CITY OF WINDSOR AGENDA 11/27/2023

Final Consolidated City Council Meeting Agenda

Date: Monday, November 27, 2023
Time: 4:00 o'clock p.m.

Location: Council Chambers, 1st Floor, Windsor City Hall

All members will have the option of participating in person in Council Chambers or electronically and will be counted towards quorum in accordance with Procedure By-law 98-2011 as amended, which allows for electronic meetings. The minutes will reflect this accordingly. Any delegations have the option to participate in person or electronically.

MEMBERS:
Mayor Drew Dilkens

Ward 1 – Councillor Fred Francis

Ward 2 – Councillor Fabio Costante

Ward 3 – Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Ward 4 – Councillor Mark McKenzie

Ward 5 – Councillor Ed Sleiman

Ward 6 – Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Ward 7 – Councillor Angelo Marignani

Ward 8 – Councillor Gary Kaschak

Ward 9 – Councillor Kieran McKenzie

Ward 10 - Councillor Jim Morrison

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item #	Item Description
1.	**ORDER OF BUSINESS**
2.	**CALL TO ORDER** - Playing of the National Anthem READING OF LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT We [I] would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, which includes the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi. The City of Windsor honours all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and their valuable past and present contributions to this land.
3.	**DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**
4.	**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**
4.1	Adoption of the Windsor City Council meeting minutes held October 30, 2023 **(SCM 316/2023)** ***(previously distributed)***
5.	**NOTICE OF PROCLAMATIONS**

Proclamations

“Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience” – November 20, 2023

“Week of Romanian Pioneers” – November 24, 2023 – December 1, 2023

“International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women” – November 25, 2023

“World AIDS Day” – December 1, 2023

Flag Raising Ceremony

“Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience” – November 20 – 21, 2023

“80th Anniversary of the Independence of Lebanon” – November 22 – 23, 2023

“International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women” – November 24, 2023 – December 1, 2023

“World AIDS Day” December 1 – 8, 2023

Illumination

"Romanian National Day" – November 24 – 30, 2023

"World AIDS Day" December 1 – 8, 2023

6. **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

7. **COMMUNICATIONS INFORMATION PACKAGE** (This includes both Correspondence and Communication Reports)

7.1 Correspondence 7.1.1 through 7.1.6 **(CMC 15/2023)** ***(previously distributed)***

8. **CONSENT AGENDA**

8.1. Approval Process for Temporary Patios on Private Properties – City Wide **(C 146/2023)**

8.2. Reappointment of Meetings Investigator - City Wide **(C 130/2023)**

8.3. RFP 128-23 Acquisition of One High Pressure Sewer Flusher Truck – City Wide **(C 162/2023)**

8.4. Confirm and Ratify Report-Letter of Support for Amtrak-VIA Rail Toronto-Windsor-Detroit-Chicago Intercity Passenger Rail Connection – City Wide **(C 168/2023)**

8.5. Confirm and Ratify Report-Connecting Links Program Intake 2024-2025 Grant Funding - Huron Church Road - City Wide **(C 169/2023)**

8.6. Confirm and Ratify Report--C.M.H Woods Pumping Station-Removal and Replacement of Underground Diesel Tank- City Wide **(C 170/2023)**

8.8. 2024 Schedule of Council and Standing Committee Meetings - City Wide **(C 150/2023)**
Clerk's Note: Administration is requesting deferral of the portion of this report related to the Council meeting start time to a future Council meeting to allow for additional discussions to take place.

CONSENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.10. Church Street (Tecumseh Road West to Cul-de-Sac) Traffic Calming – Ward 3 **(SCM 291/2023) & (S 128/2023)**

8.11. Response to CQ 19-2022 – Review of the use of Artificial Turf on the Public Right-of-way - City Wide **(SCM 290/2023) & (S 126/2023)**

8.12. Response to CR57/2022 – Data Collected and Potential Strategies to Target Rodent Issues – City Wide **(SCM 289/2023) & (S 127/2023)**

8.13. Response to CQ 18-2023 – Reversing Recycling and Garbage Collection Days – City Wide **(SCM 288/2023) & (S 125/2023)**

8.14. Response to Council Decision ETPS 942 – Options for Addressing Panhandling - City Wide **(SCM 287/2023) & (C 119/2023)**
and Panhandling Statistics re Council Question CQ 11-2022 - City Wide **(SCM 111/2023) & (S 31/2023)**

8.15. Response to CQ 8-2023 - QR Coded Donation Signage to Support Homelessness Service Providers - City Wide **(SCM 236/2023) & (S 104/2023)**

8.17. Active Transportation Master Plan 2022 Update - City Wide **(SCM 285/2023) & (S 52/2023)**

8.19. 2022 Annual Report of the 10 Year Housing & Homelessness Plan - Master Plan - City Wide **(SCM 292/2023) & (S 134/2023)**

8.20. Minutes of the Committee of Management for Huron Lodge of its meeting held September 11, 2023 **(SCM 295/2023) & (SCM 276/2023)**

8.22. Contract Approval – Windsor Regional Employment Network – City Wide **(SCM 297/2023) & (C 152/2023)**

8.23. Motorola Premier One CSR Software and Hosting Agreement 2024-2028 City Wide **(SCM 298/2023) & (S 132/2023)**

8.24. Response to CQ 28-2023 – Risks of Oak Wilt on the City's Tree Population – City Wide **(SCM 300/2023) & (S 131/2023)**

8.26. Zoning By-law Amendment Application for the north part of the property known as 870 Wyandotte Street East; Applicant: Adiammu Real Estate Inc.; File No. Z-014-23, ZNG/7001; Ward 4 **(SCM 302/2023) & (S 136/2023)**

8.31. Minutes of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held July 31, 2023 **(SCM 307/2023) & (SCM 258/2023)**

9. REQUEST FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS AND/OR WITHDRAWALS

9.1. Closure of part of north half of Lillian Street right-of-way, between Vimy Avenue and Memorial Drive, Ward 4, SAS-6629 **(SCM 308/2023) & (S 41/2023)**
Clerk's Note: Administration is requesting that this matter **BE WITHDRAWN** due to a number of concerns being identified.

8.9. 2023 Third Quarter Operating Budget Variance - City Wide **(C 154/2023)**
Clerk's Note: Administration is requesting deferral of this matter to a future Council meeting to allow for additional discussions to take place.

8.8. 2024 Schedule of Council and Standing Committee Meetings - City Wide **(C 150/2023)**
Clerk's Note: Administration is requesting deferral of the portion of this report related to the Council meeting start time to a future Council meeting to allow for additional discussions to take place.

10. **PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

PRESENTATION (10 minutes)

10.1. Annual Sponsor Windsor Recognition Award Presentation
Jason Moore, Senior Manager of Communications & Customer Service to introduce the sponsor representatives.

DELEGATIONS (5 minutes)

8.21. Response to CQ 19-2023 – Sandpoint Beach Concession - Ward 7 **(SCM 296/2023) & (S 130/2023)**
a) Borden Yewchyn, Big Daddy's Food Service, available for questions (in person)

8.25. OPA & Rezoning – Passa Architects - 1235 Huron Church Road - OPA 166 OPA/6902 Z-039/22 ZNG/6901 – Ward 2 **(SCM 301/2023) & (S 124/2023)**
a) Jackie Lassaline, Principal Planner, available for questions (in person)

8.28. Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment - City of Windsor - Airport Employment Lands - OPA 177 [OPA-7118] Z 027-23 [ZNG-7117] - Ward 9
(SCM 304/2023) & (S 115/2023)
Clerk's Note: Ian Naisbitt, Little River Enhancement Group submitting the ***previously distributed*** letter dated November 13, 2023 as a written submission; Tom Henderson, Chair, Public Advisory Council, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, submitting the ***previously distributed*** email dated November 16, 2023 as a written submission; William Balazs, Citizen, submitting the ***attached*** letter dated November 24, 2023
a) Karl Tanner & Amy Farkas, Dillon Consulting, available for questions (in person)

11.1. Municipal Support Resolutions - Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) Long Term 1 (LT1) RFP - Wards 2 and 5 **(C 141/2023)**
Clerk's Note: Matt Lensink P.Eng., CEO, CEM Engineering, submitting the ***previously distributed*** letter dated November 24, 2023 as a written submission. Chuck Farmer, Chief Energy Transition Officer and Vice-President, Planning, Conservation & Resource Adequacy, Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) submitting the ***attached*** letter dated November 27, 2023 as a written submission
a) Chris Del Greco, Co-owner, Airport Power Inc. (in person), John Cervini, Co-owner, Airport Power Inc., available for questions (via Zoom), Andre Belicka, Consultant, JM Energy, available for questions (via Zoom)
b) Matt Lensink P.Eng., CEO, CEM Engineering (via Zoom) (PowerPoint)

