

Regional Electricity Planning in Toronto – April 16, 2024

Feedback Provided by:

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- Date: May 7, 2024

To promote transparency, feedback submitted will be posted on the Toronto region [engagement webpage](#) unless otherwise requested by the sender.

- Following the Toronto Region electricity planning engagement webinar held on April 16, 2024, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the draft electricity demand forecast scenarios and Engagement Plan. A copy of the presentation as well as a recording of the session can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).
- **Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by May 7, 2024.**

Topic	Feedback
<p>What additional information, if any, should be incorporated in the proposed electricity demand scenarios? What are some of your key developments, projects or initiatives that should be considered in developing an electricity demand forecast for the Toronto region?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More information regarding Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), conservation, renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, battery storage and energy efficiency should be included - The cost estimates of refurbishing the Darlington and Pickering nuclear plants and the Small Modular Reactors should be included so that the public can make a proper cost comparison - The City's TransformTO Net Zero Strategy calls for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. The IESO's plan should be aligned with Toronto's goals.
<p>What local issues and concerns should be considered in the electricity planning?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The City has plans to develop the Portlands area and add more residential housing in the area in the near future. Expanding the use of the Portlands Energy Centre is not compatible with these plans. The increased pollution from the plant will affect the health of these homeowners. The Portlands EC was designed as a peaker plant, yet as of fall 2023 it is operating 21 hours a day. This produces large amounts of CO2 emissions which is bad for total greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution as well as large amounts of nitrogen oxides (NOx) which is harmful to human health causing asthma in young children and difficulty breathing in people with respiratory illnesses.
<p>What information is important to provide to participants throughout this engagement?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information about the choices available for meeting Toronto's energy needs and the costs and any trade offs associated with different supply mixes.
<p>Does the proposed Engagement Plan provide sufficient scope and opportunities for input?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No, this feedback form is too short, with not enough questions to get to the heart of the issue. Non-emitting sources of electricity generation should be considered as a priority since we are in a climate emergency with wildfire season about to start. It would be in the interests of all citizens of

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	Toronto for the IESO to commit to not burn more fossil gas or turn to nuclear in the short or long term because of the high cost of refurbishing our aging reactors. The money spent on refurbishment should be used to invest in renewable energy sources to supply us with the demand that we will have.
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General Comments/Feedback

- We know that the Portlands Energy Centre (PEC) emits significant amounts of nitrogen oxides (NOx) which are hazardous to human health. These increased pollutants are a concern for inhabitants in the nearby neighbourhoods. NOx has been linked to increased incidence of asthma in young children and difficulty breathing for people with respiratory illnesses. The PEC was designed as a peaker plant but as of the summer of 2023, it has been operating more than 21 hours a day. In 2022, the plant emitted 509 tonnes of NOx emissions. We know this number will be higher in 2023 due to its increased use. More distressing is that it appears the PEC will continue to be used more based on your Annual Planning Outlook. This is misaligned with plans to redevelop the Portlands area and house thousands of people there. Risks from pollution are a factor of exposure, and in this instance, there will be more and more people exposed to a greater pollution burden, which you must take into consideration.
- It is paramount that this plan from the IESO is aligned with Toronto's net zero goals and also accommodates as much generation within the city as is practically possible. More attention should be paid to Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), rooftop solar expansion, battery storage, the inclusion of schools as part of the planning process, the procurement of non-emitting sources as well as conservation, if the city is to hit its target and become net-zero by 2040. More importantly, with wildfire season about to start, more consideration should be given to reducing our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to mitigate the worst effects of climate change. Any Regional Electricity Planning for Toronto must reflect these concerns.