, gas and electricity planning boundaries do not align. A common geographic area is needed so that shared forecasts and assumptions are relevant and meaningfully comparable.

The OEB is considering two options for aligning gas and electricity planning boundaries. This slide describes the commonalities between the two options, and the next slide describes the differences.

	Option 1) Co-ordinate across a region	**Option 2)** Co-ordination in hotspots
Starting point	Select an initial subset of five of Ontario's 21 electricity planning regions.	
Non-utility participants	Municipalities, Indigenous communities and transit agencies in the selected regions encouraged to share information with the utilities that serve them. Utilities required to demonstrate they have considered the information received, where relevant. Utilities and IESO will share information with other participants, where appropriate.	



Legend:

Map shows the 21 electricity planning regions

Illustrative example of initial subset of five regions

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Planning boundaries for gas-electric co-ordination

This slide describes the differences between the two options, which pertain to how gas and electricity utilities would segment and share their information with each other.

	Option 1) Co-ordinate across a region (more breadth)	**Option 2)** Co-ordination in hotspots (more detail)
Focus	Co-ordination between utilities *required* **within each selected region**.	Co-ordination between utilities *required* **within one or more hotspots (e.g., municipality) within each selected region**.
Role of other utilities	Utilities in the same **region** segment, share, and compare forecast information with each other based on region.	Utilities in the same **hotspot** segment, share, and compare forecast information with each other based on hotspot.
Granularity	Gas and electricity **regional assumptions can be compared**.	Forecast assumptions of utilities in **hotspot can be compared**.
Considerations	Regional coverage means potentially **more utilities involved** Better comparison with electricity regional planning forecasts **Less relevant to local infrastructure decisions**	Hotspot focus means potentially **fewer utilities involved** Limited comparison with electricity regional planning forecasts **More relevant to local infrastructure decisions**
Applications to OEB	Utilities in the **region** must describe co-ordination outcomes and impacts in their applications to the OEB.	Utilities in the **hotspots** must describe co-ordination outcomes and impacts in their applications to the OEB.

Under both options, the OEB would encourage municipalities, Indigenous communities and transit agencies in the region (not just in hotspot) to share information with the utilities that serve them. Utilities must demonstrate they have considered that information in their applications to the OEB.

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Planning boundaries for gas-electric co-ordination

Option 1: Regional

Utilities will segment their forecasts to fit within regional boundary, before sharing it with each other. Under this approach, more utilities will co-ordinate on broader forecast data and infrastructure considerations.



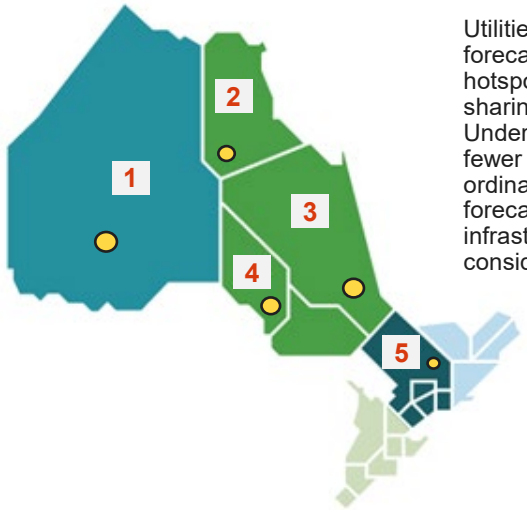
Legend:

Map shows the 21 electricity planning regions

\# Illustrative example of initial subset of five regions

Illustrative example of hotspots within regions.

Option 2: Hotspots



Utilities will segment their forecasts to fit within hotspot boundary, before sharing it with each other. Under this approach, fewer utilities will co-ordinate on more detailed forecast data and infrastructure considerations.

The OEB is seeking written feedback on:

1. **Whether option 1 (regional) or option 2 (hotspots) should be advanced.**
2. **How the initial subset of regions and/or hotspots should be selected, including specific examples.**

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Templates and Information Access

Standardized information sharing templates:

The OEB is seeking:

3. **Volunteers to help develop standardized information sharing templates,** using examples and parameters provided by the OEB. The Regional Planning Process Advisory Group (RPPAG) will develop the templates that utilities will use. We seek participation from municipalities, Indigenous communities and transit agencies.
4. **Examples of existing information-sharing templates**.

Approach for information access:

The OEB is seeking written feedback on:

5. **How non-utility participants, including municipalities, Indigenous communities and transit agencies, would use the 11 information types, including how this information would inform non-utility energy forecasting or planning.** Your input would help determine what information non-utilities need, who should receive it, when and how it should be shared, and what should be publicly available.

Next Steps

The OEB will continue working with forum participants to develop and finalize the gas-electric co-ordination information sharing framework.

	Next Steps
Oct 28 – Nov 13, 2026	• Written feedback from forum participants.
Nov 2026 – Spring 2027	• Develop and finalize standardized information sharing templates. • OEB finalizes framework and develops formal guidance and requirements to implement it.
Spring 2027	• OEB to inform utilities, municipalities, Indigenous communities and transit agencies about the final framework and their precise roles and responsibilities in implementing it.
Summer 2027	• Begin implementing the framework in an initial subset of regions.
2027 (date TBD)	• Reconvene the forum in 2027 to establish the use of consistent planning assumptions and scenarios.
Ongoing	• Reconvene the forum on an ongoing basis to monitor progress and refine the framework, as needed.