8.29. Official Plan & Zoning Bylaw Amendments Z 022-23 [ZNG-7067] & OPA 173 [OPA-7070] 1027458 Ontario Inc. Banwell & Leathorne (North A) Multiple Dwelling Development - Ward 7 **(SCM 305/2023) & (S 137/2023)**
a) Karl Tanner & Theresa O'Neill, agents, Dillon Consulting, available for questions (in person)
b) Maureen Flannery, Ward 7 resident (in person)

8.30. Official Plan & Zoning Bylaw Amendments Z 023-23 [ZNG-7068] & OPA 174 [OPA-7071] 1027458 Ontario Inc. Banwell South of Leathorne (North B) Multiple Dwelling Development - Ward 7 **(SCM 306/2023) & (S 138/2023)**
a) Karl Tanner & Theresa O'Neill, agents, Dillon Consulting, available for questions (in person)
b) Joan Ennis, Ward 7 resident (in person)
c) Kate Benedet, Ward 7 resident (in person) (PowerPoint)
d) Maureen Flannery, Ward 7 resident (in person)

8.16. Follow-up to CR172/2023 – Essex Terminal Railway Whistling Cessation – Ward 4 **(SCM 286/2023) & (S 129/2023)**
a) John West, Ward 4 resident (in person)

11.3. Development and Implementation of a City Wide Vacant Home Tax Program (C 94/2023)
Clerk's Note: Windsor Essex County Association of Realtors (WECAR) submitting the ***previously distributed*** letter dated November 23, 2023 as a written submission.
a) Caroline Taylor, Ward 2 resident (in person)
LATE:
b) Thadd Opiola, property owner (via Zoom)

8.18. Response to CQ 18-2022 – Jackson Park Bandshell Update – Ward 3 **(SCM 238/2023) & (S 106/2023)**
a) Lana Talbot, Ward 2 resident (in person)
b) Leslie McCurdy, Performing Artist, Playwright, Producer, and Chair of The Black Council of Windsor Essex (in person)
LATE:
c) Joi Hurst, Coalition for Justice Unity Equity (in person)

8.7. ERCA Non-Mandatory Category Three Programs – Cost Apportioning Agreement – City Wide (**C 161/2023)**
Clerk's Note: Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, submitting the ***previously distributed*** letter dated November 22, 2023 as a written submission.
a) Tim Byrne, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer & Shelley McMullen, CFO/Director Finance & Corporate Services, Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) – Video

8.27. Zoning By-Law Amendment Z028-23(ZNG/7140) - 185 Randolph Place
(SCM 303/2023) & (S 135/2023)
Clerk's Note: York Zhu, area resident submitting the ***previously distributed*** email dated November 15, 2023 as a written submission; Mitch Gellman, area resident submitting the ***previously distributed*** letter dated November 22, 2023 as a written submission.

a) Tracey Pillon-Abbs, Principal Planner, available for questions (via Zoom)
b) Jack Federer, applicant, available for questions (in person)
c) Michael Kaye, applicant, available for questions (in person)
d) Mitch Gellman, area resident (in person)
e) Garfield Brush, area resident (in person)
f) York Zhu, area resident (in person)
g) Jocelyn Nikita, area resident, available for questions (in person)

11. **REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS** (Non-Consent Items)

11.2. 2024 Agency Grant Payments - City Wide **(C 160/2023)**

11.4. Award of RFP#82-23 Regional Affordable Housing Strategy Consultant Proposal **(C 148/2023)**

12. **CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS**

12.1. (i) Report of the Special In-Camera meeting or other Committee as may be held prior to Council (if scheduled)
(ii) Report of the Striking Committee Meeting

13. **BY-LAWS** (First and Second Reading) ***(previously distributed)***

13.1. **By-law 146-2023** A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH LANDS AS A PUBLIC HIGHWAY KNOWN AS McROBBIE ROAD IN THE CITY OF WINDSOR Authorized by CR76/2011 dated February 28, 2011

13.2 **By-law 147-2023** A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NUMBER 139-2013, BEING A BY-LAW TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE CITY PLANNER TO APPROVE AND PROCESS CERTAIN APPLICATIONS UNDER THE PLANNING ACT AND PERMITS UNDER THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT Authorized by CR424/2023 dated October 16, 2023

