

Memorandum

To: Stakeholder Advisory Committee

From: Luisa Da Rocha, Manager, Regional and Community Engagement

Date: August 15, 2017

Subject: IESO Business Update – Regional Electricity Forums

Action: Feedback from SAC members is welcome on the development of the Regional Electricity Forums, in particular the agenda topics listed below, local contacts to invite to the forums, as well as suggestions for local speakers. Forum details will be posted and sent to all SAC members along with an invitation for those interested in attending any of the events. Additional feedback after the SAC meeting can be sent to engagement@ieso.ca.

The IESO is hosting five regional electricity forums across Ontario throughout the fall as a means to engage with consumers, communities and businesses about the evolving electricity sector and its impact on regional needs. Consumers are more engaged in the electricity dialogue, communities are proactively seeking ways to become more self-sufficient and the opportunities for businesses to participate in the sector are at an all-time high through initiatives such as demand response and market renewal. With this evolution, the need to broaden the dialogue on electricity issues continues to grow.

The regional forums are intended to support the IESO's strategic objectives of enhancing public confidence in the IESO and seeking out and responding to input from communities. The need for the forums has been reinforced by feedback from the IESO's Local Advisory Committees and Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Previous forums have been held in northwest Ontario and this important engagement opportunity is now being expanded across the province.

The objectives of the regional forums are to:

- Demonstrate the IESO as a trusted advisor, informed by engagement
- Build capacity for initiatives pertinent to IESO strategic objectives
- Build relationships across the province to establish a foundation for community engagement
- Engage on both province-wide and local issues, demonstrating the linkages between them

The regional forums will be full-day sessions and will take place in the following locations:

- Northwest ON – **Thunder Bay** – October 18
- Northeast ON – **Sudbury** – November 9
- East ON – **Ottawa** – November 16
- Southwest ON – **London** – November 23
- GTA and Central ON – **Vaughan** – December 11

The regional forums will begin with a focus on the evolving provincial electricity system and the conversation will become increasingly focused on the individual region as the day progresses. Speakers will be a mix of industry and local leaders.

The preliminary forum agenda includes:

- Keynote addresses by provincial and local leaders
- Updates on the energy policy, electricity planning and operations in the area
- Panel discussions on: the changing electricity sector focused on key themes in the region; and engagement at the local level to determine how we keep the local conversation going
 - Topics to be identified by participants both in advance, and at the session
- Spotlights on local community electricity innovation projects

With the objective of creating a local electricity dialogue beyond the electricity sector, there is no registration fee to attend the forums and the following key audiences will be invited:

- Municipalities and municipal associations
- Indigenous representatives
- Local Distribution Companies
- Local Advisory Committee members
- Businesses and customers, boards of trade and chambers of commerce
- Local post-secondary institutions
- Gas utilities
- Local sustainability/conservation groups

These five regional electricity forums will be leveraged to continue more focused dialogue with Indigenous communities in the form of evening and half days sessions for both Métis councils and First Nation communities. This is in addition to a two day Aboriginal Community Energy Plan event this fall co-hosted with the Ministry of Energy. More information is provided under Item 2 of the Business Update – Stakeholder and Community Engagement: Indigenous relations of the August 23 SAC meeting.

Other meetings will also be arranged with communities, customers and stakeholders while the IESO representatives are in the area. Information on the regional forums is available [here](#).