Ministry of Energy Top Issues - June 22, 2017

From: "Halford, Gavin (ENERGY)" <gavin.halford@ontario.ca>
To: "@ENERGY All" <energy-all2@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Date: Thu, 22 Jun 2017 07:11:41 -0400

Good morning,

Here's what's making news:

Comments matter in rate decisions, OEB officials say

Hydro One Explains Proposed Increase In Distribution Charge

Report targets high price of power; About 80 per cent of local money spent on energy leaves Windsor

One-on-One with

Ontario Tory leader Patrick Brown says he will "fix the hydro mess

Liberal misinformation a 'constant stream'

Province targets mining, forestry with electricity cost-reduction program

Bruce Power sees increase in support for life-extension program

Hidden fraud

Power turbine coming to Galt dam; Parkhill Dam plan has been in the works since 1999

Wind Tower Pile Driving Protest To Be Held In CK

Frustration Mounts Over Nat Gas Delays | EPCOR pushes forward in bid to bring natural gas to rural areas despite delays by the OEB.

EPCOR launching customer care centre in Kincardine June 23

Arran-Elderslie Mayor frustrated by OEB delays.

The Benefits Of Choosing Solar Energy

About 80 per cent of local money spent on energy leaves Windsor

Solar farm to be built on Jakobi Road this fall

Consultaton on Hydro rates at Bayshore

Hydro One in the spotlight

Big spender Wynne's vote-buying politics not sustainable

Nuclear disposal facility's impact statement in hands of nuclear safety comm

Comments matter in rate decisions, OEB officials say

Owen Sound Sun Times
Thu Jun 22 2017
Page: A1 / Front
Section: News
Byline: Scott Dunn
Source: Owen Sound Sun Times

Is the public being heard at consultations about Hydro One distribution rate increase requests like the one held Wednesday night in Owen Sound? The Ontario Energy Board, the provincial regulator responsible for setting electricity rates after it reviews requests for changes from companies, asked for input Wednesday night at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre -its fourth of nine community consultations this year.

Kristi Sebalj, who oversees the adjudication process for rate applications at the OEB, said the board must consider whether the rate increases are reasonable and customer input, intervenors and OEB staff each have “great weight” in the board’s rate decisions.

It’s more than a public relations exercise, she said, because its process “requires us to involve the public” by giving public notice of the rate increase, educating them about the applications, that they have a right to be heard, and assuring them “there’s a regulator that’s watching out for them as well.”

Once they have public input “the decision-makers ultimately would decide whether or not or how that would influence their decision-making,” Sebalj said.

She said in a phone interview as she made her way to Owen Sound for the meeting that the board’s role already is to be a check on excess rates by acting as a “proxy for competition.”

Since 2009 the OEB says it has reviewed more than 130 major rate applications from all power providers and “reduced requested rate increases by an average of about 40 per cent.” That’s kept average distribution rates “close to the rate of inflation” over that period.

These consultations come after the provincial government introduced its Fair Hydro Plan -which promises to cut power bills significantly, even if Hydro gets its rate hike -in response to concern about skyrocketing hydro bills.

“The general message, consumers are concerned about affordability, about accountability and about efficiency,” Sebalj said of input from the meetings.

Hydro One is asking for permission to raise distribution rates incrementally between 2018 and 2022 for a total monthly increase of $11.75 for a typical residential customer using 750 kWh per month.

Distribution rates pay for building and maintaining the transmission and distribution lines, towers and poles used to bring electricity to customers.

Hydro One says most of its distribution system was built in the 1950s and ‘60s and “many assets are approaching or are beyond their expected service lives, resulting in an ongoing need to replace or refurbish them.”

“Hydro One is committed to reducing costs and increasing the company’s productivity and efficiency. The rate application reflects this commitment and is based on a plan that includes making only the necessary improvements to ensure the reliable supply of electricity,” a statement on its website says.

Hydro One’s communications director Jay Armitage said if they don’t pay for maintenance now, “there is a chance that customers will see a reduction in reliability” and this “would kick the problem down the road.” The new five-year plan involves “replacing more poles than we ever have before.”

Armitage was en route to Owen Sound to explain why Hydro One needs higher distribution rates and to stress new government hydro rate relief will mean customers won’t feel the hurt.

Armitage touted the provincial Fair Hydro Plan which she said would shave 31 per cent off the average medium density customer’s bill as early as August - with more savings in rural areas and for those who use more power.

So “most of our customers,” those using 750 kWh a month and paying $177 now, would pay $124 per month -$636 per year less, even if the rate hike is approved, thanks to the Fair Hydro Plan.

The OEB touted the government’s rate relief too. “Any amounts approved by the OEB will not impact the distribution line of the bill of most Hydro One customers, after the Fair Hydro Act credits and changes are applied,” its news release said.

United Way executive director Francesca Dobbyn said when the hydro bill relief plan was announced that all together, the measures could result in a 50 per cent reduction in hydro bills for some households in Grey-Bruce.

Armitage wouldn’t comment on what would happen to bills at the end of the five-year hydro bill reprieve. But the provincial financial accountability officer has warned the provincial plan to reduce hydro bills by 25 per cent on average will cost at least $21 billion over the next three decades.

Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP Bill Walker said when the plan was announced that it will cost taxpayers “in a worst-case scenario” as much as $42 billion over 30 years in added interest costs.

Hydro One Explains Proposed Increase In Distribution Charge
Blackburnnews.com

2017-06-22
Byline: JANICE MACKAY
The Ontario Energy Board held a public meeting in Owen Sound last night about Hydro One's plan to increase distribution charges to help maintain the system.

Hydro One Spokesperson Jay Armitage says a proposed distribution rate increase should not impact customers much.

"Happening at the very same time, is a piece of government policy, the fair hydro plan, which all together is going to still mean a drop of 31% on our average customer's bills," explained Armitage.

Armitage says the Liberal hydro rate relief plan will bring the average $177 a month customer bill down to $122. And the distribution rate hike would then add only about $2 more to their monthly bill, in each of the next five years.

However Bill Walker states Hydro One should not raise rates while it at the same time allows its CEO to take home $4.5 million a year, which is ten times higher than those of the CEOs of Hydro-Quebec and B.C. Hydro.

"Everyday local families are struggling to put food on the table, local businesses are struggling to stay in the black and our public institutions like hospitals and schools are forced to divert money from public services because hydro costs keep climbing higher and higher. "

He explained that Hydro One wants OEB approval to hike distribution rates, adding another $141 to the average family's annual bill.