OCT 27, 2026

Gas-Electric Coordination Information Sharing
- *Considerations for selecting initial subset of regions*

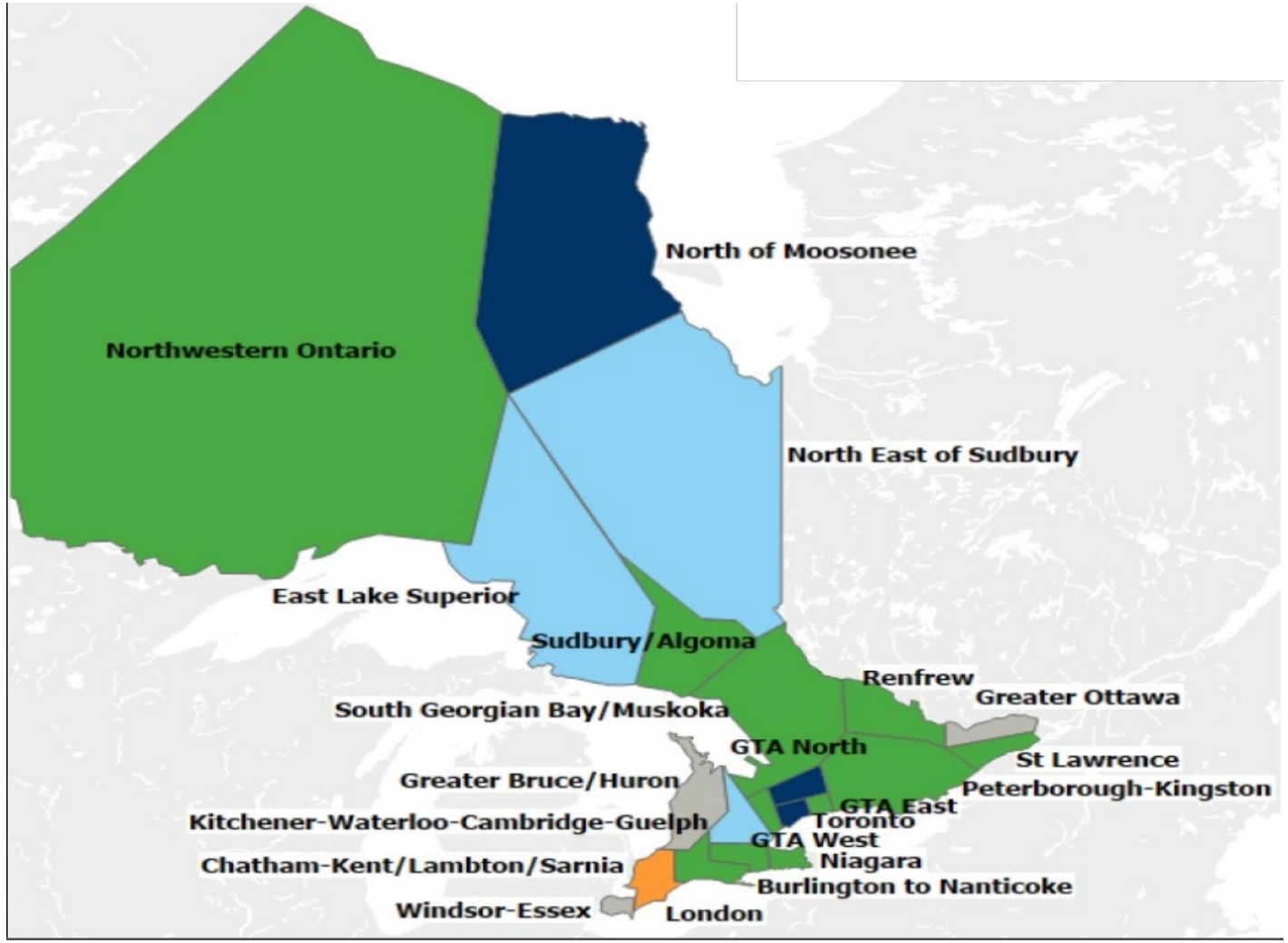
Presenter: IESO- Independent Electricity System Operator

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Considerations for selecting initial subset of regions

- **Planning Alignment:** Coordinate with electricity regional planning timelines and milestones.
- **Growth Potential:** Target regions with anticipated change or growth **in both** gas and electricity demand.
- **Policy Alignment:** Ensure alignment with emerging municipal, provincial, and federal policy, to the extent possible.

IESO Regions – Planning Status



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IESO Regional Planning Outlook

IESO Electricity Planning Region	Anticipated Next Cycle Start Date*
Burlington to Nanticoke	2027 – Q3
Toronto	2027 – Q4
Ottawa	2027 – Q4
Windsor-Essex	2027 – Q4
GTA North	2028 – Q2
Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph	2029 – Q1

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