

June 16, 2021

Mr. Chuck Farmer
Senior Director, Power System Planning
Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr. Farmer:

Re: Phasing-Out Ontario's Gas-Fired Power Plants

I am happy to hear that IESO is assessing how Ontario can phase out its gas-fired power plants. Since the phase out of the coal-fired generation plants, Ontarians have enjoyed a low carbon grid, essential in our transition to a low carbon economy where we will need to electrify transportation and building heating.

In April 2020, Trudeau promised to reduce Canada's ghg emissions by 40-45% by 2030 and Ontario currently has a ghg reduction target of 30% by 2030. It should be noted that IPCC scientists in their 1.5C Special Report indicated that a global ghg emission reduction of at least 45% levels was imperative to hold global average temperatures to less than 1.5C above pre-industrial temperatures to minimize the chance of passing catastrophic tipping points. We are already at a global average temperature rise of 1.2C.

Given this context, it is very important to phase out all fossil fuel power generation as quickly as possible, especially given that we have cheaper, cleaner options available, such as energy efficiency, hydro from Quebec, solar, and wind power. I am very concerned about plans for an increase in natural gas use for electricity generation over the coming years, as it will increase Ontario and Canada's ghg emissions and make it impossible to meet our ghg reduction targets. Furthermore, natural gas combustion also generates air pollutants, which impairs air quality in the neighbourhoods surrounding these power plants, impacting the health of Ontarians.

In your study to assess how Ontario can phase out its gas-fired power plant, I hope that you will conduct a comprehensive, fact-based, unbiased technical assessment of cost-effective options to phase out gas, including:

- Energy efficiency measures to conserve electricity to reduce the need for more generation capacity
- Increase in the use of renewable energy (wind, solar, etc.)
- Purchase of hydroelectricity from Quebec Hydro and
- Vehicle to grid integration and other emerging storage options.

I look forward to following the progress of this work, and the guidance it will provide to lead Ontario toward the low carbon, prosperous economy we desperately need.

Best regards,



Carol Aziz, PhD, PEng