"Consider that families have already faced hikes between $1,000 and $1,400 per year. Some 60 households in my riding of Bruce–Grey–Owen Sound alone had their lights, heat and hydro shut off in the fall of 2014 because they could not afford the monthly bills," Walker said.

"Likewise, small business operators like Pat Cottrell of Saugeen Cedars Campground and Peter Knipfel of the Chesley Grocery Store are finding it harder and harder to stay in business. In 2011, Pat's cost for electricity was $8,000 per year; today, it's $37,000. And with Peter's hydro bills at $119,100 a year, 120% higher than in 2003, how long can they keep absorbing the costs before they shutter? Meanwhile, Grey Bruce Health Services saw its hydro bills rise by $350,000 a year, a 40% increase in just one year."

However, Hydro One's Jay Armitage says 80% of the executive salary is tied to aggressive targets.

"Targets around customer service, around finding efficiencies in the business, and around reliability, and if those targets aren't met, that money doesn't flow," said Armitage.

The five year plan also calls for productivity savings of $380 million.

If the application is approved, a typical residential customer using 750 kWh per month would see increases* as set out below:

2018 …………… $2.79 per month
2019 …………… $2.47 per month
2020 …………… $2.31 per month
2021 …………… $1.95 per month
2022 …………… $2.23 per month
*These amounts do not include any credits resulting from the Fair Hydro Act, 2017.

Report targets high price of power; About 80 per cent of local money spent on energy leaves Windsor
Windsor Star
Thu Jun 22 2017
Page: A1 / Front
Section: City & Region
Byline: Craig Pearson
Source: The Windsor Star
Roughly 80 per cent of the money spent on energy in Windsor leaves the community, which will cost up to $3.1 billion over 25 years if the trend doesn't change, a detailed new report says.

The 97-page report entitled Windsor's Community Energy Plan: A Powerful Plan for the Future, which goes to the city's environment standing committee June 28, notes that Windsor spent $842 million on energy in 2014.

With a conservative estimate of energy costs increasing 120 to 280 per cent, by 2041 Windsorites will spend $1.8 billion to $3.1 billion if the city adopts a "do-nothing" approach.

"It's money that leaves the community so it's not providing an economic benefit locally," Karina Richters, the city's supervisor of environmental sustainability and climate change, said Wednesday.

Most of the local money spent on energy goes to such things as electricity, gas and oil produced out of town.

“So we want to look at how much energy we use and how we can reduce that and save money.”

Windsor’s Community Energy Plan proposes a bold step: reducing Windsor’s energy use and greenhouse gas emissions 40 per cent by 2041.

The report also envisions a number of approaches: reducing energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions, increasing locally produced power to create more energy security, and providing as much local economic benefit as possible.

The whole idea is to be friendlier to the planet as well as Windsorites’ wallets.

Currently, Windsor residential energy use is about 142 gigajoules, compared to the Ontario average of 107.

“Why do we have such a higher energy use compared to the Ontario average?” asked Richters, who helped produce the report. “One of the reasons is we have a lot of very old homes. Half the houses were built before 1945. A lot of them are wartime homes that have not been upgraded.”

The city already has District Energy, a high-efficiency heating and cooling system in the basement of Caesars Windsor, that serves a number of downtown spots such as the 400 Building in City Hall Square, significantly reducing their energy use.

Besides improving energy-efficiency, can the city really produce more of its own power? Actually, yes.

The city has installed rooftop solar farms in three places: the aquatic complex, the WFCU Centre and Transit Windsor (though a recent windstorm left the latter temporarily out of commission).

As high as home energy use is for Windsor, however, houses are not the biggest issue. A lack of active transportation is an even bigger culprit - given that Windsorites spend 46 per cent of their energy costs getting to and from places.

“Everybody complains about electricity costs, but we spend far more in the community on transportation costs than we do on electricity,” Richters said.

In the end, Richters believes that the economic and environmental goals of Windsor’s Community Energy Plan - which should be available for public input after going to the city’s environment standing committee - jibe with a better quality of life for the community.

“About 80 per cent of the $842 million is not spent here,” Richters said. “It’s a huge cost and it was very surprising. If we can re-invest some of that money in our community we can make it more liveable and affordable.” cpearson@postmedia.com

ENERGY COSTS

Windsorites spent $842 million on energy in 2014. The cost percentages break down as follows: Transportation - 46% Commercial/institutional - 20% Residential - 19% Industrial - 14% Municipal - 1% Source: Windsor's Community Energy Plan

One-on-One with
Sault Ste. Marie This Week
Thu Jun 22 2017
Page: A10
Section: News
Source: Sault Ste. Marie This Week
Your Chamber in Brief is a quarterly snapshot of issues, events and activities of your Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce (SSMCOC).

Ontario's Minister of Energy Energy is top of mind for all Ontarians, as the province's future economic prosperity is intrinsically tied to the reliability and cost effectiveness of our energy supply.

The Ontario Chamber Network and its members, including the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce, have consistently reported that the price of electricity is directly tied to business'capacity to grow, hire new workers, and ultimately remain competitive.

On March 10th, Chamber members were invited to a breakfast Q&A with Ontario's Minister of Energy, Glenn Thibeault.

Ontario Tory leader Patrick Brown says he will "fix the hydro mess"
Stoney Creek News
Wed Jun 21 2017
Page: 1
Section: News
Ontario Tory leader Patrick Brown says he is the only leader who will solve the province's electricity rate crisis that has seen prices skyrocket over the years.

"I will fix this mess," said Brown during an interview.

Brown, who was the keynote speaker at the Burlington Chamber of Commerce's lunch meeting at the Holiday Inn June 14, rejected the claim his party has no energy plan to cut rising electricity costs.

He told the estimated crowd of 215 people and reiterated his message later the goal is to solve hydro's "structural" problems first.

It includes addressing the nagging problem of Ontario selling electricity at subsidized prices to Quebec and to various states in the United States, while the province has the "fastest growing hydro rates in North America." Brown, however, didn't say how his government would eliminate the problem.

"We are the ones speaking about the actual structural problems in hydro, about over generation, the executive compensation, the fact we are not getting value for money with hydro," said Brown. "The Liberals and the NDP are throwing numbers into thin air that aren't backed up."

