

Northern & Eastern IRP Webinar

Nov. 26, 2024

Feedback	Enbridge Gas response
<p>For those who attended last year, or those in the local community, what happened to the Parry Sound pilot and what have the local community stakeholders been told?</p>	<p>Everybody can appreciate we mentioned things change a lot it seems over a short period of time, we've had a lot of forecast changes as a company and when we've updated our systems and our modelling, it showed that the Parry Sound project was no longer needed. There are various different reasons why that's the case, but we've revised the pilots to be primarily focused on one pilot in the Sarnia and Point Edward region.</p> <p>We did reach out to the local municipality to inform them of the update as we had engaged with them previously during the application. We did circle back to let them know that we were no longer exploring the pilot in their area.</p>
<p>Does the system planning stuff result in a separate document / report as an output that is filed to the OEB alongside the IRP or are system planning results integrated into the IRP report?</p>	<p>The system planning process is more of a longer term or larger term process for our company and so the requirements from that process end up in the AMP (asset management plan) that is filed. All of the projects that would be part of the system planning process are within the AMP that's filed. It was filed on November 8th on the OEB website.</p>
<p>Is there still opportunity for expansion in rural areas?</p>	<p>This is a question we get often surrounding IRP, does this mean that Enbridge won't be investing in our communities? And the answer to that is no. Enbridge will continue to invest in communities where investments and natural gas demands are required, and IRP efforts ensure that we're looking at the most cost effective and optimal alternative when needs are identified and how to address them. It is introducing some additional steps to ensure that system constraints are addressed in an optimal manner and to meet customer needs and demand for gas. It doesn't mean that we won't be investing and continuing to expand moving forward.</p>
<p>It's obvious natural gas will be needed for some time. What's the plan for integration with RNG? It can be an important part of decarbonization?</p>	<p>We completely agree Enbridge Gas is looking at low carbon alternatives, including renewable natural gas (RNG) to continue to decarbonize relative to fossil gas. We actually have an application that is currently working through the regulatory process to seek approval from the OEB to procure low carbon energy beginning with RNG. That would look like procuring 1% supply in 2026 and increasing annually up to 4% by 2029. In terms of RNG, that application is still active with the Ontario Energy Board and wasn't one of our items that we've reached settlement on and will be moving forward towards a decision. Enbridge Gas agrees that RNG is going to be a key component moving forward.</p>
<p>I understand that the IRP process considers needs and constraints up to 10 years into the future, given some energy transition challenges requiring a longer term outlook especially to avoid stranded assets in net 0 by 2050 scenario, does Enbridge plan to work to consider need/constraints with a time frame longer than 10 years.</p>	<p>The system planning process is regarding the 10-year asset management plan, where we are trying to highlight projects that we first see we need within the 10 years. It's a fair question saying what should we be looking out farther than that and I think right now we're trying to get through the 10 year plan with all these projects that are within our forecasts. I think like we've seen the forecasts and the weightings of different areas and how much a certain area grows versus another area the forecast can change very quickly it seems even from year to year. That's one of the challenges with looking past that 10-year point right now we're obviously considering the fact that there is energy transition and it is looking towards that net zero and loads are reducing in some areas, so we're definitely keeping that at top of mind. We're trying to get through the 10-year window here with those key projects in that plan at this time.</p>
<p>Where municipalities are willing to pay for changes deemed to be of strategic economic interest. For example municipal industrial parks. Do these projects still need to go through the same process as described in this presentation?</p>	<p>They would have to go through the process but reach out to your local Enbridge contact, or through Get Connected on the Enbridge website and that'll put you in contact with your local new business coordinator or your local representative in your region or your area. They'll look at the facilities needed for that, the growth there, and depending on whether or not it meets the IRP assessment criteria (such as if there's a reinforcement) and we'll have to look at the screening criteria and it will come through the IRP piece if it, if it meets that criteria.</p>
<p>How much notice is provided to stakeholders when pruning is being considered?</p>	<p>For the system pruning piece, we are still very early in the process, as we've just received direction to move ahead with this. One of our first steps is to conduct a jurisdictional scan, to better understand what other jurisdictions have done, which will help inform our approach. We will also be conducting initial engagement of various stakeholder/focus groups as we work through what our approach is going to look like. Our first deliverable is to develop the approach for the pilots by Q2 2025. So we are hopeful we will have more information to share at the next webinar.</p>
<p>A decision was made regarding the pipeline in the area of Saint Charles. The pipeline will be servicing mostly the municipality to the north. A secondary pipe option would service more of our own municipality. Is it possible to affect a change to the pipeline location and who should I talk to at Enbridge?</p>	<p>If this is a community expansion project IRP does not necessarily apply to those projects. As mentioned at the beginning of this webinar if there is an ongoing LTC or it's about a decision regarding an LTC application we can't really comment on it this time. If there are alternatives or new business opportunities, I would again recommend you go through Get Connected on the Enbridge website or go to your local Enbridge contact.</p>
<p>Does Enbridge have a net zero plan?</p>	<p>As many are aware, around 30% of Ontario's emissions are due to natural gas and Enbridge Gas does have a net 0 by 2050 target for emissions from our own emissions. There are a number of safe bets as Enbridge calls them that we've incorporated recognizing that the energy transition will evolve over time and Enbridge will evolve with it. Those include elements like maximizing energy efficiency, optimizing energy system planning, inclusive coordination between the gas and the electric systems, investing in low carbon gases including increasing amounts of RNG blend over time, as well as a focus on hydrogen and our hydrogen blending study, and also utilizing carbon capture and storage for heavy industry and hydrogen production.</p>