



HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY COMMUNITY CONVERSATION FAQs

Elkhart & Mottville

Q. Who is Indiana Michigan Power Company (I&M)?

A. I&M is an electric utility company serving customers in parts of Indiana and Michigan, committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy while also being good stewards of the environment.

Q. What is the Hydroelectric Facility Community Conversation about?

A. I&M is exploring the best long-term plan for its Elkhart and Mottville hydroelectric facilities. We are carefully examining the following options as part of our upcoming FERC license coming due:

1. Relicensing the facilities to continue full operations;
2. Decommissioning the facilities, which involves facility removal and restoring a free-flowing river; and
3. Examination of these options encompasses essential studies on the environmental impact, economic consequences, and the community's uses of the river.

No decision on the hydroelectric facilities is being made at this time. This is an early process to examine future options for the facilities, and the potential impacts and benefits of each option.

Q. Are there any other options related to the future of the hydroelectric facilities beyond what I&M is studying as part of this process?

A. Yes. If it is determined that continuing to operate the hydro facility was not in the best interest of I&M or its customers, it is feasible that another entity could decide to take over operations and ongoing responsibility for the dam. However, since this is outside of I&M's scope or control, we are not studying this option as part of this process.

Q. What geographical area is involved?

A. I&M's assessment focuses on the St. Joseph River where the Elkhart and Mottville hydroelectric facilities are located. The impact studies I&M is conducting will consider the upstream and downstream areas, as well as the communities of Elkhart and Mottville and the surrounding region.

Q. Why are the hydroelectric facilities being assessed?

A. The hydroelectric facilities in Elkhart and Mottville began operation in 1913 and 1923, respectively, and are aging. If left unaddressed, the hydroelectric facilities could cause escalating maintenance costs, and impact to river flow and wildlife. I&M wants to proactively make an informed decision about the facilities' future that balances all these factors and best serves its customers, the community, and the environment.

The hydroelectric facilities are also being analyzed and assessed from an operations and cost perspective, as part of I&M's regulatory process, for evaluation in I&M's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).

Q. What is an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)?

A. An IRP is a long-term business planning tool used to evaluate resource options necessary to meet forecasted demand, typically over a future 20-year period, in a way that balances IRP objectives, such as affordability, reliability, and sustainability for I&M's customers and stakeholders. The IRP is conducted to be in the public interest and consistent with the Five Pillars of Indiana's energy policy and Michigan's energy policies. The goal of the IRP is to develop a preferred portfolio mix of generation resources – such as nuclear, solar, and hydroelectric that can be used as a roadmap designed to inform future resource actions for new generation needed to serve customer load. The IRP will take into consideration stakeholder and public feedback during the process that will help inform the preferred resource portfolio recommendation. More information about I&M's IRP and the stakeholder engagement process is available on our website at:

www.indianamichiganpower.com/community/improving-our-community/projects/irp.

Q. Is I&M examining how a final decision on the hydroelectric facilities will impact the environment?

A. Yes. I&M is carefully studying the potential impacts on the environment of the future options previously described (relicensing, decommissioning, and removing generation equipment), including the impacts on water quality, fish and other wildlife, and river sediment.

- Q. What timelines have been set for assessing the hydroelectric facilities’ options in support of a final decision?**
A. Examination of the potential options is a complex process and a final decision will likely take time. Check I&M’s project website (www.hydrocommunityconversation.com) for the latest milestones and updates.

COMMUNITY INPUT MEETINGS Summer 2024

PUBLIC SURVEY Summer 2024 - Fall 2024

INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING Summer 2024 - Late 2026



I&M is required to submit an IRP to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) every three years and file an IRP with the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) at least every 5 years. The long-term plan for I&M’s Elkhart and Mottville hydroelectric facilities will be evaluated in I&M’s current IRP. The IRP process will begin in the summer of 2024 and I&M plans to submit/file its IRP in 2025.

Q. How can I participate?

A. Here’s how to get involved:

- **Public Meetings and Open House:** Area residents and others interested in the future of the two hydroelectric facilities can attend in-person public meetings and/or an open house.

July 9 & July 11, 2024 | 5:30 - 7:30 pm
 Northern Indiana Events Center
21565 Executive Pkwy, Elkhart, IN
- **IRP Process:** Participate in an IRP stakeholder engagement planning and/or review process.
- **Hydroelectric Project Website:** Get more information and find contact forms on our dedicated project website.
- **Online Survey:** Take our survey to share your thoughts about the project’s potential impacts and what matters most to you.
- **Contact Us Directly:** Have a specific concern? Reach out to us at info@hydrocommunityconversation.com

Q. Will this raise my electric bill?

A. I&M is working hard to understand the long-term impact on your electric bill, and it is a key part of I&M’s studies. I&M’s goal is to find the solution that best balances the financial impact to its customers, the safety of the local residents and the environment.

Q. Will recreation by the water and areas by the hydroelectric facilities be impacted?

A. Potentially. I&M understands how important the river is for recreation. Whether you kayak, fish, hold community events, or simply enjoy the views, any changes to the hydroelectric facilities could have an impact. I&M’s studies will carefully examine the different ways the facilities currently support recreation to understand any impacts related to keeping the facilities or removing them. Please let us know what you value most about the river, and any concerns you would like to avoid.

Q. Will the hydroelectric facilities be replaced with anything?

A. It is unknown at this time. We are conducting a socio-economic study to explore possible options, including whether or not replacement infrastructure would be needed. Part of the study involves looking at potential land-use changes around the hydroelectric facilities if they were to be removed.

Q. How are stakeholders being engaged?

A. Stakeholders are being engaged with this Community Conversation through digital and in-person engagement, including in-person meetings, public open houses, social media, a dedicated webpage, and online and paper surveys. In addition, I&M has established an IRP stakeholder engagement process to encourage questions and solicit feedback. Interested parties are invited to participate in the planning and/or review process before the IRP is submitted to the IURC and MPSC.

I&M has three objectives for the stakeholder engagement process:

1. **Listen:** We will understand resource planning concerns and objectives of stakeholders.
2. **Inform:** We will increase stakeholder understanding of the IRP process, key assumptions and the challenges facing I&M and the electric utility industry.
3. **Consider:** We will provide a forum to promote transparency and encourage stakeholder feedback at key points in the IRP process to inform I&M’s resource planning and decision making.