

**Ministry of Energy**

Office of the Minister

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MC-994-2023-836

November 14, 2023

Ms Lesley Gallinger  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Independent Electricity System Operator  
1600 – 120 Adelaide Street West  
Toronto ON M5H 1P1  
Lesley.Gallinger@ieso.ca

Dear Ms Gallinger:

I would like to thank you and your team at the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) for your continued efforts on designing and implementing resource procurement mechanisms under IESO's Resource Adequacy Framework, and for meaningfully engaging with stakeholders and communities to incorporate their feedback.

Our government recognizes that support from local communities is vital to new-build energy projects and expects proponents to engage local communities to seek their support for the proposed projects.

Our government's *Green Energy Repeal Act, 2018* gave powers back to municipalities regarding how land use for renewable energy is regulated and approved in Ontario, including restoring municipal siting authority under the Planning Act over new proposed projects.

Last December, I wrote you to ask the IESO to be clear about the requirement for a resolution from municipal council supporting a proponent or counterparty with a proposed project located in that municipality, separate and apart from that municipality's permitting and regulatory requirements. Since then, the IESO conducted a successful Expedited RFP with a condition that no project would proceed to construction without receiving supportive municipal council resolutions. I look forward to similar success in the recently launched LT1 RFP and for future procurements.

With many communities currently reviewing proposals from proponents and deciding whether or not to undertake decisions to host projects, I have heard from a number of elected municipal officials that, while our government's approach to putting local decision-making first is welcome, more can be done to ensure Municipal Councils have access to the information needed to make informed decisions.

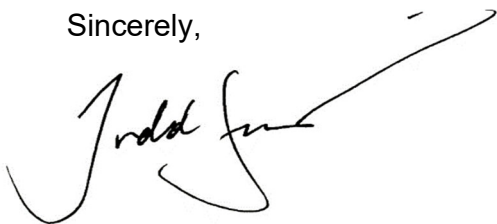
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To ensure Municipal Councils are appropriately informed, I am asking the IESO to make itself available to Municipal Councils and their officials on an ongoing basis, including outreach to municipal forums and organizations, to answer questions regarding the needs of the Ontario electricity system that may arise in the context of their decision-making on potential energy projects in their communities. In addition to outreach through municipal forums and organizations and recognizing that this work must be balanced with the delivery of major procurements and other initiatives, I ask that the IESO prioritize appearances at municipal councils that are considering projects that can produce energy on demand which will be critical to ensuring the province's overall system reliability.

Given the province is actively procuring new electricity resources, I ask that the IESO only speak to the provincial system needs in light of the province's goals of growing our reliable, affordable and clean electricity system to support electric vehicles, new homes, economic growth and the electrification of industry. In accordance with the procurement rules the IESO should not speak in support of or against any specific project seeking to participate in its procurement, including any projects currently before those Municipal Councils.

Ontario's energy transition and its path to growing our reliable, affordable, and clean energy systems will require all levels of government working together. As elected officials at all levels have an increasing role to play in this transition, supporting the knowledge and understanding of electricity planning and our electricity grid is a key responsibility of Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Smith", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Todd Smith  
Minister

- c: Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Michael Klimuntowski, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
David Donovan, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Energy  
Bill Sheffield, Chair of the Independent Electricity System Operator  
Colin Best, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario