

## **Issues**

From the public's point of view the issues that should be considered to be "primary" are very different from those suggested by some of the participants in this review:

### ***Is the system safe?***

Ontario's energy supply system in its present form exposes most citizens to unnecessary risks and annually causes a significant number of fatalities that are avoidable.

### ***Does it make the best use of our capital resources?***

The Ontario electricity system plan (the LTEP) assumes that in order to meet the peak demands for power the generation and distribution capacity will need large capital investments. That is not true. The existing generation and distribution systems could be reduced to meet future needs by employing energy storage to reduce those peak demands, a point that has been made (and ignored) many times over the past decade.

### ***Does it provide affordable electricity?***

Only a small portion of Ontario's power is generated by systems for which the fuel costs are dominant. For the most part the costs of power are determined by the capital and maintenance costs of the supply and distribution systems. If we reduce the capital costs as suggested above then we will as a result enjoy a progressive reduction in the cost of electricity.

### ***Does it protect the environment?***

Ontario presently uses natural gas as its primary fossil fuel for non-transportation applications. It consumes 1 Tcf/y for energy applications and under the LTEP that is likely to increase by about another 60%, partly because people are being forced to switch from electricity to natural gas for thermal applications. The corresponding GHG emissions range from 105 to 166 million tonnes (CO<sub>2</sub> eq.) per year. Those levels are not acceptable (see today's IPCC Report).

### ***Is it sustainable?***

The ability to design new nuclear power stations has been largely dismantled, the supply of conventional natural gas has petered out, and the potential for further development of hydro power in the province is too small to fill those gaps so all proposals for changes in the supply system need to be reviewed to ensure that they are compatible with the radical changes that are needed to create a viable new plan.

## ***Is it resilient?***

As it stands the Ontario supply system is inherently unstable. Small variations in supply or demand frequently cause radical spikes in electricity prices and sometimes lead to protracted power outages. The cost of keeping an unstable system running is excessive. A system that relies on energy storage is not subject to those problems. This OEB review provides an opportunity to consider whether the OPG plans should be reconsidered to incorporate resilience and the other fundamental features that would make it a much more successful contributor to Ontario's economy.

If the answers to all of these primary questions were "Yes" then it would be appropriate to nit-pick the details of the OPG plan. Unfortunately, the actual answer to all of the questions is a resounding "No". If the program isn't safe, or affordable, or sustainable, or environmentally viable, then it isn't a good plan. There is little point in relabelling the trivial details of the plan as "primary issues".

These issues are discussed in considerably more detail in [Sustainability-Journal.ca](http://Sustainability-Journal.ca) if anyone wants further information.

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