

June 15, 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

Your investigation of the impacts of phasing out gas-fired power plants is an important positive step. It is an opportunity for the IESO to apply its well-respected expertise to explore options that will maintain its leadership among utilities by delivering clean green power to Ontario's citizens and residents- power without associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Addressing climate change by reducing and eliminating GHG emissions as fast as possible is essential for the well-being of future generations in Ontario and around the world. The study should aim to reduce GHG emissions below 2017 levels immediately, and eliminate them entirely by 2030. Ontario is in the enviable position of having a number of low cost zero-emissions electricity generation options, and a relatively low current dependence on fossil fuels. This is the IESO's opportunity to explore these options, providing the basis for sound, fact-based policy decisions that can make Ontario's delivery of clean, green electricity a model for utilities around the world.

While the important role of gas in the current operation is appreciated, this study should be forward-looking and embrace alternative ways to address the reliability and distribution functions that gas performs. The early materials released concerning the study focus on the role provided by gas at this time, and give the appearance that the study is intended to defend the status quo. This would miss the opportunity to lead Ontario toward a prosperous future green economy. Conservation, renewable generation, collaboration with neighbouring jurisdictions and emerging approaches to energy storage all offer exciting opportunities for transformation of Ontario's electricity supply and development of economic sectors.

Electrification of heating, transportation and other processes are all necessary parts of climate action plans across the province. The assessment must address the impacts of these changes in order to be credible. There is obviously a great deal of uncertainty about how these changes will evolve, but the plan should consider a range of likely scenarios to address this issue.

I look forward to the **comprehensive, fact-based and unbiased technical findings** that this assessment will produce, that can guide Ontario's policies toward the green and prosperous economy of the future.

Best regards,

Eve Wyatt