13.3 **By-law 148-2023** A BY-LAW TO ASSUME FOR SUBSEQUENT CLOSURE THE 3.96 METRE NORTH/SOUTH ALLEY LOCATED NORTH OF REGINALD STREET, WEST OF ALBERT ROAD, SOUTH OF SEMINOLE STREET AND EAST OF ST. LUKE ROAD, CITY OF WINDSOR Authorized by CR498/2022 dated November 28, 2022

13.4 **By-law 149-2023** A BY-LAW TO CLOSE, STOP UP AND CONVEY THE 3.96 METRE NORTH/SOUTH ALLEY LOCATED NORTH OF REGINALD STREET, WEST OF ALBERT ROAD, SOUTH OF SEMINOLE STREET AND EAST OF ST. LUKE ROAD, CITY OF WINDSOR Authorized by CR498/2022 dated November 28, 2022

13.5 **By-law 150-2023** A BY-LAW TO ASSUME FOR SUBSEQUENT CLOSURE THE 5.58 METRE EAST/WEST ALLEY LOCATED EAST OF MEIGHEN ROAD, WEST OF MELDRUM ROAD AND SOUTH OF TECUMSEH ROAD EAST, CITY OF WINDSOR Authorized by CR 496/2022 dated November 28, 2022

13.6 **By-law 151-2023** A BY-LAW TO CLOSE, STOP UP AND CONVEY THE 5.58 METRE EAST/WEST ALLEY LOCATED EAST OF MEIGHEN ROAD, WEST OF MELDRUM ROAD AND SOUTH OF TECUMSEH ROAD EAST, CITY OF WINDSOR Authorized by CR 496/2022 dated November 28, 2022

13.7 **By-law 152-2023** A BY-LAW TO ASSUME CLEARY STREET FROM ROXBOROUGH BOULEVARD TO PARTINGTON AVENUE, BEING A STREET SHOWN ON PLAN OF SUBDIVISION 1196 KNOWN AS CLEARY STREET, IN THE CITY OF WINDSOR Authorized by M98-2012 dated February 21, 2012

13.8 **By-law 153-2023** A BY-LAW TO ASSUME ST. PATRICK'S AVENUE FROM OJIBWAY STREET TO CLEARY STREET and ASKIN AVENUE FROM OJIBWAY STREET TO CLEARY STREET BEING STREETS SHOWN ON PLAN 12R-21561 KNOWN AS ST. PATRICK'S AVENUE and ASKIN AVENUE, IN THE CITY OF WINDSOR Authorized by M98-2012 dated February 21, 2012

13.9 **By-law 154-2023** A BY-LAW TO ASSUME ROXBOROUGH BOULEVARD FROM OJIBWAY STREET TO CLEARY STREET, BEING A STREET SHOWN ON PLAN OF SUBDIVISION 12M-555 KNOWN AS ROXBOROUGH BOULEVARD, IN THE CITY OF WINDSOR Authorized by M98-2012 dated February 21, 2012

13.10 **By-law 155-2023** A BY-LAW TO ASSUME OJIBWAY STREET FROM ROXBOROUGH BOULEVARD TO CALIFORNIA AVENUE, BEING A STREET SHOWN ON PLAN 1110, 1268, 973, 883 AND 989 KNOWN AS OJIBWAY STREET, IN THE CITY OF WINDSOR Authorized by M98-2012 dated February 21, 2012

13.11 **By-law 156-2023** A BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND BY-LAW NUMBER 8600 CITED AS THE "CITY OF WINDSOR ZONING BY-LAW" Authorized by CR219/2023 dated May 29, 2023

13.12 **By-law 157-2023** A BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND BY-LAW NUMBER 8600 CITED AS THE "CITY OF WINDSOR ZONING BY-LAW" Authorized by CR220/2023 dated May 29, 2023

13.13 **By-law 158-2023** A BY-LAW TO APPOINT WIRA VENDRASCO AS ACTING CITY SOLICITOR AND TO RESCIND THE APPOINTMENT OF SHELBY ASKIN HAGER AS CITY SOLICITOR FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR Authorized by MD 12-2023 and MD 13-2023 dated November 15, 2023

13.14 **By-law 159-2023** A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH LANDS AS A PUBLIC HIGHWAY KNOWN AS McROBBIE ROAD IN THE CITY OF WINDSOR Authorized by CR76/2011 dated February 28, 2011

