

Afternoon Energy Media Summary - October 26, 2017

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Date: Thu, 26 Oct 2017 15:05:31 -0400

Good afternoon,

Here is a roundup of the day's news:

LTEP News:

- * Ontario hydro bills to rise over next decade in government's energy plan – *The Canadian Press*
- * Ontario hydro bills to remain largely unchanged past election, then rise slowly – *The Canadian Press*
- * Hydro rates to remain stable through 2020: energy plan – *Toronto Star*
- * Reevely: Hydro prices to keep rising, just a bit more slowly, Ontario government says – *Ottawa Citizen*
- * Statement from Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown on the release of the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan – *Ontario PC Party*
- * Bruce Power Remains Integral Part Of Ontario's Long Term Energy Plan – *Blackburn News*
- * LTEP's re-commitment to Pickering 2024 good news for Ontario – *News Release (The Society of Energy Professionals)*
- * Canadian Nuclear Association Welcomes Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan – *News Release (Canadian Nuclear Association)*
- * Wind Industry Points to Expanded Role for Renewable Energy in Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan – *News Release (Canadian Wind Energy Association)*
- * Ontario's Long Term Energy Plan 2017 Affirms Future for Waterpower – *News Release (Ontario Waterpower Association)*

Other Energy News:

- Last chance for anti-turbine group – *St. Thomas Times-Journal*
- Clean energy can advance Indigenous reconciliation – *The Canadian Press*
- Nuclear called key to Ontario power, prosperity – *Waterloo Region Record*
- Energy Minister counters NDP over Fair Hydro Plan – *My North Bay Now*
- Last chance to sign up for solar program – *The Barrie Examiner*
- Canada's fossil fuel use to peak in 2019, National Energy Board now projects – *CBC News*

Please see below **Today in Twitter** for news articles.

**Oct. 26, 2017
Today in Twitter**

[@J_Scott](#) - Important dialogue about Ontario's decarbonised, fair, long-term energy plan with [@GlennThibeault](#) at The [@PearsonCentre](#). [#onpoli](#) [#cdnpoli](#)

[@ACarterglobal](#) - Impossible to see Ontario's Long Term Energy Plan as anything but a political document. Shows price of hydro, but not the cost. [#onpoli](#)

Ø [@ACarterglobal](#) - Ontario's Long Term Energy Plan (LTEP) predicts stable demand and supply through 2035. Previous LTEPs have gotten this wrong.

Ø [@ACarterglobal](#) - Just in case you disagree with the LTEP being political document, [@GlennThibeault](#) now attacking [@brownbarrie](#) [@AndreaHorwath](#)

[@GeoffZochodne](#) - Ontario is gonna blockchain its electricity system to, uh, unchain energy blocks or whatever, according to its long-term energy plan [#onpoli](#)

[@robertbenzie](#) - Energy Minister [@GlennThibeault](#) unveils Long-Term Energy Plan, estimating hydro bills will remain stable through 2035. [#onpoli](#)

[@allisonjones_cp](#) - Ontario's long-term energy plan is out. It projects bills will peak at \$197 in 2032-33. Prev plan had expected \$200 bills in 2027. [#onpoli](#)

Ø [@allisonjones_cp](#) - Government plans to secure new power only when it's needed, rely less on long-term contracts and allow more ppl to produce green energy.

Ø [@allisonjones_cp](#) - Ont expects higher electricity demand toward end of 16yr plan, partly due to electric vehicles. They expect 2.4M by 2035. There are ~15K now

[@blissblogs](#) - BREAKING-Ontario home hydro bills to rise avg 5% per yr starting 2022 ..but won't surpass avg \$200/month under previous LTEPlan [#onpoli](#)

[@SussexStrategy](#) - Sussex's Senior Counsel Kim Warren met with Energy Minister [@GlennThibeault](#) & Lisa Demarco to discuss Ontario's New Long-Term Energy Plan!

[@AnnHoggarthMPP](#) - Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan Delivers Fairness, Affordability and Choice

LTEP News:

Ontario hydro bills to rise over next decade in government's energy plan

The Canadian Press
Oct. 26, 2017

Ontario's long-term energy plan projects electricity ratepayers will see their hydro bills rise to an average of \$181 a month in 10 years.

That's lower than the \$200 a month the last long-term energy plan expected bills to increase to by 2027, but significantly up from the current average of \$127 a month.

The Liberal government says it plans to avoid sharp increases during that time through initiatives, including only securing new power when it's needed, and allowing more people to produce their own green energy to power their homes.

The plan projects a shortfall in electricity supply starting a little after 2020, when one nuclear generating station reaches the end of its life and others are removed from service for refurbishment. Some supply contracts will also expire.

Government officials say their plan is to close that gap largely through moving away from long-term, 20-year contracts and diversifying the supply mix.

The demand for electricity is expected to rise toward the end of the 16-year plan, partly due to an increase in electric vehicles — which the government assumes there will be 2.4 million of by 2035.

Ontario hydro bills to remain largely unchanged past election, then rise slowly

Allison Jones
The Canadian Press

Oct. 26, 2017

TORONTO — Ontario's Liberal government is aiming to keep hydro bills, a source of widespread public anger, lowered through next year's election, but its long-term energy plan released Thursday details how they will then rise again over the next two decades.

Electricity bills had roughly doubled in the last decade, helping send Premier Kathleen Wynne's approval ratings to record lows, when the Liberals decided to introduce a 25 per cent cut earlier this year.

The move which involved a complex borrowing scheme that will cost Ontarians billions in extra interest has led bills to drop by an average of \$31 this year, just ahead of the 2018 general election.

In its long-term plan, the government said that for most of the next two decades, it aims to keep increases gradual, rather than lower or freeze rates.

Average hydro bills are projected to rise to \$197 in 2032. That's a slower progression than the government's previous long-term plan in 2013, which expected bills to hit that mark by 2026. But much of that is due to the 25 per cent rate cut, the energy minister admitted.

"We're starting from a lot lower place than where we would have in 2013," said Glenn Thibeault.

The front-loaded decreases in electricity costs prompted the opposition parties to decry the government's energy plan as a political document.

