

**Ministry of Economic
Development & Growth
Ministry of Energy
Ministry of Infrastructure
Ministry of Research,
Innovation & Science**

**Ministère du Développement
économique et de la Croissance
Ministère de l'Énergie
Ministère de l'Infrastructure
Ministère de la Recherche,
de l'Innovation et de la Science**



Corporate Services Division
Hearst Block, 8th Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2E1

Division des services ministériels
8^{ème} étage, édifice Hearst
900, rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 2E1

December 15, 2017

Mr. John Bowker
Researcher, Ontario's New Democrats
Room 463, Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A5

Dear Mr. Bowker,

RE: Freedom of Information Request ENERGY-17-79 - Fee Estimate

Thank you for your Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the act) access request received by the Ministry of Energy on November 7, 2017 for:

1. Searchable PDF copies of all emails, memos and/or briefing materials responsive to the request(s) made by the Auditor-General of Ontario and/or her office, in connection to her special report on the government's Fair Hydro Plan and that were released to the Auditor General; and
2. Searchable PDF copies of all emails, memos and/or briefing materials responsive to the request(s) made by the Auditor-General of Ontario and/ or her office, in connection to her special report on the government's Fair Hydro Plan, and that have not been released to the Auditor-General.
3. A summary of outside consultant and/ or legal fees paid and/or payable by the government in relation to the preparation and/or roll-out of the government's Fair Hydro Plan.

Our preliminary search indicates that approximately 74,000 records totalling approximately 672,000 pages are responsive to your request. Based on a preliminary

review, and given the nature of the records, it is estimated that access to approximately 224,000 pages would be denied based on the following exemptions:

- Section 12 Cabinet records
- Section 13 Advice to government
- Section 18 Economic and other interests of Ontario
- Section 19 Solicitor-client privilege

Access to other records may be denied in part under the same exemptions.

Preparation time is the time required to prepare records for disclosure including applying exemptions in part at the rate of 1 minute per page. This is calculated in accordance with the best practices of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. It is estimated that one third of the records (approximately 224,000 pages) will require partial severances.

If you wish to proceed with the request as written, please note that a significant time extension to fulfill your request will be required given the volume of records that respond to your request.

Section 57 of the act requires fees be charged for certain costs to process an access request and that an estimate be provided if the fee is expected to exceed \$25.00. If an estimate is \$100 or more, a deposit of 50% is required before proceeding with the request. The fees that shall be charged are set by Ontario Regulation 460.

Based on an initial review of your request, the fee estimate to complete this request is **\$112,040.00** and a deposit of **\$56,020.00** is required to proceed. This was calculated as follows:

Description	Amount
Preparation time at 1 minute per page for 224,000 pages with partial access = 3,733 hours @ \$30.00/hour	\$111,990.00
USB keys @ \$10.00/key	\$ 50.00
Total	\$112,040.00

Please bear in mind this is a fee estimate and that additional fees may be applied once the review of the records is completed. Once we complete processing your request, we will issue a final decision and a final fee based on the actual time spent to prepare the records. Given the large amount of records responsive to this request, the fee estimate is very high. Please contact me if you wish to amend your request to save cost.

Please send a cheque or money order payable to the **Minister of Finance** in the amount of **\$112,040.00** to the above address. If your deposit is not received within 30 days, the file will be closed.

The act is available at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90f31?search=freedom>

Please let me know if you disagree with the fee estimate, or if you would like to revise your request.

You may request a review of the fee estimate, within 30 days, by the Information and Privacy Commissioner. The Commissioner can be reached at:

Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Bloor Street East
Suite 1400
Toronto, Ontario M4W 1A8
1-800-387-0073 or 416-326-3333

An appeal fee of \$25.00 is required by cheque or money order, payable to the Minister of Finance.

Please contact me at 416-325-8899 with any questions that you may have concerning the request or fee estimate. The case number ENERGY-17-79 assigned to your file should be referenced in any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

Erin Coulter
FOI Coordinator