

## IESO Engagement

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**From:** Ruth Allen  
**Sent:** June 9, 2021 7:43 PM  
**To:** IESO Engagement  
**Subject:** Feedback Gas Plant Phaseout

Mr. Chuck Farmer  
Senior Director, Power System Planning  
Independent Electricity Systems Operator  
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr. Farmer,

Thank-you for providing an opportunity to offer feedback on the future of gas plants in Ontario. As a citizen of Ontario, and therefore stakeholder on the future of energy in Ontario, I would like to offer the following comments:

### *Projected Increase in energy from gas plants*

- the projected increase in demand due to economic contract, and closure of nuclear plants guarantees that there will be a corresponding increase in GHG emissions
- we have a critical framework of time to reduce emissions in order to avoid the worsening impacts on our health and environment and have a civic responsibility to do so, 2030 is too late

### *Replacement supply neither developed or are unproven at this scale*

- while transition to renewables is challenging, more than the transition from coal to gas, it was worth it in improved social and health outcomes and reduced environmental damage
- while coal is the most harmful fossil fuel, natural gas is also very harmful
- other places have already begun the transition and have significantly lower GHGs emissions in spite of the challenges and can provide insight

### *Natural gas is expected to compete with other resources to meet system needs*

- gas production costs are rising, wind and solar costs are falling
- if gas plants are no longer exempt from carbon pricing, which could happen, will tax payers really get “the best bang for their buck” with continued reliance on gas?

### *Economic Life*

- to separate the costs of producing and distributing electrical power from other costs such as health care and the effects of climate change on other economic activity is short sighted, and is precipitated on the idea that one entity is not connected to everything else that makes up our society. If it was otherwise, we would be still using coal.

### *Additional Considerations*

- health risks associated with residential proximity and hazardous air pollutants (nitrogen oxides) and ozone
- perpetuates injustice of marginalized communities
- US is committed to zero emissions power system, will that negate any possibility of integrating our two systems?
- there is a proposal for Ontario to sell electricity to Pennsylvania leaving environmental costs to be born by citizens of Ontario
- future governments may not accept the status quo, stability of energy supply depends on development of new modern alternatives and securing financing which is coming under increasing scrutiny regarding climate risk
- we could buy cheaper, cleaner power from Quebec, as do many American jurisdictions, soon to include New York

Ruth Allen