"This was written for the election," said NDP critic Peter Tabuns. "This is not a planning document."

Thibeault said he would have loved to have announced rates were being frozen, but Progressive Conservative critic Todd Smith said this plan essentially does freeze rates, just in the very short term.

"This is all about getting Kathleen Wynne re-elected next year," he said. "They're freezing rates to get us through the next election period because they know how detrimental this whole energy crisis is for Ontario."

The government said it plans to avoid sharp increases to bills through initiatives including only securing new power when it's needed and allowing more people to produce their own green energy to power their homes.

From 2021 to 2024 bills are projected to rise by around \$10 or \$12 a year, which is for the most part much higher than annual increases projected in the last long-term energy plan.

The plan projects a shortfall in electricity supply starting a little after 2020, when one nuclear generating station reaches the end of its life, others are removed from service for refurbishment and some supply contracts expire.

Government officials say their plan is to close that gap largely through moving away from long-term, 20-year contracts and diversifying the supply mix.

The demand for electricity is expected to rise toward the end of the 16-year plan, partly due to an increase in electric vehicles — which the government assumes there will be 2.4 million of by 2035.

There are currently fewer than 15,000 registered electric vehicles in the province.

[Hydro rates to remain stable through 2020: energy plan](#)

Robert Benzie

Toronto Star

Oct. 26, 2017

Ontario electricity rate hikes will be held to the rate of inflation over the next four years, according to the province's latest Long-Term Energy Plan.

In the first energy blueprint since 2013, the Liberal government said prices will actually be lower than forecast four years ago — thanks to the 25 per cent rebate known as the Fair Hydro Plan that took effect this past summer.

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The average monthly residential bill this year is \$127 — down from \$170 predicted in the last Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP).

In 2027, that monthly bill is anticipated to be \$181 — lower than the \$200 estimate from the 2013 plan. By 2035, it should be \$193 a month.

“The projected residential price electricity will remain below the outlooks in the 2010 and 2013 LTEP,” the government said in the 155-page outlook.

“Projected electricity prices for large consumers will, on average, be in line with inflation over the forecast period,” it said.

Between 2021 and 2027, rates are expected to gradually rise by an average of 5 per cent annually.

“The 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan outlines our investments to date and how we plan to continue building an energy system with fairness and choice for people across the province,” Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said Thursday at Queen’s Park.

Facing widespread outcry over rising hydro prices — and with an election set for June 7, 2018 — the government launched the so-called Fair Hydro Plan earlier this year.

Thibeault said it spreads the costs of \$70 billion in electricity infrastructure improvements from the past decade over a lengthier repayment period.

He likened it to refinancing a mortgage to have lower payments now but with those spread out over a longer period of time.

“The Fair Hydro Plan is a policy that reduces rates immediately and effectively,” said Thibeault.

“We’ve heard from families that they can’t handle the sharp increases that were taking place in previous years and are working to ensure that does not happen again,” he said.

With an election looming, Thibeault lashed out at the Progressive Conservatives and the New Democrats for not providing viable alternatives to the Liberals’ plans.

“Both parties voted against Ontario’s Fair Hydro Plan — the single largest rate reduction in the province’s history.”

Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk has estimated the \$39.4-billion scheme could cost Ontario ratepayers an additional \$4 billion in higher interest charges over 30 years.

Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown warned Ontarians not to buy the “Liberal spin” being peddled by Premier Kathleen Wynne’s government.

“Every single time they’ve played games with the electricity sector it has left families working harder, paying more, and getting less,” said Brown

“The 2017 LTEP does not show the real costs of their unfair hydro scheme. It is nothing but a Wynne Liberal re-election campaign document that does nothing to calm the nerves of families worried about their future.

NDP MPP Peter Tabuns (Toronto Danforth) dismissed the energy plan as a “political document” designed to get the Liberals through next spring’s election.

“This was written for the election — this is not a planning document,” said Tabuns.

“I wouldn’t give this government any credit for this plan,” he said.

There is some good news for many condominium residents in Thursday’s blueprint.

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB), the independent regulator that controls prices, will be given authority over 326,000 condo and apartment units in 2,500 buildings across the province that currently pay their bills to private companies that meter usage.

“Consumers have told both the province and the OEB that they would like to know more about how these

decisions are made and what they are being asked to pay for,” the LTEP said.

“Improving consumer protection and strengthening the OEB’s regulatory powers ... would ensure that their fees and charges are just and reasonable and that customers served by these companies receive value for money.”

Francesca Dobbyn, executive director of the United Way of Bruce Grey, said that change could be especially helpful to low-income apartment dwellers.

“It’s lower bills — definitely in our rural communities. We have companies that charge \$25 a month if you haven’t paid off the previous bill and for low-income people that’s a horrendous amount,” said Dobbin.

Overall, Ontario’s current electricity supply mix includes 53.5 per cent of generation coming from nuclear power, 21.3 per cent from water, 7.5 per cent from natural gas, 6.2 per cent from wind, and 2 per cent from solar.

The government estimates that the equivalent of 8.6 per cent of supply is coming from conservation efforts.

There are no new major energy projects announced in the plan — the Liberals believe existing infrastructure as well as increased small green-energy, such as roof-top solar panels, will be enough to meet demand over the next 18 years.

Reeveley: Hydro prices to keep rising, just a bit more slowly, Ontario government says

David Reevely
Ottawa Citizen
Oct. 26, 2017

The average Ontario household’s electricity bill will reach nearly \$200 a month before levelling off in 2030, the provincial government predicted as it released its latest long-term energy plan Thursday morning.

This is the first overhaul to the province’s electricity forecast in four years, which means it’s the first one since the Liberal government got seriously spooked by Ontarians’ fury over constant hydro price hikes.

It promises more options for people who are willing to change their habits to cut their costs, more rewards for innovations that cut consumption or generate power more cheaply, and more competition among power companies to meet Ontario’s needs. But also, in spite of all of that, prices that continue rising.

