

Toronto, GTA East & GTA West IRP Webinar

November 25, 2024

Feedback	Webinar transcription
What impact will IRP efforts have on natural gas rates?	IRP efforts are designed to address capacity constraints in a way that's optimal and cost effective. The OEB, our regulator has approved a cost effectiveness test that looks at traditional pipeline versus non facility solutions. To the extent that a non-facility alternative is less expensive than a traditional facility solution the impacts to meet those demand needs with the IRP alternative would be less than if we had implemented the facility project. The approval for specific cost consequences for an IRP alternative would be based on the details of that project and where required brought forward for approval to our regulator through the IRP plan approval process on a per project basis.
Does this mean that Enbridge won't be investing in new infrastructure in our communities?	No, it doesn't. We'll continue to invest in our communities where investments in natural gas demands are required and IRP efforts are ensuring that we're looking at the most cost-effective and optimal alternatives when needs are identified in how Enbridge is addressing them. IRP has introduced additional steps in our internal process, and in working with stakeholders, to ensure that system constraints are addressed in an optimal manner that meets customer needs.
When is the first IRP project planned for GTA?	Some of the growth projects in the GTA West area are shown there, being Shelburne area and Brampton, we've technically assessed some of those projects, but their scopes are in development. There's a lot of growth that's being highlighted, there's a lot of different engagement with the municipalities and once we've really nailed down that scope and nailed down whether or not the facility or IRP or a combination of both is the best way to move forward that could be one of the first ones in the GTA if that's an economic solution.
Is there any significant loss of customers over the last five years?	Enbridge Gas has not observed significant customer egress from the system in Ontario. The 5-year average trend has been <0.1%. Customer egress in Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan was observed to be below the Ontario average. Enbridge Gas will continue to monitor customer trends over time to better understand the demands on our natural gas system and to determine the appropriate approach to IRP and/or system pruning in your township.
You mentioned that municipalities are engaged in IRP project development. Given there are many different groups at the municipality that may be impacted by the project. What groups at the municipality are engaged?	Enbridge has a municipal energy solutions team who has ongoing engagement with municipal staff and stakeholders. Typically in the process we're working through our municipal energy solutions team to facilitate this engagement with stakeholders within the municipality and work through with the municipality who needs to be at each discussion based on the topics that are going to be discussed, the needs, and the questions that we're working through with the municipality to ensure that we have best available information on what that municipality is planning and the work happening there. We also move through potential consultation for a specific project ensuring we have the right stakeholders at the table. It's beneficial to have that municipal team to work through and ensure that we have we have the right stakeholders around the table for each engagement.
Have you started looking at specific municipalities for system pruning pilot project? Have you considered such a project in Toronto?	For system pruning, we're still in early days of exploring this as a pilot. We haven't targeted any specific municipality at this point, but are looking to see broadly how we can collect all the different data sets that can help to inform the selection criteria. Once we have developed the criteria, we'll review to identify candidates for testing one or two system pruning pilots. But we're starting off small scale, and we need to determine the objectives, criteria and then develop the approach before determining where to test these pilots. So, stay tuned for more information on that, as we work through these elements in 2025 and 2026.
Hydro One is engaged with Enbridge and IRP, but not mentioned in our PowerPoint.	That's was maybe a miss on our part and we'll make sure to highlight it in the future presentations. When we're meeting with the municipalities, we're also meeting with some of the local electrical LDCs or utilities as well as the IESO to just determine is there any constraints on the electrical systems.

<p>When is the first IRP project planned for the GTA</p>	<p>We have to look at the economic assessment for those projects and any others that are maybe a little bit smaller, but we can't fully comment on that. But hopefully within the next year or two, we can highlight a lot more about which ones are economically feasible and we'll have more on that hopefully soon.</p>
<p>Is Enbridge considering renewed incentives for builders that construct new homes to higher energy efficiency standards, installation of heat pumps etc.?</p>	<p>Enbridge Gas's broad-based energy conservation programs includes a new construction Savings By Design Residential program which provides builders and developers incentives to support building to higher standards. There are currently two offerings in market, Energy Star for New Homes and Net Zero Energy Ready discovery home. Additional detail can be found on our webpage: https://www.enbridgegas.com/ontario/business-industrial/incentives-conservation/programs-and-incentives/new-construction/savings-by-design/residential</p>
<p>From the jurisdictions you mentioned that are doing pruning already, which is the most advanced?</p>	<p>Enbridge Gas has initiated a jurisdictional scan with a consulting firm, which includes an initial landscape assessment to identify which jurisdictions or utilities are pursuing gas system pruning and select a subset to conduct more targeted research into their system pruning processes. On a preliminary basis New York, California, Colorado and Massachusetts have begun to assess candidate systems and in some cases move forward in seeking to implement system pruning initiatives. The jurisdictional scan will provide more detailed information on progress within selected jurisdictions, and seek to provide information on emerging best practices and lessons learned.</p>

Northern & Eastern IRP Webinar

November 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>

Southeast & Southwest IRP Webinar

November 28, 2024

Feedback	Enbridge Gas response
<p>Aren't pipelines the best way to move gas?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Did the Grimsby Lincoln project failed IRP? What does this mean and why would the project continue?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Is Enbridge doing anything to encourage the energy transition?</p>	<p>Approximately 30% of emissions in the province are due to natural gas 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.</p>
<p>For the IRP pilot project, has Alectra not already done this?</p>	<p>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</p>

	<p>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.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Aren't natural gas emissions, the best kind of CO2 emissions, like example, the cleanest fuel?</p>	<p>In comparison to oil or propane, natural gas has lower combustion emissions.</p>