

IESO Engagement

From: Lyn Folkes
Sent: June 12, 2021 4:32 PM
To: IESO Engagement

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

June 12, 2021

Dear Mr. Farmer:
Re: Phasing-Out Ontario's Gas-Fired Power Plants

We are very pleased that the IESO is initiating a 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. The entire world is depending on us to do so and we should be phasing out gas by 2030 in order to improve our climate and clean our air.

Ontario will not even meet its existing weak climate targets if we allow a huge increase in gas generation. So, I certainly hope you are serious in your effort to reduce greenhouse gases in order to help lessen the negative impacts of the climate crisis.

My family is scared for our future. We are already experiencing hotter summers with record-breaking temperatures each year, longer periods of drought, more dangerous storms and winters with little snowfall compared to preceding generations. I do not agree with the way the provincial government has denied and ignored the most serious climate issue in human history. As an environmental scientist who was educated in Ontario, I have written many letters asking the PC government to take actions to slow the climate crisis but they only continue to contribute in accelerating this life-threatening event. We are in peril if this attitude continues in Ontario. My family does not feel secure or safe in our future prospects. We need a serious change in direction and leadership if we are to save ourselves.

Councils in 29 Ontario municipalities representing over 50% of our province's population as well as 60 organizations have approved resolutions calling for a phase-out of Ontario's gas-fired electricity generation, and I agree 100% with this course of action. I am proud that my city of Hamilton has added their voice. I do not want to see the revival of the Enbridge fracked-gas pipeline across rural Hamilton that was intended to feed gas-fired power plants and benefit the USA on the backs of Ontarians having to pay for that multi-million dollar project. Such a proposal is an affront to Ontario's taxpayers.

There is simply no other option than phasing out natural gas, for reducing our GHG emissions and ensuring our future security. Ontario has many better ways to meet its electricity needs including wind, solar, energy efficiency and waterpower imports from Quebec. None of these options have been promoted or researched enough to date.

Canada is falling behind economically because we are missing the boat on new Green Industries due in large part to the attitudes of some of our current provincial leaders. Please do not base your decisions on what any science-denying politicians spout to the public. Premier Ford's actions demonstrate his clear denial of the serious problems the world currently faces due to unfavourable changes in our climate. We need solutions not denials!

Your study is an important step forward, and should provide a comprehensive, fact-based and unbiased technical basis

for subsequent policy decisions. For this purpose the assessment should consider how a gas phase out can contribute to climate action objectives by reducing gas plants' GHG emissions immediately to at or below 2017 levels, and by completing a phase out of all gas-fired power plants by 2030.

I implore you to include in your study, the following viable approaches to replacing existing gas generation capacity:

- Renewable energy (wind, solar, etc.),
- Quebec Hydro (in depth engagement with Hydro Quebec on supply and storage),
- Conservation and demand management (there is much waste in both the private and public sectors today),
- Vehicle to grid integration and other emerging storage options, and
- Curtailing gas-fired electricity exports to the U.S. (they also want to reduce their use of natural gas just across the border from our province, and have refused to build pipelines that Ontario has tried to support even though it is not to anyone's benefit considering our present predicament of burning too much fossil fuel already).

The United States is committed to a zero-emissions power system by 2035 – we need to keep up with our largest trading partner. The vast majority of current gas-plant contracts will expire by 2030, so this is the perfect time to phase out gas

We look forward to following the progress of this work, and the guidance it will provide to lead Ontario towards a hopeful future with a greener and more prosperous economy than we are currently headed towards.

Please help protect our future, this may very well be our last chance to turn the climate crisis around.

Sincerely and with hope for effective change,
Lyn Folkes & family

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