

HEADLINE: Ontario Suspends Large Renewable Procurement

SUB HEAD: *Decision will save \$XX billion in energy system costs*

DATE: Tuesday September 20, 2016

NEWS: As announced this morning by Premier Kathleen Wynne at the International Ploughing Match, Ontario will immediately suspend the Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) process. The IESO had been scheduled to commence an RFP for over 900 megawatts of large renewable projects in January 2017.

On September 1, 2016, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) provided the Minister of Energy with the Ontario Planning Outlook, an independent report analysing a variety of planning scenarios for the future of Ontario's energy system. The IESO has advised the Minister that Ontario will benefit from a robust supply of energy over the coming decade to meet projected demand.

The government has therefore determined that it will suspend the second Large Renewable Procurement until such a time as the long-term energy planning process determines it necessary. This decision will result in the removal of \$XX billion in system costs, reducing monthly electricity bills for the average household by \$XX when compared to the 2013 Long Term Energy Plan.

In March of this year, Ontario released the successful results of the first competitive renewable procurement, securing nearly 500MW of clean, renewable power. Based on the results, it is expected that \$3.3 billion in costs will be removed relative to the 2013 Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP) forecast, saving the typical residential electricity consumer an average of \$1.67 per month on their electricity bill over the forecast period. The successful process of this procurement, which prioritized low costs and community support, will serve as a model for any future renewable power procurements.

Since 2003, Ontario has established itself as a North American leader in clean energy initiatives, which have attracted billions of dollars in private sector investment and it is estimated that they have generated over 42,000 jobs. There are more than 30 solar and wind manufacturers operating in communities across the province.

Responsible management of Ontario's electricity system is... [INSERT BOILERPLATE]

QUOTE: "Over the course of the last decade Ontario has rebuilt our electricity system and secured a strong supply of clean power. Our decision to suspend the Large Renewable Procurement is not one we take lightly, but it is a decision we know will save Ontario's electricity consumers more than \$XX billion, reducing bills by \$XX per month. As we prepare for a renewed Long Term Energy Plan, we will continue to plan for our future and ensure Ontario benefits from clean, reliable power for decades to come."

BACKGROUNDER: Actions to reduce system costs

QAs:

- How will this impact green energy jobs in Ontario? What about manufacturers in the Samsung agreement?
- How will this affect the LTEP targets for renewable power?
- Are you just kicking the can down the road to next spring?
- Is the government retreating on its commitment to clean power?
- Is this a response to municipalities that were opposed to wind development?
- Will this mean Ontario will no longer need to dump surplus power in US states?