13.15 **By-law 160-2023** A BY-LAW TO CONFIRM PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR AT ITS MEETING HELD ON THE 27th day of November, 2023

14. MOVE BACK INTO FORMAL SESSION

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

16. THIRD AND FINAL READING OF THE BY-LAWS

By-law 146-2023 through 160-2023 inclusive

17. PETITIONS

18. QUESTION PERIOD

19. STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

20. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee
Wednesday, November 29, 2023
4:30 p.m., Council Chambers

Development & Heritage Standing Committee
Monday, December 4, 2023
4:30 p.m., Council Chambers

Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee
Tuesday, December 5, 2023
10:30 a.m., via Zoom

Community Services Standing Committee
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
9:00 a.m., Council Chambers

Windsor Licensing Commission
Thursday, December 7, 2023
9:30 a.m., Room 140

21. **ADJOURNMENT**

Item No.8.28 - Written Submission Dated; November 24, 2023

From; William F. Balazs

Subject; Item N0. 828, Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-Law Amendment - City of Windsor - Airport Employment Lands -OPA 177 (OPA-7118) z 027-73 (ZNG-7117) Ward 9

I am writing today on the above matter -Airport Employment Lands- and wish to submit my support to the above as well as acknowledging the work and effort done by the Mayor and members of City Council, which must also includes the extensive work done by the Citys' Administrative Team and outside consulting parties in continuing in their directive to expand the development of this area, which is of great importance and a once in a life time growth opportunity for City of Windsor and the Essex County Region.

This explosive growth opportunity must continue to apply to all potential lands developments in the area, with the same effort applied to the airport property that are centered around the following driving facts;

1- New Bridge
2- New Battery Plant Project in our area and southwestern Ontario
3- International Airport Growth
4- New Employment lands on Airport Property
5- New Investment of EV products
6- New Regional Hospital
7- New Housing mandate from the Province of Ontario
8- Extension of Lauzon Parkway to 401 and HWY #3
9- As well as many other spinoff developments, such R&D and more.

The ending result of this explosive growth will place the City of Windsor and the Essex County Region at the forefront as the gateway to Canada and International Trade on the Globe Stage.

Sincerely yours,
William F. Balazs

Connecting Today.
Powering Tomorrow.

Independent Electricity System Operator
1600-120 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 1T1
t 416.967.7474
www.ieso.ca

November 27, 2023

Mayor and Members of City Council
Attention: Mayor Drew Dilkens
City of Windsor
350 City Hall Square West
Windsor, Ontario N9A 6S1

Dear Mayor and Council:

Please find enclosed materials for submission on behalf of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) regarding Item 11.1 of the City of Windsor's agenda for its upcoming Council meeting on November 27, 2023. I am providing this correspondence and additional background material to further support your discussions and kindly request that these be forwarded to members of Council.

The materials include:

1. A backgrounder on the IESO's response to the Clean Energy Regulation (CER); and,
2. A Toronto Star op-ed by our President and CEO, Lesley Gallinger: "*How Ontario is Working Towards a Net-Zero Emissions Energy Grid*" (October 10, 2023).

Ontario is on a path toward eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity grid during a period of strong economic development, population growth and increasing demand for electricity over the next two decades. As the government agency responsible for ensuring that Ontarians have access to reliable and affordable electricity where and when they need – both in real time and into the future – the IESO is preparing for an orderly transition from natural gas generation to other forms of non-emitting supply. This approach will balance the need to maintain the reliability, affordability and sustainability of Ontario's electricity system.

As described by Lesley Gallinger, President and CEO of the IESO in the abovementioned op-ed, eliminating emissions from the grid will require a concerted effort on a number of fronts. We need a dependable alternative supply to be readily available that can take the place of natural gas to support this transition. Currently, natural gas provides a fundamental flexibility for Ontario's electricity system by delivering energy quickly when demand is high or when other supply is lost because of unexpected events or extreme weather. It is capable of ramping up and down constantly and quickly, and on short notice.

Given these unique characteristics, the IESO will require different forms of flexible supply working together over the coming years to fill the role that gas generation currently plays in order to maintain reliability. Until then, natural gas generation must continue to play a key role in the province's journey toward a zero-emissions grid; it will allow us to continue to reliably power homes, businesses, and communities while enabling electrification and decarbonisation across other sectors in support of an orderly energy transition.

