

**Ministry of Energy,
Northern Development
and Mines**

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**Ministère de l'Énergie,
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January 28, 2021

Dear Stakeholder:

We are writing today to inform you that our government is now soliciting feedback on Ontario's long-term energy planning framework through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO). This posting will be open to comments for a period of 90 days, closing on April 27, and can be found at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-3007>.

Last year, we took the first step forward in our plan to reform Ontario's long-term energy planning process by revoking O. Reg. 311/17, the regulation that outlined timing requirements for publishing Long-Term Energy Plans. Now we are building on our commitment to promote transparency, accountability and effectiveness of energy planning and decision-making in order to increase investment certainty and to ensure the interests of ratepayers are protected.

A desired outcome of the new planning framework would be to empower expert technical planners, such as the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), to plan the most reliable and cost-effective system. To achieve this objective, the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) is considering revoking the provisions of the *Electricity Act, 1998* related to Long-Term Energy Plans, implementation directives and implementation plans.

ENDM is also considering whether the IESO and the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) have the appropriate mandates and authorities to undertake an expanded planning and resource acquisition role. This could include the development of a new approval process for certain types of policy-driven decisions.

As part of the ERO posting, and listed below, you will find an inexhaustive set of questions intended to help guide your feedback:

- How can we promote transparency, accountability and effectiveness of energy planning and decision-making under a new planning framework?
- What overarching goals and objectives should be recognized in a renewed planning framework?
- What respective roles should each of the government, IESO, and OEB hold in energy decision-making and long-term planning?

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- What kinds of decisions should be made by technical planners at the IESO and the OEB as regulators?
- What types of decisions should require government direction or approval?
- Are there gaps in the IESO and OEB's mandates and objectives that limit their ability to effectively lead long-term planning?
- Should certain planning processes or decisions by the IESO, OEB, or the government receive additional scrutiny, for example through legislative oversight or review by an expert committee?
- How often and in what form should government provide policy guidance and direction to facilitate effective long-term energy planning?
- How do we ensure effective and meaningful Indigenous participation in energy sector decision-making?

As we develop this new framework, we invite you and fellow energy sector participants, experts, Indigenous communities, and Ontario businesses and residents, to share your expertise, experience and ideas about how we can maximize transparency and accountability in our energy planning process.

This new framework, with your support, will ensure that future decisions are made with an eye to cost, and in the best interest of Ontario's electricity customers.

Our government, through ENDM, is committed to building a transparent long-term energy planning framework that is free from future political interference and prioritizes Ontario's energy consumers. With your support, we are confident we will achieve this.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Greg Rickford
Minister of Energy, Northern
Development and Mines



The Honourable Bill Walker
Associate Minister of Energy