“I’d love, as an MPP and minister of energy, to come out and say we’re going to freeze rates,” said Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault. “We know where that got us. We remember the rolling brownouts. We remember the blackout. We know that rebuilding the system cost us \$70 billion. We’re not going to do that again.”

His history is a bit sketchy. The vast blackout of 2003, the worst case for a power system, covered much of northeast North America, started in Ohio, and had nothing to do with weakness in Ontario. Also the \$70 billion we’ve spent on the power grid includes obviously needed, unsexy renovations to transmission wires and transformers, but also a wholesale move away from coal generating stations and a very expensive excursion into wind farming that didn’t produce the great green-powered economy it was supposed to.

Put that background aside, though. What does the new long-term energy plan do that’s different?

The increase is less than the government promised in 2013, when the average bill was supposed to hit \$200 a month a few years earlier in 2027. An even earlier forecast had bills at \$200 a month by 2020.

The hikes on the average household will be smaller at first, thanks to all the money the government is borrowing to pay electricity bills over the next few years, then we’ll see sharper price increases starting in 2022.

The plan also assumes that we’ll use less power at home — 750 kilowatt-hours a month in the average household instead of the 800 the government has previously assumed — thanks to conservation and more efficient appliances. That’s part of why the forecast prices have dipped.

On one hand, if we care about what Ontarians will actually pay, that’s fair. On the other, it’s a trick: If you cut your food expenses by not eating, that doesn’t mean food gets cheaper.

Millions of electric cars will take up the power we don’t use in our houses and apartments, along with

heavy-duty electric transit systems like Ottawa's light-rail lines. The government forecasts it'll be pretty much an even balance, leading to almost flat demand for power for the next 20 years.

But it'll also change the patterns of electricity demand. Charging an electric car takes a lot of juice at once. Charging is usually done at night, which is good because that's when provincewide demand is usually low, but also potentially stressing the power supply to residential neighbourhoods that haven't previously needed industrial quantities of electricity.

Local distribution companies like Hydro Ottawa might have to spend heavily to beef up their systems, and charge customers more to pay for the improvements.

Some companies, at the province's urging, are already experimenting with more flexible supply plans for consumers to try to smooth out demand. If you charge an electric car at night, maybe you pay less for a kilowatt-hour after 9 p.m. but agree to pay a lot more during the day, for instance. Or vice-versa.

Of course, we've heard this before. Smart meters were supposed to make it easier for us to take control of our electricity use. They sort of did but the benefits of shifting your electricity use to cheaper times haven't been huge, and the base price of power kept going up no matter what we did.

This time, it's different, Thibeault said. This time, we really mean it. We haven't used smart meters as well as we could have but we're doing it now.

London Hydro, for instance, is experimenting with a program called Green Button, which collects masses of information on household power use so people can compare themselves to neighbours and relatives, understand how much electricity different appliances really use, and potentially be rewarded for saving electricity when it matters the most.

"We're going to continue to utilize innovation and utilize the data that we are going to get from smart meters to help consumers innovate and lower their bills," Thibeault said.

The provincial government is doing away with long-term contracts for power generation, which it once figured were essential for getting companies to invest the tens or even hundreds of millions of dollars it takes to build a large power plant.

When a contract expires or it's time to close an old nuclear reactor or something, the province wants more bidding, more competition among would-be suppliers, more risk pushed onto them instead of guaranteed payments in decades-long deals.

All of this is, still, about slowing the rate of increase to people's power bills. There's no prospect of lowering them, unless you have a roof you cover with solar panels or can install windmills in your yard.

"The Wynne Liberals are untrustworthy, especially when it comes to Ontarians' electricity bills," Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown said in response. "Despite Liberal spin, it's clear: rates will continue to skyrocket to the highest they've ever been after the next election."

"It's shocking to see a government doubling down on overpriced private contracts when the people of Ontario have said clearly that they are against privatization of the hydro system, and when we know it will mean higher prices and less control over our hydro bills," New Democrat energy critic Peter Tabuns said.

Prices will indeed keep going up, and Ontarians are against privatization and the Liberals have done it anyway. They spent \$1 billion on moving two gas plants whose construction they'd previously approved. They've screwed around endlessly with wind power, using our money and are locked in lawsuits over their faithlessness.

But these are criticisms, not alternatives.

"I'd like to challenge both Patrick Brown and Andrea Horwath to finally tell the people of Ontario what they would do differently and what impact their plans would have on electricity bills," Thibeault said as he released his plan, anticipating both the Tories' and the New Democrats' attacks.

Brown would look to get out of generating contracts we've already signed and apart from that has basically no hydro plan of his own and none on tap for his party's policy convention next month.

The NDP's Horwath has a plan to renationalize the Hydro One transmission utility, at a cost of billions and to no obvious benefit other than the satisfaction of public ownership. The party's "plan" for reducing prices

is to get an expert panel to sort it out, which is not a plan.

So, real talk: One party has a plan for Ontario's electricity system that's worthy of the label. It increases what consumers will pay, year in and year out, arguably for good reasons like cleaner power and more resilience, but definitely our prices go up.

Ontarians will be better served with conservative and progressive options for the province's second-biggest challenge after health care, but we need our conservative and progressive parties to provide them. It's the opposition's job to oppose and to criticize, which they're doing. But with an election imminent in the spring, it's now also their job to offer real alternatives.

Statement from Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown on the release of the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan

Ontario PC Party
Oct. 26, 2017

"The Wynne Liberals are untrustworthy, especially when it comes to Ontarians' electricity bills. Every single time they've played games with the electricity sector it has left families working harder, paying more, and getting less.

"Despite Liberal spin, it's clear: rates will continue to skyrocket to the highest they've ever been after the next election.

"This reflects what we've seen in a secret, leaked cabinet document, and the recent Auditor General report that exposed the Liberals' \$4 billion hydro cover-up.

"The Wynne Liberals will do or say anything to get re-elected. They have altered plans and spun mistruths repeatedly, including in their last LTEP.

"The 2017 LTEP does not show the real costs of their 'unfair' hydro scheme. It is nothing but a Wynne Liberal re-election campaign document that does nothing to calm the nerves of families worried about their future.