There is an urgent need to secure new supply. Ontario will need additional natural gas output in the near-term to bridge the gap between increasing electricity demand and a potential energy supply shortfall while the economy continues to decarbonize.

In parallel, the federal government's proposed Clean Electricity Regulations (CER), released in August, outline steps to mandate the decarbonization of electricity systems across the country and represent a starting point for discussions on a Canada-wide transition to a net-zero electricity sector. The IESO's recent formal response to the draft CER illustrates why the regulations as drafted are unachievable in Ontario by 2035 without risking the reliability of our electricity system, electrification of the broader economy and economic growth. It contains recommendations that reflect the scale of this transformation, as well as the complexity of managing Ontario's grid while accounting for the uncertainties that the early retirement of natural gas will bring.

Together these materials provide important context and information about the role of electricity projects in ensuring Ontario's electricity system is in a strong position to support the growth, economic development and decarbonization priorities of all communities across Ontario. I would appreciate your consideration of these materials and their inclusion as written material for the November 27, 2023 agenda in relation to new or expansion of electricity resources being considered in your municipality.

Yours truly,

Chuck Farmer

Chief Energy Transition Officer and Vice-President, Planning, Conservation & Resource Adequacy
Independent Electricity System Operator

Phasing Out Natural Gas Generation in Ontario

The IESO's response to the draft Clean Electricity Regulations

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

Ontario is on a path toward eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity grid. The Independent Electricity System Operator, the province's grid operator is preparing an orderly transition from natural gas generation to other forms of non-emitting supply while at the same time meeting our growing energy needs.

Part of this effort includes working with the federal government on its Clean Electricity Regulations (CER) that aims to impose emissions restrictions on fossil fuel generators starting in 2035.

Yet these regulations, as they are currently drafted, are not feasible and would compromise the reliability of Ontario's grid. This would undermine electrification and the ability of other sectors of the province's economy to decarbonize. The IESO shares the goal of achieving a net-zero emissions grid and will continue to collaborate closely with the federal government as it finalizes the regulations.

ieso
Connecting Today.
Powering Tomorrow.

A Leader in Clean Energy

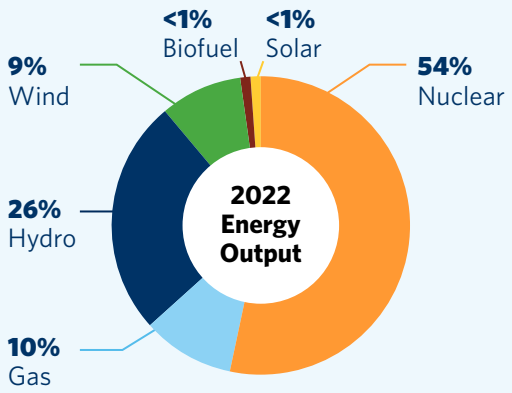
Last year, roughly 90 per cent of electricity produced in Ontario came from non-emitting generation, making our electricity system one of the cleanest in North America. The system has developed and evolved over the past 100 years, growing with the province to include new forms of supply and technology: from hydro, to coal, to nuclear, and in the last 20 years – natural gas and renewables.

What's new is the pace and scope of change impacting the system in response to growing needs. Communities across the province are growing rapidly both in terms of population and economic development. Many of them are implementing climate change action plans that include electrification projects. Homeowners and businesses are also counting on a reliable grid to charge their EVs, electrify transportation, power heavy industry and support new manufacturing facilities.

We need to reorient the electricity grid – and bring more renewables, nuclear power, conservation, and new technologies onto the system. As we do that, natural gas will play a key role by ensuring the system stays reliable and affordable while we bolster it with non-emitting alternatives.

Ontario's Electricity Supply Mix

Today, natural gas provides approximately 10 per cent of the electricity we use – even though it represents 28 per cent of total capacity in the province. This capacity is a critical piece of the reliability puzzle as it ensures the grid is reliable at all times.



The Transitional Role of Natural Gas

There is presently no form of generation on the grid that provides the same level of flexibility that natural gas does. Its ability to ramp electricity output up and down in a very short period of time and be available on standby to respond to sudden changes in demand is unique in the system.

Today, natural gas generators operate at roughly 20 per cent of their capacity. At night or weekends, when demand is low, natural gas isn't used or produces at very low levels to keep the system balanced. It's only when demand is very high that natural gas generators typically operate at higher capacity.

