

Regional Electricity Planning in Toronto –

December 5, 2024

Feedback Provided by:

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

Following the Toronto regional planning webinar held on December 5, 2024, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking feedback on the draft regional electricity needs and the Local Achievable Potential Study. A copy of the presentations as well as recordings of the sessions can be accessed from the [engagement web page](#).

Please submit feedback to engagement@ieso.ca by January 3, 2025.

Regional Planning - Draft Electricity Needs

Topic	Feedback
What feedback do you have regarding the draft electricity needs identified?	
What feedback do you have regarding how to meet the electricity needs to inform upcoming milestones?	<p>IESO must develop a concrete plan to meet Toronto's rising energy needs without the Portlands Gas Plant (PEC) as a longer-term source of energy. The Regional Plan states the Technical Working Group will evaluate a scenario for a future without PEC, but the Plan does not include any proposals to phase PEC out.</p> <p>Evaluating a PEC-free scenario is a positive, first step. But we must move swiftly from "evaluating" such a scenario towards actually implementing one. This requires tangible plans for both phasing out PEC and increasing the use of and support for renewable energy, particularly solar and wind, with specific dates and milestones attached.</p> <p>The longer we wait without a plan to address the incoming capacity in-balance, the longer PEC will continue operating – and polluting. Business as usual means two billowing plumes of smoke will remain a fixture of Toronto's skyline for years to come. The well-being of Torontonians and our planet cannot afford this.</p> <p>We know there will be a capacity need in the future. Luckily, we also know what the solution is. Solar and Wind are increasingly cost effective and reliable. But solar panels and wind turbines do not build themselves. The province needs to plan proactively.</p> <p>TERRE thus calls on the IESO's technical working group to prioritize the phase out of PEC and plan for renewable investments now. This includes setting a target-date to phase out PEC with milestones established, and creating tangible, specific commitments to invest in and build renewables between now and PEC's closure.</p>

Topic	Feedback
What additional information should be considered as we screen high-level potential options?	<p>We call on the IESO to triple our solar and wind capacity so that we can phase out gas power. Offshore wind power in the Great Lakes alone could meet all of Ontario's electricity needs.</p> <p>Wind and solar are now the lowest cost options for meeting Ontario's electricity needs. According to a study by the Ontario Clean Air Alliance, the cost of new onshore wind and storage is 4.2 to 11.4 cents per kWh (US\$), and the cost of new utility scale solar PV and storage is 4.6 to 10.2 cents per kWh. Comparatively, the cost of a new gas-fired peaker plant is 11.5 to 22.1 cents per kWh.</p> <p>These numbers reveal that the transition to wind and solar is not a pipe dream. It can be done, and done well, with requisite planning. The pipe dream is pretending we can carry on burning fossil fuels as though we are not in a climate emergency; the pipe dream is running PEC without a decarbonization plan in the hopes that it someday disappears on its own.</p>
What additional information should be provided in future engagements to help understand perspectives and insights?	

General Comments/Feedback

TERRE exists to ensure an early phase-out of the Portlands Gas Plant and to replace it with renewable energy. To that end, we ask the IESO to systematically reduce the amount of electricity generated by PEC and to offset this reduction by an increase in electricity provided by renewable energy sources and effective conservation programs.