"The Wynne Liberals don't care about making life more affordable for Ontario families. They are only interested in clinging onto power and lining the pockets of their insider friends.

"Life is harder under the Wynne Liberals, and their cynical re-election gimmicks in the energy system are only going to make it worse. We can't trust them on the hydro file ever again."

Bruce Power Remains Integral Part Of Ontario's Long Term Energy Plan

Janice Mackay
Blackburn News
Oct. 26, 2017

The President and CEO of Bruce Power is encouraged by the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan as it reiterates the importance of Bruce Power's Life-extension Program.

Mike Rencheck says stable government policy ensures Bruce Power can make long-term investments to help supply about 30% of Ontario's electricity at 30% of the average cost.

The plan released today supports the plan to have Bruce Power provide electricity through 2064.

Rencheck says Bruce Power's investment programs and operations create and sustain 22,000 direct and indirect jobs a year, and inject \$4 billion into the economy annually.

The plan also recognizes that Bruce Power also produces medical isotopes to save lives.

"We are encouraged by the trust the government continues to have in Bruce Power to provide over 30 percent of Ontario's electricity at 30 percent less than the average cost to generate residential power while producing zero carbon emissions," Rencheck said. "Our Life-Extension Program, which began on Jan. 1, 2016, is on time and on budget, and continues to boost Ontario's economy in every corner of the province."

"By extending the life of the Bruce site, Ontario will have the stable, reliable, low-cost and clean energy foundation needed to further pursue modernization and decarbonization of the province's electricity system and economy," Rencheck added. "Nuclear will provide the backbone Ontario needs to meet and exceed its emissions

targets, while benefitting families and businesses as a low-cost, reliable source of electricity through 2064."

[LTEP's re-commitment to Pickering 2024 good news for Ontario](#)

News Release (The Society of Energy Professionals)

Oct. 26, 2017

TORONTO, Oct. 26, 2017 /CNW/ - The Ontario government's decision to re-commit to the continued operation of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (NGS) and the refurbishments of Bruce and Darlington stations in the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP) is good news for the province, says The Society of Energy Professionals (SEP).

The SEP welcomes the LTEP's clear commitment to the continued operation of Pickering NGS until 2024. Pickering plays a critical role in providing Ontarians with low-cost energy while helping to meet Ontario's emission targets and keeping the lights on through the Bruce and Darlington station refurbishments.

"Continued operation of Pickering NGS supports good jobs, emission-free energy, and Ontario's economy," says SEP President Scott Travers, who is a professional engineer and MBA with three decades of experience in Ontario's energy sector. "I'm glad to see that the government listened to the experts and made an evidence-based decision on this important issue."

"There were a lot of jobs on the line with this decision," said Society OPG Local Vice-President Joe Fierro. "Pickering supports 4,500 workers in the Durham Region and pumps \$1.3 billion into the local economy. This was the right decision for everyone."

Additionally, SEP welcomes commitments to enhancements to Ontario's transmission system, including investments in the East-West Tie, a new hydro corridor in the western GTA and various projects in northwestern Ontario.

"These transmission investments are good news," said Travers. "Constraints in the current system limit Ontario's ability to transfer clean power between regions even where capacity exists."

Finally, SEP is also pleased that the LTEP contemplates planning for the widespread use of electric vehicles and electrification of rail.

"We are glad to see a realistic forecast of electric vehicle and rail use," said Travers. "But significant policy work is still to be done and significant investment is still to be made to ensure our local distribution systems are ready to harness the potential of clean technologies."

President Scott Travers is available for comment.

The Society of Energy Professionals represents 8,000 professionals in the public, private and regulatory sectors, including engineers, lawyers and accountants.

SOURCE The Society of Energy Professionals

[Canadian Nuclear Association Welcomes Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan](#)

News Release (Canadian Nuclear Association)

Oct. 26, 2017

OTTAWA, Oct. 26, 2017 /CNW/ - The Canadian Nuclear Association is pleased with the content and direction of Ontario's latest Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP).

Focusing on the consumer, climate change, cost, reliability and accessibility, this updated LTEP recognizes and supports nuclear power as the central pillar of Ontario's energy future. For over 50 years Ontario's nuclear fleet has been providing Ontarians with clean and reliable baseload energy. The LTEP leverages nuclear's capabilities by reaffirming the government's commitment to refurbishing 10 of Ontario's 18 nuclear reactors to ensure that future generations continue to benefit from the social, economic and environmental advantages that nuclear provides, including enabling the integration of more renewable power into the electricity system. Furthermore, the LTEP reaffirms the government's commitment to extending the Pickering plant's life to 2024 – this will ensure an adequate supply of clean power while other units are being refurbished.

Between October and December 2016, people and organizations across Ontario had the opportunity to

provide their feedback through scores of consultation sessions. Based on this input, the resulting LTEP lays out the framework for Ontario's electricity mix for years to come, identifying nuclear as an important component of its strategy. The LTEP states that "The most cost-effective option for producing the baseload generation the province needs while releasing no GHG emissions is the refurbish Ontario's nuclear generating stations." Furthermore, the LTEP recognizes that "Ontario's expertise in nuclear energy has enabled it to be a leading jurisdiction in nuclear research and nuclear medicine. Ontario can help create new export opportunities for nuclear innovations such as Small Modular Reactors, Nuclear Fuel Research, and Hydrogen Production."

John Barrett, President and CEO of the Canadian Nuclear Association says that this type of public policy is critical to meeting Ontario's and Canada's climate goals: "Not only does nuclear provide the clean baseload power - over 60% of the province's supply – it also acts as an important enabler to the deployment of renewable, but intermittent, sources of electricity. Nuclear fills the supply gaps that cannot currently be bridged by renewables. Nuclear is also an innovation leader, providing yet more benefits in health care, opportunities for exports and electrification of northern and remote communities. We are proud of the social, economic and environmental contributions made by our sector and we look forward to continuing our work with government and other stakeholders to secure the best low-carbon energy mix for our future. Public policy commitment to clean infrastructure investment is essential if we are to meet the challenge of climate change."