Over the next few years, as nuclear units are taken out of service for retirement or for refurbishments, natural gas generation will be essential to reliability until more non-emitting supply is available and new transmission lines are built – which takes time. Given the sheer scale of the effort, replacing natural gas generation by the time the CER emissions restrictions begin to take effect in 2035, is not feasible.

In the meantime, natural gas generation ensures that Ontario can continue on the path toward a zero-emissions grid without putting system reliability at risk which is key to other decarbonization projects taking place in businesses and communities across the province.

Lessons Learned from Coal

It can't be overstated how complex and enormous the task of decarbonizing the grid will be while maintaining a reliable supply of electricity. When Ontario phased out coal generation in the 2010s, it required a great deal of time and careful planning.

Replacing coal generation required a co-ordinated effort to bring new nuclear, wind and natural gas generation to the system. As new supply connected to the grid and operated reliably, the IESO phased out coal generation, step by step.

This, however, took place at a time when demand for electricity was relatively stable and replacement options with similar operating characteristics – including natural gas – were readily available. Phasing out natural gas generation will be a more complex process. It will require the careful addition of new forms of supply while at the same time managing growing demand.

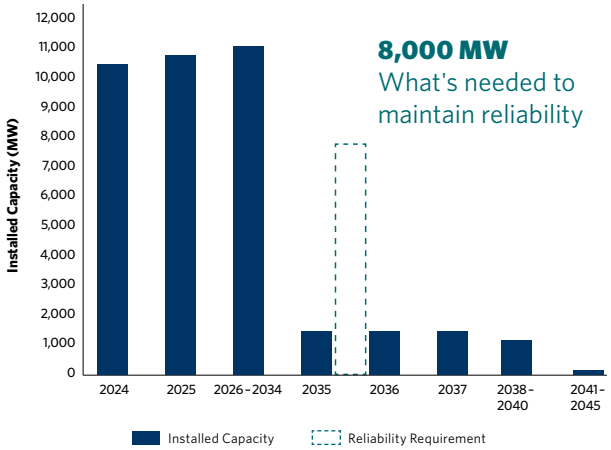
Ensuring an Orderly Transition

The CER's emissions restrictions starting in 2035 are not achievable without putting at risk the reliability of the electricity system, electrification of the broader economy and economic growth.

The IESO is recommending three amendments to the draft regulations:

- **Allow more of Ontario's natural gas generators to operate without restrictions beyond 2035.** Ontario built the majority of its natural gas generators in the 2000s to replace coal generation. Many will have been in operation for 20 years as of 2035, with significant remaining useful life, but will be faced with severe limitations in their ability to support grid reliability before sufficient replacement supply can be built. The IESO recommends changing the prescribed life threshold to 30 years for generation built before 2025.
- **Modify approach to the 450 annual operating hour exception for gas turbines that reach their prescribed life threshold.** The IESO is assessing this requirement as additional hours will be essential to manage the risk of blackouts. The reliance on natural gas will be dependent on the availability of new supply and transmission – which will take time and careful planning.
- **Update the CER to conform with North American reliability standards.** Electricity system operators are much like air traffic controllers overseeing all activity on the grid, and have the authority to direct generators and other suppliers to meet real-time system needs. The CER provisions would require "after-the-fact" approvals that would interfere with the ability of operators to respond in emergency situations.

Unabated Natural Gas Capacity Under Proposed Regulation



Given their age, most generation units under this proposed regulation would need to drastically reduce output in 2035. As a result, only a small number of generators would be available to operate outside those limitations, well below what is needed to operate the system reliably.

Ontario's Legacy Natural Gas Fleet

As demand can change by one third throughout a day, the grid needs some flexible generation capacity available to turn on and off quickly, increase and decrease output, and to be on standby in case of sudden system changes.

With the loss of some of our nuclear generation later this decade, Ontario will need all resources available, including some additional natural gas generation in the short term.

This extra supply is expected to be used in a limited way, increasing emissions by only two to four per cent over original projections.

While natural gas capacity will be needed for the foreseeable future, the actual output (and by extension, emissions) from these facilities will start to decline in the early 2030s as new supply connects to the grid.

