

IESO Engagement

From: Donna Bowen-Willer
Sent: June 17, 2021 10:38 AM
To: IESO Engagement
Subject: The Environment needs to be central to this process

Dear IESO

I am very pleased that in response to the increasing demand by municipalities and other groups that the province of Ontario phase out gas-fired power plants by 2030 that the IESO has moved to hold a public engagement process to investigate the process by which this may be accomplished.

I understand you have outlined three scenarios:

1. A complete phase-out of gas by 2030 with a supply mix of new resources, in response to municipal council resolutions;
2. A market –based approach that examines the potential for higher gas prices to reduce the utilization of the gas fleet to reduce emissions by 2030 and to provide market signals to clean energy projects; and
3. Reduce emissions by 2030 with a supply mix approach of new resources.

Recently, the International Energy Agency warned that if the world wishes to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius, we must rapidly phase out the use of fossil fuels and rapidly increase our use of clean and renewable energy. In view of this, I see no other rational choice than option one. I support the approach of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance, that of designing and using an integrated and balanced combination of energy efficiency and demand response; wind and solar energy; and renewable electricity and storage resources. This would include working with the many Ontario municipalities who have designed their own energy efficiencies and renewable energy opportunities, and with the Province of Québec.

Looking at scenario two, if gas fired electricity were to be taxed to the true cost of its emissions, the people of Ontario would be paying extremely high costs for electricity which would still be polluting. Small increases in costs will not create change quickly enough to meet our necessary targets.

Scenario three appears very non-specific and seems to be based on the assumption that something will show up. While indeed useful new resources may show up, but to depend on unknown resources to effectively decrease emissions to the extent needed is foolhardy.

I would ask the IESO to provide a credible framework to guide Ontario towards a zero carbon future with a balanced plan of energy efficiency and renewable energy and away from the critical mistake of allowing ever rising emissions due to the ill-advised choice of continued use of fossil fuels.

Please keep me informed about your plans for the use of gas-fired electricity in Ontario.

Yours sincerely,

Donna Bowen – Willer

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