Brown said one of the first things he will do if the party wins government in next year's provincial election is to examine those green energy contracts that have been signed and that the Liberals have kept "secret."

He calls those contracts an “unmitigated disaster.”

The Liberals say the contracts are available to the public on the Independent Electricity System Operator’s website.

He said the Tories will be unable to buy back those Hydro One shares that have already been sold, even though he called it “short sighted.” The province doesn’t have the legal right to force owners to sell those shares back to the government, he said.

The Liberals are expected to raise about $ 9 billion by partially privatizing Hydro One. The Liberals have said they plan to use $5 billion to pay down some of the $8.3 billion in stranded debt left after the old Ontario Hydro was broken into five companies, while the remaining $4 billion would fund transit and infrastructure projects.

He says the Liberals’ energy proposal to cut electricity rates by 25 per cent is nothing more than borrowing money and will extend the province’s repayment costs from 20 years to 30 years, adding an estimated $25 billion in interest expenses.

“They are making it worse,” said Brown. “You are going to pay more.”

Brown also talked about the Liberals proposed labour law reforms, which includes raising the minimum wage to $15 per hour by 2019, more vacation time, measures to make it easier for workers to unionize, and allowing workers to take up to 10 days of personal emergency leave each year, two of them paid. Brown says he isn’t against increasing wages, but he wants it done in consultation with businesses and done over a longer period of time.

“If these changes cripple our small businesses, we risk reduced job opportunities and even layoffs,” he said.

Later, Brown said the party is “still looking at these reforms.” Still, he said the pace of change is too fast for businesses to absorb.

He refused to say if his party would repeal or allow the minimum wage to jump to $15 an hour.

The proposed changes, which are expected to be introduced next fall, include increasing the minimum wage from $11.40 an hour to $14 in 2018 and $15 in 2019.

“I think we have to be sympathetic to that concern,” said Brown. “A pace that is more gradual, that gives businesses the ability to adapt with it. I like the intent of higher wages. I want to do it in a fashion that protects existing jobs.”

Brown said there are aspects of the reforms Tories can support, including sick days.

“I’m a pragmatic progressive conservative,” he said. “I think you have to be reasonable about all of this. Part of this is it’s not the government’s way or the highway. You actually have to listen, you actually have to work with everyone in a collaborative fashion.”

Brown, who answered questions from the audience, touched on a number of other topics including stopping the government from closing schools, addressing the shortage of long-term care beds, and protecting the environment.

Brown, who told the audience he takes climate change “seriously,” said he would “dismantle” the Liberal’s cap and trade program, calling it another bad deal the province signed. He said he wants to make sure that “every cent that is collected stays in Ontario.”

“It’s almost as bad as the Green Energy Act,” he said.

The Liberals say a cap and trade program will reduce emissions at a lower cost. All the money earned from the program is being deposited into green projects such as transit, housing retrofits and electric vehicles to fight climate change.

Liberal misinformation a 'constant stream'
The North Bay Nugget
2017-06-22
Byline: Vic Fedeli, MPP Nipissing | Section: Opinion
Original Web Location
The following is in response to the letter Speak up to support fair wages which appeared June 20.

To the editor

Once again, Sudbury MPP Glenn Thibeault has written a letter to the editor full of misleading statements in an attempt to spread misinformation. I would think a cabinet minister should be compelled to tell the truth, but sadly that does not seem to be the case.

Unfortunately for the minister, the people of Ontario see right through this type of weak tactic and know exactly what it is — a lame attempt to spread false information.

In what is now becoming his signature style, Glenn’s letter again makes false accusations, this time regarding the proposed minimum wage increase. Before the end of the spring session, all three parties agreed to hold committee hearings throughout Ontario. These hearings will provide people with a voice, and because the government did not do a cost-benefit-analysis, this will help describe the impact (good or bad) to both employees and employers.

As MPP for Nipissing, it is my responsibility to notify all members of our community of these hearings so they can provide their input, whatever it may be – and that is exactly what I did.

Unfortunately, it seems instead of carrying out his responsibility and reaching out to his own constituents, Glenn Thibeault chooses to use his time to make false accusations and spread misinformation.
I also find it quite disturbing that on one hand the minister speaks about fair wages, yet on the other hand he is fine paying his CEO of Hydro One a salary of $4.5 million. That’s nearly 10 times more than hydro CEOs in other provinces! This shows how truly out of touch both this minister and the Liberal party are.

Worse than that, this is part of the constant stream of misinformation coming from the Liberal government. They've "stretched" the truth about reducing auto insurance rates, balancing their budget, their so-called Fair Hydro Plan that the financial accountability officer debunked. Why does it always take either the auditor general, the financial accountability officer, or the OPP to give us the real answers in Ontario?

I continue to encourage all members of the community, both employees and employers, impacted by the planned minimum wage increase to testify before public hearings. The hearings will be in North Bay during the week of July 10 to 14 (details to follow). Presenters who cannot appear in person can make presentation via teleconference, or email their submissions to the clerk. The application deadline to book a presentation is July 4.
Interested presenters must contact Eric Rennie, the Clerk of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs at:
erennie@ola.org Tel. 416-325-3506 Fax: 416-325-3505
Vic Fedeli,
MPP Nipissing

Province targets mining, forestry with electricity cost-reduction program
Almaguin News
Tue Jun 20 2017
Page: 1
Section: News
ALMAGUIN - The Ontario government will reduce electricity costs up to 25 per cent for businesses in northern Ontario, according to a media release on June 20.

"Ontario's largest mining companies require considerable amounts of energy to operate their facilities," said Chris Hodgson, president of the Ontario Mining Association.

Mining and forestry companies are two of the industries targeted, in an attempt to keep them competitive.

"Our government recognizes the unique challenges that large and industrial businesses face in the north," said Bill Mauro, Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

The Northern Industrial Electricity Rate program invests $120 million annually to cut energy costs and extend the program participation term from three to five years, states the release. Currently, 19 Northern Ontario industrial companies and the 25 facilities they represent are in the program.

Roughly $784 million was sent to participating facilities since the program launched in 2010. Each facility receives $20 million a year, according to the release.

Rebates will now be based on the three-year average actual electricity consumption between 2013-16, opposed to the 2011-12 consumption in an effort to reflect more accurate rebate levels.
Bruce Power sees increase in support for life-extension program
Kincardine News
Thu Jun 22 2017
Page: A3
Section: News
Source: Kincardine News
Recent polling shows 85 per cent of Bruce, Grey and Huron county residents support

Bruce Power’s Life-Extension Program, up six per cent from 2014.