Building an Emissions-Free Grid

Eliminating emissions from the grid will require a concerted effort on a number of fronts – and it will all need to happen in close co-ordination. Given the unique characteristics of natural gas generation, the IESO will require different forms of flexible supply working together to fill the role gas generation currently plays in order to maintain reliability. More work will be needed. Here's a snapshot of what is currently planned in Ontario:

2024–2025

New commitments to small hydro facilities

New capacity exchange agreement with Hydro Quebec

First large battery facility comes online

New market opportunities for local energy projects

Launch expanded energy efficiency programs

New transmission lines bring power to Southern and Northeast Ontario (2025 – 2030)

2026–2028

Battery fleet grows, contributing to Ontario's system needs

2029

First small modular reactor powers up

2030–2034

Proposed Pickering refurbishment

Non-emitting generation fleet continues to grow

2032

Darlington and Bruce nuclear refurbishments largely complete

2040

Most Ontario natural gas generation reach end of life

TORONTO STAR

How Ontario is working towards a zero-emissions energy grid

OPINION

R.J. Johnston / Toronto Star

Lesley Gallinger Contributor
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Since the release of our groundbreaking Pathways to Decarbonization report last year, the conversation about eliminating emissions from the province's electricity system has evolved from "how do we get started?" to "how will we get there?" As president and CEO of Ontario's grid operator and planner, this is an important discussion that we need to have.

Our province already has the advantage of a diverse, low-emissions supply mix. At just under 90 per cent emissions-free generation, our system accounts for only three per cent of the province's total greenhouse gas emissions. When all put together, we have nuclear, Hydro, wind, solar and natural gas generation working in sync to provide a reliable and affordable energy service for Ontarians.

Currently, natural gas accounts for 11 per cent of the electricity produced in the province, up slightly from last year while nuclear refurbishments are underway. Natural gas provides crucial flexibility; it delivers energy quickly to meet summer peaks and balances supply when the system loses supply unexpectedly. It adjusts output constantly, ramping up as we rise in the morning and ramping down in the evening as demand decreases.

This is the crux of the natural gas dilemma. When Ontario retired coal generation, natural gas stepped in to provide flexibility with lower emissions. Now, however, there is no immediate replacement option for natural gas. We need a reliable alternative supply to be ready before we phase out natural gas completely. Until then, additional natural gas output is needed in the near term to ensure we can continue to power homes, businesses, and communities.

Electricity demand is expected to grow at a rate of two per cent a year over the next 20 years due to significant economic and population growth across the province. Today, natural gas plays a critical role in ensuring the lights stay on, and that communities can continue to grow.

We can't lose sight of the transformational effort underway to fully eliminate emissions from the grid in future. Grounded in our Pathways report, the Independent Electricity System Operator has a plan in place to achieve that transformation.

Through our competitive procurements, we will be adding roughly 2,500 megawatts of battery storage to the grid by 2028 — a real game changer. Soon, we will also be moving forward with procurements for new renewables and are preparing for the expansion of the province's nuclear fleet.

We have expanded and fine-tuned our energy-efficiency programs to include offerings such as Peak Perks to better meet system needs. Recently, we came to an agreement with Hydro-Québec to share capacity, supporting reliability during peak periods in both provinces.

We also continue to work with communities to prepare for local demand growth from electrification. This includes supporting Ontario's steel manufacturers as they shift to electric arc furnaces, ensuring Ontarians can confidently make the switch to electric vehicles, and preparing the grid for new battery manufacturing facilities.

We are opening the door to much greater participation from small-scale resources on the grid and investing in hydrogen and low-carbon fuels to see how they can provide flexibility. Most importantly, because of these actions, we no longer face the supply shortfalls forecasted to emerge this decade that would have compromised reliability.

This change is sweeping; it reorients the fundamental structure of the electricity grid as we know it. Natural gas plays a key role in helping Ontario transition to a decarbonized future — ensuring the system stays reliable and affordable while we bolster it with non-emitting alternatives.

In the coming weeks, the Independent Electricity System Operator will provide our perspective on the federal government's proposed Clean Electricity Regulations, focusing on how a well-planned and orderly transition is critical to achieving decarbonization, reliably and affordably. We believe there is a positive and productive way forward as we prepare for the wind down of gas generation. And, as the path ahead to replace natural gas is taking shape, we will also provide an updated view of future emissions from the grid.

In many ways, this transition is like solving a Rubik's Cube. We have a complex, multi-dimensional puzzle to tackle and we need to align all sides to ensure a reliable, affordable and sustainable end state for Ontario's electricity system. Attaining a zero-emissions grid is no small feat, but I am confident we are on the right path.

Lesley Gallinger is president and CEO at the Independent Electricity System Operator.

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