



Joe Oliver, Chair,  
Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)

# The IESO Report on Phasing-Out Ontario's Gas Plants: A Critical Review

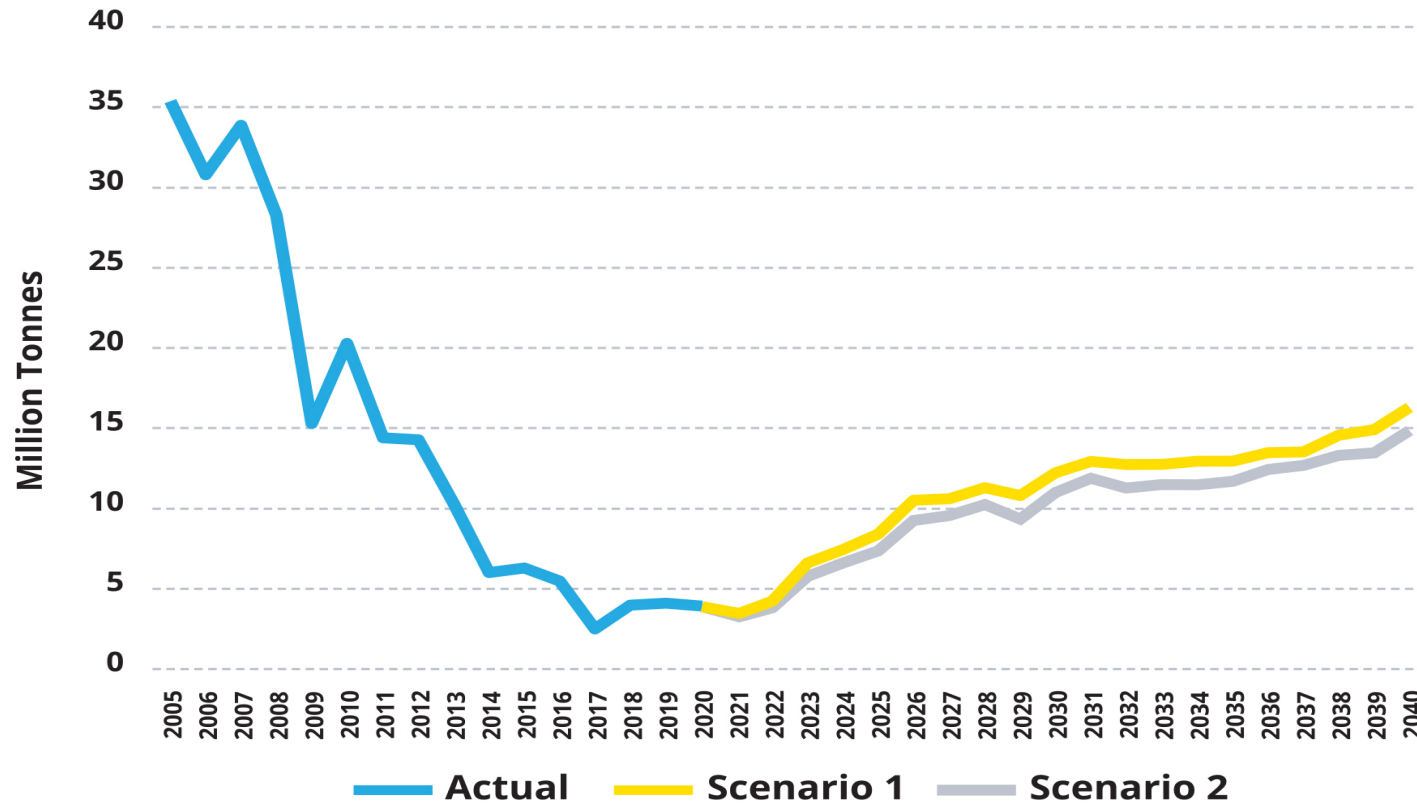
Oct. 18, 2021



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# Ontario's rising emissions

Ontario's  
Historic  
and  
Forecast  
GHG  
Pollution  
from its  
Electric  
Power  
Plants



(IESO)



# Ontario municipalities call for action:

- ▶ Return gas plants' pollution to their 2017 level ASAP; and
- ▶ Achieve a complete gas plant phase-out by 2030.



## According to the IESO report:

- ▶ It would be impossible to phase-out our gas plants by 2030; and
- ▶ Attempting to do so will lead to higher electricity rates and blackouts.

**These claims are false.**

# The IESO report:

- ▶ Provides a plan to achieve a 99.7% gas plant phase-out by 2030.
- ▶ Falsely claims that it is not possible to meet remaining 3/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% of our electricity needs (500 GWh) from carbon-free sources by 2030.