Residents said they support life extension, which includes Major Component Replacement Projects on Units 3-8 between 2020 and ‘36, because it will create jobs (20 per cent), it’s necessary (10 per cent), they like nuclear power (eight per cent) and it’s clean/good for the environment (seven per cent), among other reasons.

“We conduct regular polling in our region and across Ontario in order to keep our finger on the pulse of our communities,” said James Scongack, Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Environment. “We enjoy good community engagement and support, but that’s something we will never take for granted. That’s why we continuously communicate our site happenings, and meet face-to-face with local residents, Indigenous communities and municipal officials as often as possible. This polling proves our efforts have helped increase the understanding of Bruce Power’s role in Ontario’s energy mix, and the importance of reliable and carbon-free nuclear power.”

Bruce Power signed a long-term agreement with the Independent Electricity System Operator in 2015 that will see six Bruce Power units operate through to 2064 after undergoing a Life-Extension Program between 2016 and 2053.

This means 30 per cent of Ontario’s electricity will be provided by Bruce Power for decades, as outlined in the 2013 Long-Term Energy Plan. The maintenance program will result in 22,000 direct and indirect jobs and $4 billion in annual economic investment across Ontario, where 90 per cent of Bruce Power’s spending occurs.

Some of the other questions in the latest polling found 52 per cent of residents are’some what knowledgeable’of nuclear technology, with 14 per cent saying they are ‘very knowledgeable,‘up from eight per cent in 2014. Ninety-three per cent of residents agree the Bruce Power facility operates safely, and that Bruce Power is a good community citizen (92 per cent), while 90 per cent have confidence in the security measures at Bruce Power and believe Bruce Power is involved with the community in a positive way.

Hidden fraud

Daily Observer (Pembroke)
Wed Jun 21 2017
Page: A3
Section: Opinion
Byline: Diana Rutgers
Source: Daily Observer (Pembroke)

The Hydro One debt we paid for years (as we owned the company) was actually paid off in 2011. Yet Hydro One continued to charge us to pay this for five more years, which added up to $5 billion.

Do the math as what it owes us. We, the Hydro One customers, are entitled to get our money back from this hidden fraud.

There was $3.8 billion raised from the sale of part of Hydro One and $3 billion gained from a deferred tax asset benefit and a special payment in lieu of taxes.

A big problem is the Ontario cellular grid is not robust enough in rural areas so 37 per cent of the smart meters do not work properly to relay the readings back to Hydro One’s central office.

We don’t want to see debt retirement credit printed on our monthly hydro bills anymore as it’s a reminder of being ripped off for years.

Manitoba, Quebec and the U.S. received free hydro or were charged a much lower rate per KW. If there is an over-supply, shouldn't we pay lower rates? Hydro One delivery charges are completely removed from First Nation monthly bills. Why are rural Hydro One customers treated as second class? The delivery charges should be completely removed from our hydro bills now.

Hydro One is free from public oversight and the effect of Hydro One's sale is hidden from scrutiny.

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) was established to protect Hydro One customers. Instead, it approved recent increases to our Hydro One bills. How absurd is this? Furthermore, OEB refuses the province's auditor general to conduct performance audits and clarify the global adjustment charge on hydro bills, which accounted for 70 per cent of consumer rates in 2013.

The ombudsman has no ability to investigate public complaints about Hydro One.

The information and privacy commissioner will no longer oversee the right of access to Hydro One records.

The financial accountability officer is no longer able to examine Hydro One operations on consumers or the economic impact.

The integrity commissioner is no longer able to review Hydro One expense claims.

Are we the taxpayers allowed to refuse our tax returns? I don't think we are? On Nov. 13, 2016, OEB announced in the national media about the hydro rate increase on our Hydro One bills and when and where the public can go to have its voice heard.

Why was the public hearing not announced in the local media? Most people living in rural areas read local media and are the ones with the highest hydro bills.

So, is this a way to prevent those most affected by hydro costs to attend the OEB meetings? Hydro One, don't underestimate our intelligence or we will become your worst nightmare. It is imperative for us, the customers, to be united.

People should know you can become an intervener and when the OEB meetings are held. Call the customer relations centre at 1-877-632-2727. Diana Rutgers Burk's Falls

Power turbine coming to Galt dam; Parkhill Dam plan has been in the works since 1999
Waterloo Region Record
Thu Jun 22 2017
Page: A1
Section: NEWS
Byline: Anam Latif, Record staff
The Parkhill Dam will soon be churning out power after nearly two decades of stalled proposals to build a hydro plant at the historic dam.

"This was the best of all the sites based on the amount of production," Dwight Boyd, director of engineering at Grand River Conservation Authority told Cambridge council on Tuesday.

He said the plant will generate about 500 kilowatts of energy, enough to power about 560 homes.

The conservation authority secured a 40-year contract with the Independent Electricity System Operator last fall under its feed-in-tariff program. It will allow them to sell electricity at 23.63 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Hydro-generated power from the 180-year-old dam was first proposed in 1999. The project kept getting put off because it was not financially feasible at the time and the conservation authority had to do some repairs along the way.

“We’ve done our homework. It’s a financially viable project,” Boyd added.

The new plant will cost about $5.2 million to build. Right now the conservation authority has launched an environmental assessment of the project, the first step in a long process. It should be up and running between 2021 and 2022.

Boyd said they will need to assess the impact of the hydro plant’s turbine on fish species in the Grand River, which include three species at risk within the turbine’s reach, among other environment factors. They will also need to have discussions with local anglers who frequently fish downstream of the dam.

Many around the Cambridge council table were worried about what the hydro plant would look like and how its appearance would impact such a heritage-rich part of downtown Galt.

“Esthetics, that is my main concern,” Coun. Frank Monteiro said.

Boyd said the plant’s appearance is also a big issue for nearby businesses such as the Cambridge Mill and Napa Grille and Wine Den, both situated on either side of the historic dam.

Parkhill is what the conservation authority calls a “run of the river” dam which means water flows over top of the dam. The plan is to install the plant against a flood wall on the dam’s west side opposite the Cambridge Mill where the water can drive a turbine.

