

## IESO Engagement

---

**From:** Sue McKenzie  
**Sent:** June 16, 2021 7:46 PM  
**To:** IESO Engagement  
**Cc:** Miller, Norm; premier@ontario.ca  
**Subject:** IESO letter re Phasing-Out Ontario's Gas-Fired Power Plants

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

We at Climate Action Muskoka (CAM) are pleased that the IESO is initiating this study to assess **HOW Ontario can phase out its gas-fired power plants**. The IESO's actions can and should make a significant contribution to Ontario and Canada's reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

From a Muskoka perspective, we were alarmed this week to have the province announce, through our MPP, Norm Miller, a \$3 million 'investment' in subsidizing expansion of gas lines to the communities of Huntsville and Burk's Falls. Why would any government invest in infrastructure that will be obsolete within the decade? Those funds could contribute instead to reduce the GHG emissions and costs to the 144 recipient households/businesses by insulating to increase energy efficiency, converting to air source heat pumps, installing solar panels or to subsidizing reduced electricity bills.

The District of Muskoka has declared a Climate Emergency resolution with the target of reducing GHG emissions **50% by 2030** across the District. How can Muskoka and its area municipalities possibly achieve this target if gas line infrastructure is expanded across the District? Why would the IESO not give Muskoka a hand by increasing Ontario's 'green' energy production with non-fossil-fuel alternatives, rather than ramping up, intensifying, and expanding the use of fossil fuels?

This study is an important step forward, and should provide **a comprehensive, fact-based and unbiased technical basis for subsequent policy decisions**. For this purpose, Climate Action Muskoka respectfully requests that the assessment consider the entire issue through a climate lens, i.e. what will be the climate impacts of any and every decision? We ask you to consider how a gas phase-out can:

- Contribute to climate mitigation objectives by:
  1. reducing the gas plants' GHG emissions immediately to at or below 2017 levels and
  2. completing a phase out of all gas-fired power plants by 2030
- Address the following approaches to replacing existing gas generation capacity
  1. Renewable energy (wind, solar, etc.),
  2. Quebec Hydro (in depth engagement with Hydro Quebec on supply and storage)
  3. Conservation and demand management, and
  4. Other emerging storage options

- Reflect realistic future electricity demand including likely impacts of electrification of vehicles and buildings and the best way to meet this demand using a modern multi-faceted approach.

CAM expects to see an honest assessment based on the overwhelming science that says we must get off fossil fuels as soon as possible if we are to have any chance of turning the climate crisis around before tipping points make the world as we know it untenable for life.

We look forward to following the progress of this work, and the guidance it will provide to lead Ontario and its current and future government bodies toward the green and prosperous economy required. If you fail us and proceed with undoing the gains made through phasing-out coal-fired power plants by increasing gas infrastructure, it is our children and grandchildren who will pay.

Best regards,

Sue McKenzie, CAM founder

On behalf of Climate Action Muskoka

**Working Together for Climate Action,**

**Sue McKenzie**

**"CO2 Emissions are an indication of inefficiency."**

Christiana Figueres, architect of the Paris Agreement