

## **IESO Engagement**

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**From:** Mervyn Russell  
**Sent:** June 14, 2021 11:46 AM  
**To:** IESO Engagement  
**Cc:** Halton Climate  
**Subject:** Gas Fired Power plants

I am in favour of phasing out the use of gas fired power plants in Ontario. The fundamental reason is because we are encompassed by a climate emergency which is produced by carbon emissions which result in the heating of the earth's atmosphere and thereby causes the destabilization of the mutually supportive global systems that enable life to thrive on this planet.

The decision around not only the continuation, but the expansion, of the use of gas fired power plants can not and must not, be considered as just another issue in continuing business as usual.

There are better alternatives.

Although the Ontario Power Association claims Hydro Quebec has never made a substantive offer to the Government of Ontario, we know that this is not the case and that Hydro Quebec is very interested in selling Ontario electrically generated power at set and stable unit prices which are well below those of gas or nuclear produced electricity.

We know that the transmission corridors are in place and would not need extra land acquisition. There would be need to add extra lines, but, over a ten year period, this would be manageable, if there is the political will to make the investment money available which would be paid back as a result of cheaper production costs.

We know too that the costs of renewable sources of electricity are continuing to fall and that, whether Ontario decides to develop this form of electricity generation now, it is the way of the future and will be introduced sooner or later. However, if Ontario promotes these sources now we will be developing a whole new set of skills and manufacturing that will place our industry and work force in a good competitive stance and our economy in a more secure position for the future.

If the IESO is actually independent it should not go through this public input exercise solely as a manipulative manouvere to satisfy political or industrial pressure that has already decided what it wants and will do. The IESO must, on

the basis of the best environmental, product availability and financial evidence, state its own genuine conclusions about what is in the best long term interests of the people of Ontario and allow public debate to continue from those findings. Clearly also there is a health consideration as the emissions from these gas fired power plants. Not only do their emissions lead to the heating of the atmosphere which has a destabilizing and a deadening impact on the environment, but they also release Nitrogen Oxide which contributes to the formation of particles which lead to, and increase the prevalence of Asthma, particularly in children. To increase the use of these power plants would totally remove all the decreases in carbon emission that have been made from the elimination of coal fired power plants. Ontario would not longer be a leader as an almost entirely green electricity supplier and make Canada's ability to achieve its Paris Accord commitments much harder.

The only real obstacle in phasing out gas fired power plants is political and gas supplier resistance.

I will be taking part in the public consultation on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Sincerely  
Mervyn Russell