The plant will essentially look like a box. Boyd said there is potential to clad it with stone and add fake shutters to give the plant an appealing appearance that would match heritage in the area.

“We’re looking to the river again for hydro power. So it will have an industrial type of flavour to it,” he said.

The conservation authority is expecting to earn about $900,000 from the plant each year. Once the project’s costs are paid off the money will go toward conservation efforts.

Three other dams owned by the conservation authority at Shand, Conestogo and Guelph generate about 1,350 kilowatts, enough to power 1,200 homes. This energy brings in about $450,000 for the conservation authority each year.

The conservation authority owns 27 working dams throughout the Grand River watershed.

The first public open house about the hydro plant is on Tuesday, June 27, between 4 and

8 p.m. in the Falls room at the Cambridge Mill.

Wind Tower Pile Driving Protest To Be Held In CK
Blackburnnews.com
2017-06-21
Byline: PAUL PEDRO
Original Web Location

Water Wells First is planning to hold a peaceful demonstration Thursday morning to protest the start of the North Kent 1 wind turbines.

Group spokesperson Kevin Jakubec says loud pile driving began Wednesday morning at the site on Darrell Line.

Jakubec insists that vibration from the pile driving is disturbing the local aquifer and contaminating well water with heavy metals. He says the area is too sensitive for the pile driving.

“Large clangs that sounded like a church bell going off and then you could feel the vibration in your feet. We had some friends about 500 feet back standing on the rail road track and they also could feel that. So, there’s no question that when you’re using a pile driver, they’re going to generate ground vibrations,” says Jakubec.

The protest begins at 8:30am.

Jakubec can’t rule out civil disobedience if necessary, including trying to stop wind tower construction with blockades.

He says more wells with turbid water are being reported every month and adds it’s starting to look like collusion between the ministry and the wind industry.

Jakubec says the Ministry of Environment has too many unanswered questions to allow pile driving before meeting with the group June 28.

“We did our own baseline testing on what was dissolved in the water and we found trace amounts of radium. They’re below the safety limit but that just shows you that there’s uranium in the bedrock. You don’t get radium unless you have uranium, a radioactive decay product,” Jakubec says.

He says the tensions are rising but promises the information pickets won’t be violent.

“Definitely going to be peaceful, we’re law abiding citizens. We don’t see violence being the answer to any of this to solve our problems. We’re following the system, we’re using science and the media to draw attention to this critical heavy metals contamination of a water supply,” says Jakubec.

Frustration Mounts Over Nat Gas Delays | EPCOR pushes forward in bid to bring natural gas to rural areas despite delays by the OEB.
Bayshore Broadcasting News Centre
2017-06-21
Byline: Craig Power
Original Web Location
As utility giant EPCOR prepares to open a new Customer Care Centre in Kincardine, As utility giant EPCOR prepares to open a new Customer Care Centre in Kincardine, the Mayor of Arran-Elderslie is frustrated over what he refers to as out of control delays.

Paul Eagleson tells 98 The Beach (Bayshore Broadcasting News) it's frustrating to sit through delays with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).

"We've already been through one hearing and now apparently we're waiting for the OEB's ruling on a second hearing I guess, that we haven't even had yet, so, hopefully by fall," says Eagleson.

The three municipalities of Arran-Elderslie, Kincardine and Huron-Kinloss chose to go with EPCOR on the project to bring natural gas to homes and businesses in Southern Bruce County.

But Eagleson says in the meantime, the Ontario Energy Board has given other companies permission to apply to be the provider of natural gas on the project, something he feels is very confusing to many people.

"We know that Union Gas is applying to the OEB so at the end of the day, who really has any say in the matter," adds Eagleson.

Eagleson notes the franchise was already awarded to EPCOR but in the meantime Union Gas has been busy knocking on doors and making phone calls.

He feels it's all very confusing to ratepayers and future customers.

EPCOR committed to opening up some storefront locations a while back, one in each of the three major communities, something Eagleson feels is a good step in the right direction and shows that things are indeed moving forward.

Eagleson just feels that people are tired of the entire process dragging out for so long, roughly 6 years or so.

All they can do now, is wait.

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"We know that Union Gas is applying to the OEB so at the end of the day, who really has any say in the matter," adds Eagleson.

Eagleson notes the franchise was already awarded to EPCOR but in the meantime Union Gas has been busy knocking on doors and making phone calls.

He feels it's all very confusing to ratepayers and future customers.

EPCOR committed to opening up some storefront locations a while back, one in each of the three major communities, something Eagleson feels is a good step in the right direction and shows that things are indeed moving forward.

Eagleson just feels that people are tired of the entire process dragging out for so long, roughly 6 years or so.

All they can do now, is wait.

EPCOR launching customer care centre in Kincardine June 23
Kincardine News
Thu Jun 22 2017
Page: A3
Section: News
Source: Kincardine News
EPCOR is inviting the public to the launch of its Customer Care Centre in Kincardine, The event takes place at the new office, 735 Queen St on June 23, 2017 at 12:30 p.m.

The Municipality of Kincardine, Arran-Elderslie and Huron-Kinloss have selected EPCOR as their preferred natural gas service provider following a competitive RFP process, later granting EPCOR franchise agreements in 2016 to build and operate a natural gas delivery system in their communities.

“EPCOR is ready to go as soon we as get the necessary regulatory approvals. Like our partner municipalities, we are anxious to take the next steps toward bringing long-awaited natural gas access to their communities and citizens,” said EPCOR Senior Vice President, Commercial Services -Stephen Stanley. “We are pleased to be opening a Customer Care Centre in Kincardine so we can meet with people directly, and provide information they will need to convert to natural gas.”

Kincardine mayor Anne Eadie said the office “will provide an excellent opportunity for the public to meet with EPCOR staff directly about their current energy requirements and costs and how they can benefit from converting to natural gas”.

“It would be fair to say that we are all frustrated with the length of time the regulatory process is taking,” said Mayor Mitch Twolan of Huron-Kinloss. “This has already been a multi-year process for the municipalities to develop the business case in support of bringing natural gas to our area, undertaking a competitive RFP process, and going through an initial review hearing at the Ontario Energy Board in 2016. We really hope the final Ontario Energy Board hearing will start no later than this fall and conclude before year end.”

In April 2017, the province announced the creation of a $100 million Natural Gas Grant Program to help expand natural gas access to more communities in Ontario. The purpose of this program is to help improve energy affordability and support economic development, including for farms and agribusiness in rural Ontario. Municipalities must indicate their support for gaining access to natural gas through a council resolution.