Facts:

Ontario's nuclear fleet meets over 60% of the province's electricity demand

In 2016, the cost of nuclear power averaged 6.9 cents/kWh, 30% below the provincial average from all sources

Even following the \$26 Billion investment in refurbishment of Ontario's nuclear fleet (4 units at Darlington, 6 at Bruce), OPG expects that the average cost of nuclear to 2050 will be 8 cents/kWh (2016 dollars)

The nuclear industry in Ontario contributes over \$5 billion annually to the national economy and supports 50,000 Ontario jobs

Refurbishment is expected to create over 30,000 jobs for the duration of the project (concluding in 2033)

About the CNA:

Since 1960, the Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA) has been the national voice of the Canadian nuclear industry. Working alongside our members and all communities of interest, the CNA promotes the industry nationally and internationally, works with governments on policies affecting the sector and works to increase awareness and understanding of the value nuclear technology brings to the environment, economy and the daily life of Canadians.

Our members are actively involved and are leaders in Canada's production of uranium and nuclear power and are taking leadership roles in the research, design, construction, operation and support to nuclear facilities and technologies.

www.cna.ca

SOURCE Canadian Nuclear Association

[Wind Industry Points to Expanded Role for Renewable Energy in Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan](#)

News Release (Canadian Wind Energy Association)
Oct. 26, 2017

OTTAWA, Oct. 26, 2017 /CNW/ - Earlier today the Honourable Glenn Thibeault, Ontario's Minister of Energy, released the updated Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP), Delivering Fairness and Choice. As part of this plan, the LTEP remains committed to achieving Ontario's climate goals and forecasts heightened need for electricity supply in the coming years to support the transition to a low-carbon economy. Ontario will need renewable energy, like wind energy, and more of it, if it is to meet greenhouse gas emission targets moving forward. New wind energy provides the best value for consumers to meet growing demand for affordable non-emitting electricity.

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The LTEP lays out expectations for energy supply and demand and reflects upon changing consumer demands. It notes that investment in the electricity market has improved reliability and reduced emissions. It also comments on how securing wind power has changed over time, noting that "the introduction of the Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) process in 2014 resulted in strong competition between developers of large renewable projects. This significantly reduced the costs of wind and solar energy, saving money for electricity ratepayers." This improved process resulted in an average 20-year procurement price of 8.45 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), which was less than the average cost of generation, and enabled increased participation and support from host communities and Indigenous groups.

Wind energy has become one of the lowest cost sources of new electricity generation in Ontario, and while wind power has helped reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Ontario's electricity sector from 34.5 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) in 2005 to 7.1 megatonnes CO₂e in 2015, more work needs to be done.

Ontario will need more electricity supply before 2024 (see graphic above). Over the next decade as much as 20 gigawatts (GW) of electricity supply will be removed from the system, representing close to half of all supply in the province. This includes approximately 3 GW of supply coming off-line at Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (NGS), as well as 9 GW of expiring generation contracts. Wind energy will be needed to help fill this supply gap.

CanWEA has long supported that new supply needs in Ontario be competitively sought from affordable, non-emitting generation to maintain low greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity sector in the medium- to long-term while keeping costs in check. Ontarians also realize that climate change is real, and that we need to work together to ensure that emissions from the energy sector continue to be reduced, not increased.

CanWEA and the wind energy industry will continue to work with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) on the implementation of the LTEP. We pledge to also collaborate with the IESO through the Market Renewal Program to enable affordable, non-greenhouse gas emitting generation.

Quotes

"Ontario's harnessing of wind power can help fight climate change while keeping electricity costs low. Without new wind energy, costs to electricity customers and carbon emissions will both continue to rise."

- Robert Hornung, President, Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA)

"CanWEA supports competitive, market-based approaches to providing flexible, clean, and low-cost energy supply, to meet Ontarians' changing needs."

- Brandy Giannetta, Ontario Regional Director, Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA)

Background

The Ministry of Energy developed the Long-Term Energy Plan reflecting on feedback received during an extensive public and stakeholder engagement process, and the Independent Electricity System Operator's Ontario Planning Outlook.

Ontario's energy use has changed substantially in the last decade. Homes, businesses and industries are becoming more efficient. At the same time, Ontario is exploring new technologies and renewable energy sources. To adapt to these changes, the Ontario Ministry of Energy has used the foundations of affordability, reliability, clean energy, community and Indigenous engagement, and conservation and demand management to guide its decision-making.

CanWEA blog, July 19: IEA technology report bullish on global wind energy. The International Energy Agency (IEA) recently released its Energy Technology Perspectives 2017 report, focusing on the evolution of energy technology, the growth of renewable energies such as wind, and how the world is doing in meeting the challenge of climate change.

CanWEA blog, June 5: Adding more wind to the Ontario grid: no problem! The notion of adding large amounts of additional wind energy to the Ontario grid has been met with concern in that doing so may make the grid less reliable, or that it would need a lot of new back-up supply to maintain reliability. Recent research and operating experience in Ontario and elsewhere demonstrates that this concern is unfounded.

CanWEA blog, April 24: Wind energy and Ontario's electricity prices – let's destroy the myth. Various

pundits assert that the major reason for higher electricity bills in Ontario is the addition of renewable energy to the province's electricity mix. This is a myth.

CanWEA blog, February 27: Ontario benefits from the competitive procurement of wind energy. Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) began a Market Renewal Initiative process in 2016, which, among a few other things, is focused on securing electricity supply through capacity auctions. CanWEA urges the provincial government to ensure market renewal initiatives support renewables so that Ontario can achieve its objectives of keeping both carbon emissions and electricity prices as low as possible.

What happens next? The Ministry of Energy will now follow the planning process outlined in recent amendments to the Energy Act, 1998, which came into force on July 1, 2016.
About the Canadian Wind Energy Association

CanWEA is the voice of Canada's wind energy industry, actively promoting the responsible and sustainable growth of wind energy. A national non-profit association, CanWEA serves as Canada's leading source of credible information about wind energy and its social, economic and environmental benefits. Join us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn. Learn more at canwea.ca.

