

Final Engagement Summary Report

Date: May 16, 2022

IESO Gas Phase-Out Assessment

Engagement Initiated: June 2021

Engagement Description

- The future of gas generation in Ontario has become a focus of discussion for a number of municipalities as they consider efforts to tackle climate change, raising questions and concerns from stakeholders about the challenges and opportunities these discussions have raised. The electricity system would undergo significant impacts if natural gas was taken out of the supply mix. Such an undertaking would require a comprehensive plan to develop and invest in suitable replacement supply and reorient the system around the new supply mix in order to maintain the reliability of the system.
- The IESO undertook a study to help inform future discussion about the implication of a phase-out of natural gas generation in Ontario and launched an engagement to help develop the assessment and outline implications of lowering emissions by reducing the reliance on natural gas generation. More specifically, the assessment outlined the current role natural gas plays in maintaining a reliable electricity supply across Ontario as well as provides an assessment on the reliability, cost, operability and timing issues that would need to be addressed should the phase out of natural gas be considered.

Engagement Objective

- Seek stakeholder input on the scope of the assessment related to the reliability, cost, operability and timing issues that would need to be addressed should the phase out of natural gas be considered

Engagement Approach

- This stakeholder engagement was a public engagement process and was conducted in accordance with the IESO's approved [engagement principles](#). The approach for this engagement initiative included opportunities to provide input through various channels such as webinars and written feedback. All materials, public feedback and commentary

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from stakeholders, and IESO responses to feedback was posted on the dedicated IESO engagement webpage for this initiative.

Conclusion

- The IESO hosted two engagement sessions to discuss the future of gas generation in Ontario and address questions and concerns from stakeholders about the challenges and opportunities related to phasing-out natural gas by 2030. The input and feedback received from these sessions were taken into consideration in the development of the final study submitted to government.
- The first engagement session held in June provided an overview of the current role that natural gas generation plays in Ontario, the proposed study approach, as well as an overview of early feedback submitted by stakeholders. The second engagement session held in October, provided a brief on the released study and an opportunity to address stakeholder questions.
- The IESO received extensive feedback from stakeholders and communities on the insights concluded as part of the assessment. A few key themes emerged and these are outlined in the October 21, 2022 webinar presentation. The IESO values diverse perspectives and though most of the technical recommendations related to emerging technologies, upgrades to infrastructure, and alternative approaches to reducing emissions, were out of scope for the government ask of this study, the IESO may consider this information to help frame future work on decarbonization of the electricity sector.
- This concludes the Gas Phase-Out stakeholder engagement. Thank you to all individuals who provided valuable input and insights. Engagement materials will continue to be available on the IESO website.