The three Southern Bruce Councils intend to pass their resolutions within the next month and send them directly to the Minister of Infrastructure who is administering the grant program.

“Given the extensive work our communities have already done over the past six years to promote access to natural gas, our expectation is that we will receive a significant grant from the Province” said Mayor Eadie. “In many ways Kincardine, Arran-Elderslie and Huron-Kinloss have been leaders in changing the approach taken in Ontario to facilitate natural gas expansion.”

“The Ontario Energy Board approvals cannot come fast enough for Southern Bruce” said Mayor Twolan.

EPCOR and the municipalities also intend to host another public information session this summer in all three communities as part of EPCOR’s environmental impact review required for natural gas expansion in the area and to update the community on status of the Ontario Energy Board process.

Details for this next public meeting will be made available soon.

Arran-Elderslie Mayor frustrated by OEB delays.

Bayshore Broadcasting News Centre
2017-06-21
Byline: Craig Power
Original Web Location

As utility giant EPCOR prepares to open a new Customer Care Centre in Kincardine, the Mayor of Arran-Elderslie is frustrated over what he refers to as out of control delays.

Paul Eagleson tells Bayshore Broadcasting News it's frustrating to sit through delays with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).

"We've already been through one hearing and now apparently we're waiting for the OEB's ruling on a second hearing I guess, that we haven't even had yet, so, hopefully by fall," says Eagleson.

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All they can do now, is wait.

The Benefits Of Choosing Solar Energy
The Barrie Examiner
Thu Jun 22 2017
Page: D3
Section: News
Source: The Barrie Examiner
Home improvement trends come and go. What’s popular among today’s homeowners may feel dated to prospective buyers a decade from now. But solar energy is one home improvement trend that does not figure to go the way of sunken living rooms or popcorn ceilings.

According to the Solar Energies Industry Association®, solar energy experienced a compound annual growth rate of more than 60 percent between 2006 and 2016. Solar energy has also done wonders to improve the employment rate. According to the Solar Foundation’s National Solar Jobs Census, in the United States there were more than 260,000 solar workers in 2016, an increase of 25 percent from the previous year. Things are equally rosy in Canada, where the Government of Canada reports installed capacity for solar thermal power has experienced a compound growth rate of nearly 14 percent since 2004.

The search for a renewable energy source has led many people to embrace solar energy, but there are many more reasons for homeowners to embrace going solar.

Return on investment: Many people considering solar energy for the first time may experience some sticker shock when they learn the cost of installing solar panels on their homes.

But data from the EnergySage Solar Marketplace indicated that, in the first half of 2015, solar shoppers who compared their options achieved payback on their solar investments in 7.5 years. So in addition to the monthly savings on their utility bills, homeowners can expect to recoup their solar energy investments in a relatively short period of time.
Property value: Whether they plan to do so in the near or distant future, homeowners with

an eye on selling their homes may be interested to learn that a recent study from the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab found that solar panels can significantly increase property value. The study analyzed the sales of more than 20,000 homes in California, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, New York and Pennsylvania, suggesting the desire for solar energy among prospective buyers is not exclusive to a particular region of the country. Energy independence: According to the U.S. Energy Administration, most of the energy consumed in the United States comes from fossil fuels like petroleum.

The EIA also notes that, in 2016, the United States imported about 10.1 million barrels of petroleum per day. By embracing solar energy, Americans and citizens of any country that relies heavily on foreign oil imports, can take a big step toward increasing their energy independence.

The use of solar energy is on the rise, and there are many reasons for homeowners to embrace this increasingly popular energy source.

About 80 per cent of local money spent on energy leaves Windsor
Windsor Star
Wed Jun 21 2017
Section: Local News
Byline: Craig Pearson
Permalink
Energy costs

Windsorites spent $842 million on energy in 2014. The cost percentages break down as follows:

Transportation - 46%

Commercial/institutional - 20%

Residential - 19%

Industrial - 14%

Municipal - 1%

Source: Windsor’s Community Energy Plan

Roughly 80 per cent of the money spent on energy in Windsor leaves the community, which will cost up to $3.1 billion over 25 years if the trend doesn’t change, a detailed new report says.

The 97-page report entitled Windsor’s Community Energy Plan: A Powerful Plan for the Future - which goes to the city’s environment standing committee June 28 - notes that Windsor spent $842 million on energy in 2014.

With a conservative estimate of energy costs increasing 120 to 280 per cent, by 2041 Windsorites will spend $1.8 billion to $3.1 billion if the city adopts a “do-nothing” approach.

“It’s money that leaves the community so it’s not providing an economic benefit locally,” Karina Richters, the city’s supervisor of environmental sustainability and climate change, said Wednesday.

Most of the local money spent on energy goes to such things as electricity, gas and oil produced out of town.

“So we want to look at how much energy we use and how we can reduce that and save money.”

Windsor’s Community Energy Plan proposes a bold step: reducing Windsor’s energy use and greenhouse gas emissions 40 per cent by 2041.

The report also envisions a number of approaches: reducing energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions, increasing locally produced power to create more energy security, and providing as much local economic benefit as possible.

The whole idea is to be friendlier to the planet as well as Windsorites’ wallets.

Energy Cost by Source and by Sector (2014)

Currently, Windsor residential energy use is about 142 gigajoules, compared to the Ontario average of 107.

“Why do we have such a higher energy use compared to the Ontario average?” asked Richters, who helped produce the report. “One of the reasons is we have a lot of very old homes. Half the houses were built before 1945. A lot of them are war-time homes that have not been upgraded.”

Besides making homes more energy-efficient, can the city really produce more of its own power? Actually, yes.

The city already has District Energy, in power-generating system the basement of Caesars Windsor, that produces energy for some downtown spots such as the 400 Building in City Hall Square. As well, the city has installed rooftop solar farms in three places: the aquatic complex, the WFCU Centre and Transit Windsor (though a recent windstorm rendered the latter temporarily out of commission).

As bad as home energy use is for Windsor, however, houses are not the biggest issue. A lack of active transportation is an even bigger culprit - given that Windsorites spend 46 per cent of their energy costs getting to and from places.

“Everybody complains about electricity costs but we spend far more in the community on transportation costs than we do on electricity,” Richters said.

“So we need to look at reducing fuel and transportation costs.”