SOURCE Canadian Wind Energy Association

[Ontario's Long Term Energy Plan 2017 Affirms Future for Waterpower](#)

News Release (Ontario Waterpower Association)
Oct. 26, 2017

TORONTO, Oct. 26, 2017 /CNW/ - As referenced by the Honourable Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy, during his opening keynote address at the Power of Water Canada Conference this week, waterpower will play an integral role in meeting Ontario's current and future energy needs.

At the POWC conference, the Minister noted that there is plenty of opportunity to better leverage the existing waterpower assets that are found right here in Ontario, either through retrofitting existing dams, or taking advantage of new turbine technology such as the very low head turbines to capture more of the waterpower potential available in our province. The Minister also stated that to better accommodate a more flexible electricity system, we must better leverage the province's pumped storage potential.

The LTEP specifically recognized OWA's November 2013 Northern Hydro Assessment report which identified significant remaining waterpower potential in the north. The LTEP also identifies opportunity to increase operational flexibility and capacity at existing facilities.

"The OWA looks forward to working with the Independent Electricity System Operator and Ontario Energy Board, in the development of implementation plans," said Paul Norris, President of the OWA. "Waterpower has been the backbone of a reliable electricity system for more than a century and will continue to play that role going forward."

The OWA was founded in 2001 to represent the common and collective interests of the province's original green energy sector – waterpower. More than 160 members are committed to advancing resource management and sustainable development. www.owa.ca.

SOURCE Ontario Waterpower Association

Other Energy News:

[Last chance for anti-turbine group](#)

Louis Pin
St. Thomas Times-Journal
Oct. 26, 2017

The Invenergy meeting in Dutton was little more than a formality.

The final community meeting between the Chicago-based wind company and residents of Dutton-Dunwich likely will not stop the Strong Breeze wind farm project.

Anti-turbine community members gathered en masse before and during the event to voice their displeasure.

"This is the last time they're going to give us any indication what their intentions are," said Dave Congdon, a member of Dutton Dunwich Opponents of Wind Turbines. "It's our last opportunity to continue to express our opposition to the project."

Other people at the meeting were more blunt.

Residents also cited environmental and infrastructure concerns, concerns they say have not been addressed.

The meeting is the second in the Renewable Energy Approval process, a requirement for turbine farm projects in Ontario. The province instituted the meetings to give residents insight into the projects and a chance to comment.

Dutton-Dunwich council met earlier in the day Wednesday so they could all attend the meeting. Councillors have been uniformly against the project and have declared the municipality an "unwilling host" for wind turbines.

Mayor Cameron McWilliam has specifically expressed his frustration with the report.

"They're just basically going through the motions," McWilliam said. "There are some things in the [environmental assessment] that we're concerned about, that they haven't even looked at ... the residents in the area have expressed concern that nothing seems to have been addressed properly."

Invenergy representatives said they are confident in the proposal — and their community. They still fully intend to submit a final report to the Ministry of the Environment later this year.

"We'll be logging all the questions we receive ... and working to file responses," said James Murphy, vice president of renewable development with Invenergy. "We've tried our best to be as diligent in our responses [as possible]."

"But there are a group of individuals, no matter the answer we provide ... who aren't really interested in the response," he added.

Residents in Dutton-Dunwich say the opposite.

"They're not listening to us at all," Congdon said. "It's an agenda put forward by the Ontario Liberal government, to circumvent all our rights when it comes to what we fought for ... 84 per cent of our municipality voted against the project. Our municipality is deemed an unwilling host. And it doesn't matter."

[Clean energy can advance Indigenous reconciliation](#)

Jatin Nathwani
The Canadian Press
Oct. 26, 2017

Canada's remote communities need reliable and affordable energy to operate their schools and businesses and heat their homes. But the current situation is woefully inadequate.

Of the 279 active remote communities not connected to the electric grid, 239 of them rely on diesel fuel for electricity and oil for heating, which must be flown, barged or trucked in. Nearly two thirds of these are Indigenous communities.

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If the government of Canada removed the barriers and impediments to clean energy development in these rural and remote communities, it would signal a bold commitment to Indigenous peoples and action towards reconciliation.

Why? Because rapid deployment of clean energy projects that deliver tangible benefits to a community's well-being are more credible than framework agreements with good intentions with no fixed outcomes.

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission provided recommendations for change and imbued hope that past injustices and hurt would fade with action. Reconciliation via access to plentiful clean energy is a pathway that has been largely overlooked.

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Based on our recent work at the Waterloo Global Science Initiative (WGSi), we have seen how communities facing a variety of disadvantages can improve their quality of life when they have better access to energy.

A growing body of evidence shows that energy access must not only be reasonably priced and reliable, but it must be of sufficiently high quality and quantity to spur economic growth and social development in communities strangled by energy deficits.

Large-scale, rapid improvements to energy access can have positive influences on economic, social, educational and health outcomes. They are an investment in the future that becomes the backbone to support a community's needs and growth.

Clean energy projects based on local resources have the most potential to enhance community cohesion and economic well-being, and to move the needle towards reconciliation and trust.

No room to grow

Unfortunately, inadequate energy services are the norm in many communities in Nunavut, Ontario and British Columbia. In 25 per cent to 50 per cent of these communities, diesel plants operate close to their maximum capacity during on-peak times, when demand is highest.

On the surface, this suggests that these communities can meet their energy needs. But in reality, these constraints translate into a cascade of negative consequences. Without an adequate and reliable supply of energy, communities cannot build new housing and health-care facilities, create businesses or upgrade essential water and sewage treatment plants.

One of the challenges to installing clean energy solutions in Indigenous communities lies in the way investments for specific projects are approved. Initiatives often get bogged down in endless discussions about how different levels of government will share the cost and who will be accountable.

In addition, the stakeholder consultation process too often fails to arrive at a decision, leaving the community's essential needs unmet. Initiatives are more likely to get to "yes" when Indigenous communities actively participate as "owners" of the solution. Without meaningful community engagement, centrally dispatched initiatives are unlikely to be effective.

Better quality of life

However, there is room for optimism. The dropping costs of clean energy technologies and recent innovations in distributed energy systems — how energy is taken from and added to the local grid — are helping community-based ownership models emerge.

