Southeast & Southwest IRP Webinar

Nov. 28, 2024

Feedback	Enbridge Gas response
Aren't pipelines the best way to move gas?	It may seem counterintuitive in terms of looking at these alternatives but essentially when we have a system constraint we need to meet the demand requirements, and what the integrated resource planning process does is introduce incremental steps for candidate systems with constraints. We're looking at additional alternatives beyond the traditional pipeline facility alternatives for how we can best meet that constraint and meet it most cost effectively. For example, if we have increasing demand in each area and we're moving through the IRP evaluation process, we look at are there demand alternatives that can reduce the peak demand and avoid the need for the pipeline project or reinforcement? Can we implement demand response to shift and reduce the requirements on that peak period? Or can we look at compressed natural gas, for example, as an alternative to inject gas for peak period needs during the times of the year where the system is meeting those peak events? It's really about introducing additional steps for candidate systems where the IRP alternatives may be viable so that we can assess all alternatives on the table before us and how we can most cost effectively meet those constraints. The pilot project that Whitney spoke about will be key for us as well in gaining additional learning so that we can best evaluate and assess those alternatives on the table to meet that need.
Did the Grimsby Lincoln project failed IRP? **What does this mean and why would the project continue?**	Part of the screening and evaluation processes is that if a project is funded from the government program and in this case an economic development program in the area or a community expansion program, it fails the IRP assessment and therefore the project's going to move forward. If the governments already committed to supporting that, that project being a traditional project with pipe or stations, we're not going to look at IRP as an alternative for that project. You should see more development on that project in the future in the short term.
Is Enbridge doing anything to encourage the energy transition?	Approximately 30% of emissions in the province are due to natural ga so looking forward to the net 0 by 2050 targets before us Enbridge has a key role to play in supporting the energy transition. While this transition over time may take different paths, we do have a key role to play in supporting. In terms of what we're doing currently, Enbridge is focused on what we call safe bet actions that we feel are required now and will be beneficial regardless of the path energy transition takes in the province. Those include maximizing energy efficiency, optimization of integrated energy system planning and coordination between the gas and the electricity system planning, investing in low carbon gases like hydrogen and RNG increasing this over time. We currently have an application before our regulator to procure 1% RNG beginning in 2026, increasing by 1% annually up to 2029 to increase that over time, and enabling permanent carbon capture and storage is another key area for the company. There are a number of things that Enbridge is looking at moving forward to support the energy transition in the province.
For the IRP pilot project, has Alectra not already done this?	I'm assuming the reference to Alectra, is the electric utility. From our understanding, from a gas utility perspective, pilots like this where we're exploring how energy conservation measures or even demand response impacts gas peak hour demand and then how that then translates into infrastructure planning hasn't widely been done. We haven't seen a whole lot of jurisdictions explore that area or the data behind it, which is why one of the key aspects in our pilot is to focus on hourly measurement. Most of the gas meters do not provide that level of granularity. Typically, you see bimonthly or monthly readings and it's very rare for us to be like the electric side where you have your hourly readings. So, this pilot provides a really unique opportunity to explore what is the impact on peak demand of energy efficiency measures and how does that roll up at a system level and then impact system planning. It's not widely done from what we've seen, and we have specific learnings we are hoping to gain from our proposed pilot project.
If a system needs mean heating, building, space and water, then why does the IRP process not considered Geo exchange and or air source heat pumps as they are most cost effective than fossil gas and don't harm people and the planet like fossil gas does?	In our original application around integrated resource planning, Enbridge Gas had applied for non-gas alternatives to be included in the framework as potential IRP alternatives. Inclusive of electricity options and potentially district energy and those types of things while acknowledging that these would be new activities that go beyond natural gas distribution. These alternatives were not approved as IRP alternatives in the first-generation IRP framework. In the regulator's decision, it was considered not appropriate to provide funding for non-natural gas IRPA's but it was recognized that that may be an element of IRP that will evolve as we as we gain additional experience here and as coordinated energy planning between the natural gas and electric sector evolves in Ontario. It is something that we have applied to look at on a limited basis in our Southern Lake Huron pilot project application so that we can gain key learnings to inform how this evolves moving forward.
Aren't natural gas emissions, the best kind of CO2 emissions, like example, the cleanest fuel?	In comparison to oil or propane, natural gas has lower combustion emissions.