In the end, Richters believes that the economic and environmental goals of Windsor’s Community Energy Plan - which should be available for public input after going to the city’s environment standing committee - jibe with a better quality of life for the community.

“About 80 per cent of the $842 million is not spent here,” Richters said. “It’s a huge cost and it was very surprising. If we can re-invest some of that money in our community we can make it more liveable and affordable.”

Solar farm to be built on Jakobi Road this fall
Northumberland Today.com
Thu Jun 22 2017
Page: B7
Section: News
Byline: Mandy Martin
Source: Northumberland Today.Com
Construction of a small, 1.34-acre solar farm at 390 Jakobi Road north of Castleton is slated to be built over five to six weeks this fall with operation by April 10, 2018.

Why would Cramahe Township council endorse the project when it's costing taxpayers money, Colborne resident Doug Harrison asked at Tuesday night's council meeting.

The solar farm has a 20-year operating contract to sell the electricity at 27.5 cents per kilowatt hour with a capacity of up to 100 kilowatts of electricity being produced for the provincial Independent Electricity System (IESO) under the provincial feed-in tariff (FIT) program.

"We pay around 17 cents a kilowatt hour" as electricity consumers, Harrison said, and then also pay to meet the 27.5-cent per kWh contract price to the private company.

"We've already got more (electricity) than we need," he said, "and you want them (council) to support this?" The project has already received approval on several fronts, it was noted.

"But these are the guys who can make the difference," Harrison responded.

"There's a business opportunity to be had," Renesola construction manager Brendan Phillips said.

"For you, not me," Harrison replied.

The Jakobi Road solar project, "the smallest" of the around 20 projects proposed within a twohour radius of Colborne, is now majority-owned by Renesola, an international manufacturer and supplier of LED lights and solar project development.

Headquartered in Shanghai, China, the company has offices and warehouses in 16 countries. Renesola acquired majority stake in GreenLife Solar, the original developer, in 2016. In 2016, Simon Rowland made a presentation to Cramahe outlining the project and received endorsement. With new ownership, reconfirmation was requested at Tuesday's meeting.

Cramahe unanimously gave it, but Councillor Ed Van Egmond said "I agree with the points being made (by Harrison) but I cannot go back on something we have already approved once before."

There will be minimal clearing, leveling and grading of the Jakobi site, Phillips told council.

The site will be fenced with a sixfoot-high chain link fence topped with three strands of barbed wire, as per FIT and Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) regulations. In addition, a three-meter-wide strip of native, non-invasive trees and shrubs will be planted along the perimeter to screen the installation. Outside the fence, there will be no audible noise the developers say. There is minimal risk of fire hazard because panels are metal and pathways intersperse the units for access.

The rows of solar panels will face southward.

At decommissioning, 20 years hence, most of the materials will be reused or recycled and the site returned to a similar state as preconstruction. The property soil is classified as suitable only for forage crop production with improvement practices “not feasible.”

Consultaton on Hydro rates at Bayshore
Shoreline Beacon
2017-06-21
Byline: Scott Dunn, Sun Times, Owen Sound

OWEN SOUND - Is the public being heard at consultations about Hydro One distribution rate increase requests like the one scheduled Wednesday night in Owen Sound?
The Ontario Energy Board, the provincial regulator responsible for setting electricity rates after it reviews requests for changes from companies, asked for input Wednesday night at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre - its fourth of nine community consultations this year.

Kristi Sebalj, who oversees the adjudication process for rate applications at the OEB, said the board must consider whether the rate increases are reasonable and customer input, intervenors and OEB staff each have “great weight” in the board's rate decisions.

It's more than a public relations exercise, she said, because its process “requires us to involve the public” by giving public notice of the rate increase, educating them about the applications, that they have a right to be heard, and assuring them “there's a regulator that's watching out for them as well.”

Once they have public input “the decision-makers ultimately would decide whether or not or how that would influence their decision-making,” Sebalj said.

She said in a phone interview as she made her way to Owen Sound for the meeting that the board's role already is to be a check on excess rates by acting as a “proxy for competition”.

Since 2009 the OEB says it has reviewed more than 130 major rate applications from all power providers and “reduced requested rate increases by an average of about 40 per cent.” That's kept average distribution rates “close to the rate of inflation” over that period.

These consultations come after the provincial government introduced its Fair Hydro Plan -- which promises to cut power bills significantly, even if Hydro gets its rate hike -- in response to concern about skyrocketing hydro bills.

The doors to tonight's meeting open at 6 p.m., with presentations from the OEB starting at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting scheduled to end by 8:30 p.m.

“The general message, consumers are concerned about affordability, about accountability and about efficiency,” Sebalj said of input at the three meetings so far.

Hydro One is asking for permission to raise distribution rates incrementally between

2018 and 2022 for a total monthly increase of $11.75 for a typical residential customer using 750 kWh per month.

Distribution rates pay for building and maintaining the transmission and distribution lines, towers and poles used to bring electricity to customers.

Hydro One says most of its distribution system was built in the 1950s and '60s and “many assets are approaching or are beyond their expected service lives, resulting in an ongoing need to replace or refurbish them.”

“Hydro One is committed to reducing costs and increasing the company’s productivity and efficiency. The rate application reflects this commitment and is based on a plan that includes making only the necessary improvements to ensure the reliable supply of electricity,” a statement on its website says.

Hydro One's communications director Jay Armitage said if they don't pay for maintenance now, “there is a chance that customers will see a reduction in reliability” and this “would kick the problem down the road.” The new five-year plan involves “replacing more poles than we ever have before.”

Armitage was en route to Owen Sound to explain why Hydro One needs higher distribution rates and to stress new government hydro rate relief will mean customers won't feel the hurt.

Armitage touted the provincial Fair Hydro Plan which she said would shave 31 per cent off the average medium density customer's bill as early as August – with more savings in rural areas and for those who use more power.

So “most of our customers,” those using 750 kWh a month and paying $177 now, would pay $124 per month -- $636 per year less, even if the rate hike is approved, thanks to the Fair Hydro Plan.

The OEB touted the government's rate relief too. “Any amounts approved by the OEB will not impact the distribution line of the bill of most Hydro One customers, after the Fair Hydro Act credits and changes are applied,” its news release said.

United Way executive director Francesca Dobbyn said when the hydro bill relief plan was announced that all together, the measures could result in a 50 per cent reduction in hydro bills for some households in Grey-Bruce.