Communities can now choose from several options to find the right power solution for their needs. Low-cost solar cells, run-of-the-river hydropower, wind turbines, geothermal power stations and energy-from-waste facilities can be installed in remote communities. For example, solar cells, which convert sunlight into electricity, are already being used successfully in Behchoko, N.W.T.

By combining these technologies with smart devices and sensors, communities can create smart microgrids — small-scale versions of the centralized energy systems that supply electricity to most Canadians. These microgrids, which are not connected to the main grid, can manage a variety of energy-generation sources, and distribute and control the flow of electricity locally.

When a community has greater control over energy demand and supply, it can improve energy efficiency, store excess energy, save money and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

But how do we get there?

The first step is for the government of Canada to develop a new accord that affirms the centrality of Indigenous leadership, and then to couple it to economic innovation.

Joint partnerships between Indigenous communities and project developers, with the government acting as enabler and mentor to the process, could over time lead to a co-ownership model that has better prospects for success.

Investments and good will

Establishing such a strategy for Canada's remote Indigenous communities is relatively straightforward.

It starts with developing and strengthening the skills of people living in these communities. Governments can also align their policies on land use and environmental impact assessments so that they fully integrate Indigenous communities' values and interests as to how natural resources should be used.

Taking these steps would recognize that Indigenous communities must be the ones to decide what constitutes a fair price for energy efficiency and which renewable energy sources are suitable replacements for diesel.

We'll also need to see a meaningful investment to spark the transition from fossil fuels to low-carbon energy — from tens of millions of dollars to, perhaps, a billion dollars or more.

The 2017 federal budget committed \$50 million to help remote communities reduce their dependence on diesel fuel. Given the high cost of even a small hydroelectric project — one in Inukjuak, Quebec was expected to cost about \$100 million — the scale and scope of the ambition must be re-visited.

None of these recommendations is insurmountable. We can transform the energy systems in Canada's remote communities, but it will require good will and solid connections among people, technology and information. Communities, private businesses and public institutions will need to focus on the end goal and share their knowledge collaboratively.

Good will can break a historical logjam of acrimony and distrust between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada.

Why would anyone argue against such an investment? A reliable energy system that meets the needs of those living in the most remote parts of Canada will generate innumerable positive outcomes for community infrastructure, health care, education and economic development — now and for future generations.

This article was originally published on The Conversation. Disclosure information is available on the original site. Read the original article:

<https://theconversation.com/clean-energy-can-advance-indigenous-reco> <https://theconve>

Nuclear called key to Ontario power, prosperity

John McQuarrie

Waterloo Region Record

Oct. 26, 2017

Ontario's nuclear industry is an important economic engine in this province. Our nuclear power plants provide thousands of Ontarians with high-paying, stable employment; generate billions of dollars in economic activity; and power our homes and businesses with safe, clean, reliable and low-cost electricity.

Our nuclear industry is thriving thanks to the life extension programs at Bruce Power and Ontario Power Generation (OPG)'s Darlington station. These refurbishments will inject billions of dollars annually into Ontario's economy through direct and indirect spending on operational equipment, supplies, materials and labour income. These projects are the largest clean-technology investments in the country and work is already underway. OPG officially disconnected Darlington Unit 2 from the grid in October 2016 and Bruce Power is set to replace the major components on Bruce Units 3-8 starting in 2020, which will extend the plant's operational horizon to 2064.

The nuclear industry directly and indirectly employs about 60,000 people in Canada. Most of these jobs are located right here in Ontario where the industry generates \$2.5 billion in economic activity every year. Renewal of our nuclear fleet will create and sustain about 18,000 additional direct and indirect jobs in the communities in which the utilities operate and across the province through the companies that make up the vast nuclear supply chain. At BWXT Canada, we have operations in Cambridge, Toronto, Peterborough, Arnprior and Dundas, and provide high-value employment to over 850 skilled workers in everything from engineering and project management to skilled trades and manufacturing.

We are already feeling the real and tangible benefits of Ontario's prosperous nuclear industry. Last year we announced that Bruce Power awarded BWXT Canada with the contract to supply eight replacement steam generators for the refurbishment of the Bruce station in a deal worth about \$130 million. In August, we announced that another \$48 million was added to that contract for the addition of steam drums. This year, we were also awarded a feeder supply contract from OPG valued at approximately \$55 million.

But it isn't just jobs we are talking about. Nuclear energy is fundamental to Ontario's clean energy objectives. In fact, nuclear generates about 60 per cent of the province's power and our use of nuclear energy helped to enable Ontario, in 2014, to become the first jurisdiction in North America to eliminate the use of coal-fired power generation.

Of all the different energy sources available — hydro, natural gas, wind, biofuel and solar — nuclear delivers the biggest advantage because it provides year-round reliable, non-greenhouse gas emitting clean power, while providing more jobs than other energy sources.

Nuclear also plays a key role in the affordability of power, which is important for the economic viability of our province. For example, Bruce Power provides 30 per cent of Ontario's power, greenhouse gas emissions-free, at a price 30 per cent lower than the average cost to generate residential power, and Darlington Nuclear Generating Station provides 20 per cent of the province's power, also greenhouse gas emissions-free. By investing in our nuclear fleet, Ontario will continue to benefit from low-cost energy. The cost of Bruce Power nuclear today is approximately 6.8 cents per kilowatt hour and once the refurbishments are complete, it will be in the range of 7 to 8 cents per kilowatt hour.

Not only does nuclear provide stability in price and jobs, it provides a constant, reliable source of energy that ensures people and businesses can continue to power their lives. As we look toward Ontario's energy future, it is important that we have a diverse, dependable, low-carbon, low-cost energy mix made up of the right balance of sources that contribute to both our environmental goals and economic prosperity. The province's Long-Term Energy Plan is due out later this month and will provide a critical path forward for Ontario's energy portfolio for decades to come.

By investing in nuclear, we are committing to powering our province year-round with clean, safe, and affordable energy that contributes to our economy through billions of dollars in economic activity and thousands of jobs right across the province. Now that's powerful.

