

IESO Engagement

From: Eva Berringer
Sent: May 26, 2021 10:00 PM
To: IESO Engagement
Subject: Gas Phase-out Impact Assessment

I am writing to provide my input to the public engagement process assessing the impacts of reducing Ontario's reliance on natural gas for electricity generation. I strongly support phasing out gas-fired electricity in Ontario by 2030.

The Government of Canada has recently committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 45 percent by 2030 (from 2005 levels), a target which many quite rightly claim is insufficient to help meet the international target of keeping global temperatures from increasing by no more than 1.5 degrees. However, to meet even this conservative target, all jurisdictions, including Ontario, will need to have aggressive plans in place to reduce their emissions. Any plans by Ontario to increase use of natural gas generation as part of its electrical energy supply will be detrimental to meeting this goal and will lead to increased, not decreased emissions.

The climate crisis must be taken seriously. The United States and the United Kingdom have both committed to transitioning to zero carbon electricity systems. Surely Ontario can do the same.

There are other, better options. A starting point should be setting targets for reducing electricity usage by both domestic and industrial users and putting in place measures to help users achieve the reduction targets. Natural gas generation should be replaced with zero carbon, low-cost alternatives, including wind and solar. Perhaps most importantly, Ontario should explore the possibility of purchasing low cost, hydro-electric power from Quebec, with cost-sharing from the federal government to put in place the needed infrastructure.

I am concerned that the very terms of this public engagement process show bias towards continuing reliance on natural gas. There does not appear to be any acknowledgement of very real need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, rather the assessment is focusing on 'reliability, cost, operability and timing **issues** that would need to be addressed **should** the phase out of natural gas be considered'. A more appropriate approach to show the province's commitment to addressing climate change would have been to figure out how natural gas usage can be eliminated without impacting the reliability, cost and operability of Ontario's electrical system. That is the type of forward-looking thinking we need if we as a country are to meet our emissions reduction targets.

Gas-fired electricity in Ontario must be phased out by 2030. There is no 'should' be. I would appreciate being kept informed of your plans to end the use of gas-fired electricity in Ontario.

Eva Berringer

