

IESO Engagement

From: Ashlea-Elizabeth Smith
Sent: June 16, 2021 6:16 PM
To: IESO Engagement
Subject: I support phasing out gas-fired electricity by 2030

Dear Energy planning IESO,

Dear Mr. Farmer and Mr. Miller:

Re: Phasing-Out Ontario's Gas-Fired Power Plants

Last week, Norm Miller and Doug Ford announced \$3.1M in Provincial funding for the expansion of natural gas distribution to Burk's Falls and Hidden Valley, Huntsville.

While everyone desires affordable heating options, installing new gas lines would be a huge step in the wrong direction. Any and all subsidies should be applied to converting to non-fossil-fuel, non-greenhouse-gas-producing, renewable forms of heating and energy.

Surely the Ontario government is aware of the international call to reduce the use of fossil fuels. The worldwide goal for developed countries is to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% by 2030. To reach that goal, countries must rapidly reduce (and then eliminate) the use of all fossil fuels (and natural gas is a fossil fuel). If this is the goal, then why would any government subsidize the installation of new natural gas lines?

The program is prepared to spend \$3.1M to supply natural gas to 144 homes and/or businesses: that is \$21,500 per building. There are many ways to make home heating more affordable, and new gas lines are not the only option. Here are 4 simple alternatives: 1) use the funds to insulate homes and increase energy efficiency; 2) convert home heating to air source heat pumps; 3) install solar panels; 4) provide cash subsidies to reduce electricity bills.

I am 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.

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 the assessment should consider how a gas phase out can contribute to climate action 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.

The assessment should also 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
4. Vehicle-to-grid integration and other emerging storage options, and
5. Curtailing gas fired electricity exports to the U.S.

I look forward to following the progress of this work, and the guidance it will provide to lead Ontario toward the green and prosperous economy of the future.

Sincerely,
Ashlea-Elizabeth Smith

