

Electricity System Impacts of COVID-19

Webinar, May 20, 2020

IESO responses to questions not answered during the webinar

On May 20, 2020, the IESO presented the second update webinar on the impacts on electricity system of COVID-19. The responses to participant questions asked that the IESO was not able to respond to during the webinar are provided below.

Planning

Question: I think you guys are already doing a great job with these webinars. Price forecasts please.

IESO Response: The global adjustment varies from month to month, and generally, when the Hourly Ontario Energy Price (HOEP) is lower, the global adjustment is higher in order to cover the costs of regulated and contracted generation. There has been an increase in GA associated with decreased demand due to the impact of COVID-19. The IESO will continue publishing unadjusted estimated GA three times per month.

Question: Would love to see some more thoughts on most extreme scenarios. i.e what would happen if electricity demand totally crashed in 2021+, or what if demand shot up to new highs due to electrification of transportation and other energy uses There is a high level of uncertainty in the longer-term impacts of COVID-19. The IESO's two planned scenarios, "Tortoise" and "Rabbit" represent a range of likely.

IESO Response: COVID-19 policy responses and resulting economic conditions on Ontario demand, based on the information available at this time. The IESO continues to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 and considers many factors that can affect demand forecasts. By publishing regular updates through the Reliability Outlook and the Annual Planning Outlook, we can incorporate a variety of conditions should they emerge.

Question: Would like see as much ``real time`` data as possible plotted over time, showing the energy profiles(demand and TOU) that change specific to each segment of the market(residential, education, health care, small biz, C&I.etc. by employee size and industry specialization), as the lockdown restrictions evolve and business and society adapts to Covid.

IESO Response: The IESO does not publish hourly demand data for residential, small commercial, larger Dx-connected commercial/industrial loads since these are settled by LDCs. On a monthly basis, the IESO publishes the Industrial Load by Sector report which includes hourly data for grid-connected market participant loads: <http://reports.ieso.ca/public/IndustrLoadBySector/>.

Electricity Rates

Question: If TOU is not looking to change can we possibly expect an new OEB RPP anytime soon to set a new flat rate? Also why has there been no RPP update for May.

IESO Response: The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) sets the rates for Regulated Price Plan (RPP) consumers, including time-of-use and tiered rates. The Government of Ontario [announced](#) on May 6, 2020 that it has extended emergency time-of-use (TOU) price until May 19 and announced that it intends for the emergency TOU price to remain in place until May 31, 2020.

Question: Is it confirmed that GA cost deferral for Class A is going to extend to end of August 2020? I am asking because based on the May IESO update, it shows June 2020. Thanks.

IESO Response: The Ontario government announced on [May 1, 2020](#) that it is deferring a portion of Global Adjustment (GA) charges for industrial and commercial electricity customers that do not participate in the Regulated Price Plan (RPP), for the months of April and May 2020. The government also said it intends to keep this relief in place through the end of June 2020, subject to necessary extensions and approvals.

Note:

Please note that the information and responses provided by the IESO herein are for information and discussion purposes only and are not binding on the IESO. This document does not constitute, nor should it be construed to constitute, legal advice or a guarantee, representation or warranty on behalf of the IESO. In the event that there is any conflict or inconsistency between this document and the Market Rules, Market Manuals or any IESO contract, including any amendments thereto, the terms in the Market Rules, Market Manuals or contract, as applicable, govern.