John MacQuarrie is president of Cambridge-based BWXT Canada Ltd.

[Energy Minister counters NDP over Fair Hydro Plan](#)

Rocco Frangione
My North Bay Now
Oct. 26, 2017

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof is mistaken with his comments over the Fair Hydro Plan. Vanthof and the NDP have criticized the Liberals for getting Ontario Power Generation to borrow \$40-billion so the debt to lower hydro bills doesn't show up on the province's books. The Auditor General has also questioned the move.

However Thibeault says world-wide experts like KPMG and Deloitte say the accounting methods the Liberals used are legitimate. He says they are in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Standards and he adds six of eight electricity operators across North America use the accounting methods the Liberals have employed. Thibeault also says matters involving electricity should remain on the books of the electricity system.

He says when electricity generators build hydro dams or power stations they're not paid for by provincial money. Thibeault says it's no different with OPG borrowing the \$40-billion adding it's the logical thing to do and there's no reason to pay for the Fair Hydro Plan with provincial money. The energy minister also says it's wrong-headed for the New Democrats to say the plan should be on the tax base. The Opposition claims the Liberals put the \$40-billion on the books of OPG to give the illusion that the deficit will be eliminated.

[Last chance to sign up for solar program](#)

Erich Jacoby-Hawkins
The Barrie Examiner
Oct. 26, 2017

You may have seen a headline about a recent "study" claiming Ontario's green-energy plan cost the province almost 75,000 manufacturing jobs, almost twice as many as it created.

Another Fraser Institute report dissing green energy? Has a month passed so quickly?

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The institute and its house economist Ross McKittrick are notorious climate rejecters. They reject the bald fact that our globe is warming, they reject the scientific consensus that human activity is the primary cause, and when that fails, they reject any policy approaches that might address it, such as carbon pricing or renewable energy.

And in the case of this study, they reject peer review and publish it in-house, trumpeting their “conclusions” while the rather questionable assumptions they based them on are hidden in the full report few will read.

But taking Joan Robinson’s advice, I actually read through this “study” and found some real howlers.

They assert Ontario’s manufacturing job losses are somehow unique, not seen in other provinces or regions of the United States. Hmmm, seems to me one would not expect other provinces without Ontario’s manufacturing base to lose jobs they never had.

And as far as the U.S., didn’t the current president get elected after gathering support from millions of dissatisfied and underemployed Rust Belt voters?

There are other economic tricks one can use, such as measuring manufacturing’s share of GDP rather than actual job numbers.

Or, more shockingly, just blithely assert the global recession of 2008 and our main customer’s — America’s — failing market demand had no effect. Or ignore the consistent North American trend of automation replacing workers, or jobs leaving for low-wage overseas economies.

But hey, if you pretend none of that matters, you can get away with declaring that two-thirds of Ontario’s job losses were due to high electricity prices, even though almost none of the manufacturers leaving have ever asserted that as a main cause.

Now, don’t get me wrong. The Liberals’ green plan, although name-checking my own favourite party not once but twice (as the Green Energy and Green Economy Act), was not without fault. Giving huge foreign corporations special deals instead of starting at the community level was a major misstep.

Wasting a billion dollars by starting, then cancelling, gas plants in politically sensitive locations is dwarfed only by the madness of throwing tens of billions into the nuclear energy pit.

Yet, neither of these mistakes, both of which drove up our bills, were in any way “green.” Building wind and solar farms across our province; jump-starting a domestic industry to produce and install them; allowing farmers and homeowners to produce energy in and for their local community. These were the positive aspects.

Sadly, one of those positive moves is about to end. The microFIT program, a visionary way of getting renewable buy-in, street by street, and keeping money in our own pockets instead of mega-corporations, is about to end.

If your home’s rooftop gets a decent amount of sun, then you are probably a good candidate for the microFIT solar program, with a guaranteed 20-year return and very affordable setup, since solar-panel costs have come down so quickly over the past decade.

You can even do it without putting any of your own money into it; most installers offer plans where the whole cost of the installation is recovered from your solar-generation payments, with the leftover going into your own bank account.

But there are only a few hundred remaining slots left for applications, and the deadline is fast approaching. Your best bet is to apply for free before it’s too late, then see if you can find a solar installation that works for you. If you back out, you lose nothing.

[Canada's fossil fuel use to peak in 2019, National Energy Board now projects](#)

Robson Fletcher
CBC News
Oct. 26, 2017

The National Energy Board now projects fossil fuel use in Canada will peak in 2019, in a major downward revision of similar estimates it has made annually for the past decade.

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It's the first time in the 11-year history of the NEB's annual reports on the topic that a peak in fossil fuel demand has been included in the baseline projection.

Previous reports projected demand would increase for the next two or three decades, at least.

But the NEB now says things have changed on several fronts and a peak in domestic demand is likely much sooner than previously expected.

"Improving energy efficiency, somewhat slower economic and population growth projections than in previous outlooks, and climate change policies introduced by various federal and provincial governments underlie this change in trajectory," the NEB said in a report released Thursday.

The estimate is based on what the NEB calls the "reference case" — a projection based on current economic outlooks, "a moderate view of energy prices" and a national carbon price of \$50 per tonne from 2022 to 2040.

The report also includes two other scenarios that involve an even sharper decline in fossil fuel demand after 2019.

The "high carbon price" scenario, which assumes a carbon price that increases steadily starting in 2022, projects fossil fuel demand will be 7.5 per cent lower in 2040 than it is 2017.

And the "technology" scenario, which assumes an increasing carbon price and a more rapid change in alternative energy and efficiency technologies, projects 12.3 per cent lower demand in 2040, compared to the current year.

The NEB has been publishing these types of projections each year since 2007 as part of its Canada's Energy Future reports.

The analysis is "not a prediction of what will take place, nor does it aim to achieve certain goals like Canada's climate targets," the report cautions.

"Rather, Energy Futures employs economic and energy models to make projections based on a certain set of assumptions given past and recent trends related to technology, energy and climate policies, human behaviour, and the structure of the economy."

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