Armitage wouldn't comment on what would happen to bills at the end of the five-year hydro bill reprieve. But the provincial financial accountability officer has warned the provincial plan to reduce hydro bills by 25 per cent on average will cost at least $21 billion over the next three decades.

Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP Bill Walker said when the plan was announced that it will cost taxpayers "in a worst-case scenario" as much as $42 billion over 30 years in added interest costs.

Hydro One in the spotlight
Bayshore Broadcasting News Centre
2017-06-21
Byline: Craig Power

Original Web Location

The cost of hydro is front and centre at a meeting Wednesday night in Owen Sound.

Hydro One is looking for a hike in its distribution charges, despite the move by the Liberal government to reduce electricity costs by 25 percent.

The new hike would add anywhere from $1.95 a month to $2.79 a month to your electricity bill in each of the next 5 years beginning in 2018.

The Ontario Energy Board is hosting the meeting to gather input from customers and to address questions concerning their rate application and the process.

The meeting is at the Bayshore Community centre from 6:30 until 8:30pm.

Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP Bill Walker will speak at the Ontario Energy Board hearing.

He plans to urge the OEB to reject the application from Hydro One for the proposed rate hike.

Walker says his constituents are beyond frustrated by rising electricity costs and he will continue to fight on their behalf for affordability.

The Conservative MPP says there should be no hydro increases right after the CEO got a nearly $4 million raise.

Walker says his constituents are already struggling to put food on the table and local businesses can't afford even higher electricity bills.

Since the Liberals announced their so-called Fair Hydro scheme that promises to cut electricity rates by 25 per cent, the MPP says Ontario's Financial Accountability Officer confirmed that electricity rates will actually climb under the Liberals' plan in the long term.

Big spender Wynne's vote-buying politics not sustainable

Hanover Post
Thu Jun 22 2017
Page: A6
Section: Opinion
Byline: Merriam Jim
Source: Hanover Post

Conventional wisdom says electors don't vote governments in as much as they vote governments out.

The smart money, and current polls, would suggest that is the fate awaiting Kathleen Wynne and company when Ontarians go to the polls next June.

There are as many reasons to vote Wynne and government out as there are wind turbines that caused deep and lasting rifts in rural Ontario - and that's a lot of reasons.

At the top of the anti-Wynne list is the fact we simply cannot afford her and her old-style vote-buying form of politics.

The level of spending that this government has undertaken in recent weeks is not sustainable.

It is no longer politically correct to say that Wynne has been spending our money like a drunken sailor. Furthermore, that would be an insult to drunken sailors everywhere.

But she is spending as if the province actually has money. It doesn't.

Oh yes, there's the bragging and back patting about the Liberals bringing in a balanced budget. That is used as a reason, but more correctly is an excuse, for all the recent spending, as in "we can get the credit card out now because we balanced the budget."

That much-ballyhooed balanced budget, however, is smoke and mirrors presented by the best conjurer on the political stage.

The so-called "balance" is not even close to being real because the figures are skewed by the one-time sale of shares in Hydro One. In addition, the debt has increased enormously under this government, to the point it is now heading towards $320 billion.

To be fair, the Liberals are not the only ones who have increased the debt. But they are the folks who don't seem to think there's any ceiling when it comes to borrowing money to buy votes.

During the recession of the 1990s, the NDP increased the debt from $35.4 billion to $90.7 billion over five years.

The Harris Conservatives boosted it to $132.6 billion by 2002-2003.

Under the Liberals the debt more than doubled to $288.1 billion by 2013-2014. And we know how fast it's been growing ever since.

But that doesn't seem to matter much when the great minds at Queen's Park think they can buy the votes of young folks with free drugs for those under age 24.

Or when they try to impress voters with a modest increase in spending on health care, even though it's not enough to move the province out of last place in terms of per capita spending on this file.

And then there's more daycare spaces; over-the-top raises for civil servants and teachers to keep them on side during an election, etc. The list goes on.

Ben Eisen, director of the Fraser Institute's Ontario Prosperity Initiative and Charles Lammam, director of its fiscal studies summed it up when they wrote:

"The decisions in the last decade to increase spending faster than the provincial economy's growth, and faster than was needed to keep up with a growing population and rising prices, contributed to Ontario's dire fiscal problems. And when a nasty recession hit the province, the government found itself with spending levels it could not afford and big deficits quickly emerged.

Now, the government is making the same mistakes and exposing Ontarians to the same risks all over again."

Which brings us back to the original thought here. This province cannot afford to have Kathleen Wynne and her party of big spenders in power any longer.

Nuclear disposal facility's impact statement in hands of nuclear safety comm
Daily Observer (Pembroke)
Thu Jun 22 2017
Page: A1 / Front
Section: News
Byline: Stephen Uhler
Source: Daily Observer (Pembroke)
The Near Surface Disposal Facility’s environmental impact statement is now in the hands of Canada’s nuclear regulators in both official languages.

Last week, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) released the French translation of its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Near Surface Disposal Facility Project.

With this, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission will be accepting comments from the public and Indigenous groups for the next 60 days. CNL encourages further participation from members of the public and Indigenous groups in the Environmental Assessment process.

The proposed project is for the siting and construction of the Near Surface Disposal Facility, which would be used for the disposal of mostly low-level waste and a small amount of intermediatelevel waste.

The Near Surface Disposal Facility will enable the decommissioning of more than 100 buildings and structures at the Chalk River Laboratories - a necessary step to revitalize the site - and provide a safe and permanent disposal for waste from 65 years of science and technology and the Laboratories’continuing operations.

The majority, which is 90 per cent of the waste which would be disposed of in the facility, is already stored, or would be produced, out of activities at the Chalk River site. Approximately five per cent would be waste originating from the Whiteshell Laboratories, in Manitoba and other AECL sites, such as the prototype reactors (Douglas Point and Gentilly-1); and less than five per cent would be commercial sourced inventories -for example from Canadian hospitals and universities, a service that has been underway for decades.

The submission of the draft Environmental Impact Statement to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is a requirement of the Environmental Assessment process for the Near Surface Disposal Facility Project.

In order for the Near Surface Disposal Facility Project to move forward, the Environmental Assessment, which is carried out under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, and regulated under the authority of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, must be completed.

To date, no CNSC hrearing on the NSDF project has been scheduled.