# Fear- mongering: *Blackouts*

- ▶ **FACT:** In 2030 approximately 20% of our existing gas-fired capacity will still be under contract to the IESO.
- ▶ **FACT:** Some of our gas-fired capacity will remain under contract to the IESO until 2040.
- ▶ **FACT:** If there is a 500 GWh shortfall of carbon-free electricity, the IESO will dispatch gas plants rather than subject province to blackouts.

# Fear- mongering: *Higher electricity rates*

IESO report claims a gas plant phase-out would lead to **60% rise** in **residential electricity rates** by 2030.

- ▶ **FACT:** IESO report forecasts gas plant phase-out would raise **electricity costs by 20%**
- ▶ **Fact:** A 2% annual increase in residential, commercial and industrial rates between 2021 and 2030 would be a fairer way to pay for a 20% rise in electricity costs by 2030, rather than making residential customers pay more than their fair share.

# Fear- mongering: *Higher electricity rates*

The IESO Report falsely claims a phase-out would raise costs by 20% by:

- ▶ Underestimating the carbon tax savings from a gas plant phase-out;
- ▶ Ignoring our two lowest-cost storage options; and
- ▶ Including the costs of a \$3 billion new GTA nuclear reactor as part of its phase-out plan.

# Fear- mongering: *Higher electricity rates*

## Carbon Taxation

- ▶ **FACT:** IESO assumes gas plants will be subject to a carbon tax of only \$50 per tonne in 2030 despite the fact that the Government of Canada is planning to raise the carbon tax to \$170 per tonne in 2030.
- ▶ **FACT:** IESO assumes only 5% of gas plants' GHG pollution will be subject to carbon tax in 2030.
- ▶ **FACT:** That is, IESO's analysis assumes gas plants will be subject to a carbon tax of only \$30.5 million in 2030.
- ▶ **FACT:** Assuming that 100% of gas plants' pollution is subject to a \$170 per tonne carbon tax, the carbon tax savings from a gas plant phase-out in 2030 will be up to \$2 billion.

# Fear- mongering: *Higher electricity rates*

## Storage

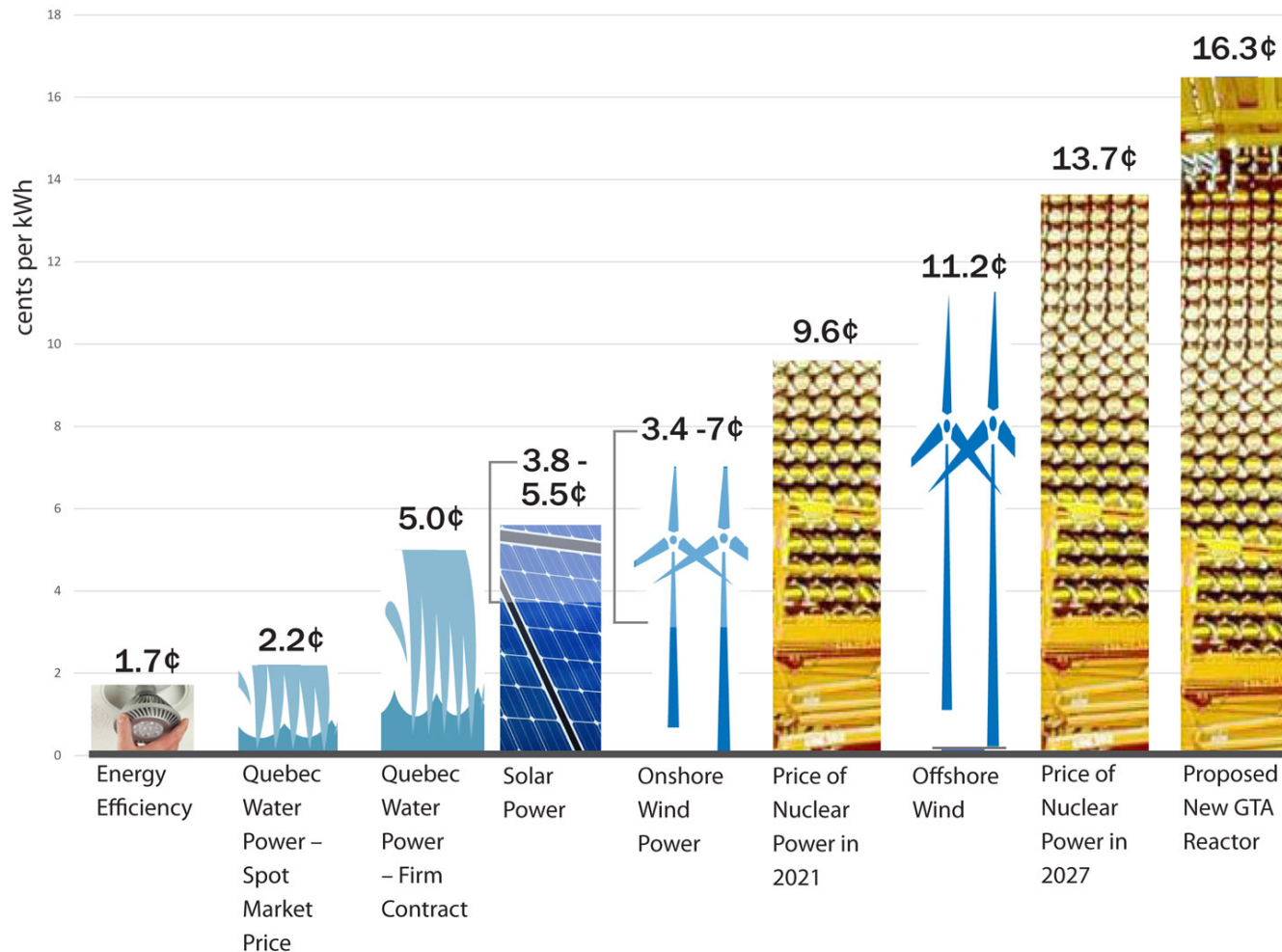
- ▶ The IESO report failed to consider our lowest-cost storage options:
  - Hydro Quebec's reservoirs; and
  - Installing bi-directional chargers for our electric vehicles (EVs) so that their batteries can provide power to the grid during peak demand hours.
- ▶ **FACT:** According to [an MIT study](#), Hydro Quebec's reservoirs – which can act like a giant battery – are the lowest-cost storage options for wind and solar energy.
- ▶ **FACT:** In 2030, the capacity of our EVs' batteries will be [more than twice](#) the capacity of our gas plants.

# Fear- mongering: *Higher electricity rates*

## New GTA Reactor

- ▶ The IESO report includes a **\$3 billion** new GTA reactor as part of its phase-out strategy despite the fact that energy efficiency, wind and solar and Quebec water power can phase-out gas power at less than half the cost.

# Ontario Electricity Options: A Cost Comparison



**FACT:** If the IESO really wanted to reduce electricity rates, it would promote energy efficiency and renewables to avoid the need for high-cost new nuclear and nuclear re-builds.

# IESO needs to go back to the drawing board

The IESO needs to develop an unbiased, fact-based, least-cost plan to:

- a) Return gas plants' pollution to 2017 level ASAP;  
and
- b) Achieve complete gas plant phase-out by 2030.

A **least-cost** electricity plan *can* phase-out our gas plants by 2030 *and* lower our electricity bills.

# We can return the gas plants' pollution to their 2017 level by:

- Tripling our spot market purchases of Quebec waterpower using existing transmission lines;
- Banning gas-fired electricity exports; and
- Purchasing all energy efficiency savings, solar and wind power that can keep our lights on at less than today's price of nuclear electricity (9.6 cents per kWh).



# We can achieve a complete gas plant phase-out by 2030 by:

- Expanding our transmission links with Quebec and using Hydro Quebec's reservoirs to act like a giant battery for our wind and solar energy; and
- Installing bi-directional chargers for our electric vehicles (EVs) so that their batteries can provide power to the grid during peak demand hours.



**FACT: In 2030, the capacity of our EVs batteries will be more than twice the capacity of our gas plants.**

# Progress since the gas plant phase-out campaign launched in Feb. 2020

- ▶ 32 municipalities, representing almost 60% of the Ontario's population, have called for the phase-out of our gas plants.
- ▶ Andrea Horwath (NDP) and Mike Schreiner (GPO) have called for the phase-out of the gas plants by 2030.
- ▶ Prime Minister Trudeau has promised to make Canada's electricity system net zero by 2035.
- ▶ On Oct. 7, 2021 Ontario's Energy Minister Todd Smith directed the IESO to develop a plan to phase-out Ontario's gas plants by an unspecified date.

# Our Proposed Priorities Before the June 2022 Provincial Election

- ▶ Communicate to public, media and our political leaders that we *can* phase-out our gas plants by 2030 *and lower* our electricity bills.
- ▶ Persuade Steven Del Duca (Liberal) and Doug Ford (PC) to call for a gas plant phase-out by 2030.
- ▶ Participate in the IESO's gas plant phase-out consultation processes to request that they develop a least-cost plans to: a) return our gas plants' GHG pollution to their 2017 level asap; and ii) achieve a complete gas plant phase-out by 2030.



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