Ministry of Energy Top Issues - June 29, 2016

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Date: Thu, 29 Jun 2017 06:59:40 -0400

Good morning,

Here's what's making news:

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Hydro One looks to plug into U.S. takeovers

The Globe and Mail
2017-06-29
Byline: ANDREW WILLIS | Section: Report on Business | Page: B1
Smart CEOs don't surprise the market with deals. They take the time to sell investors on a growth strategy long before they announce a takeover.

Hydro One Ltd. chief executive officer Mayo Schmidt knows this.

He's a veteran deal maker who built a dominant grain-handling business at Viterra Inc. by doing two dozen acquisitions over 12 years, before the company was sold and carved up. Now Mr. Schmidt is almost two years into running a newly privatized utility that hasn't done a major transaction outside its home territory, Ontario's electricity market. And Hydro One's boss is taking every opportunity to bang the drum on U.S. expansion. There's clearlysomething in the works.

While we don't know the name of the U.S. utility that Hydro One is targeting - in fact, there's every indication that Mr. Schmidt is still trying to find a dance partner - we do know the game plan, and on Bay Street there is plenty of well-informed speculation on what exactly the Toronto-based company will eventually acquire.

In looking outside Ontario for growth, Hydro One is taking a page from peers such as Enbridge, Fortis and TransCanada; these are three of the six Canadian companies that collectively spent $87-billion on six well-received U.S. utility takeovers over the past 18 months. In large part, these companies looked abroad because they saw limited opportunities to expand in their home markets, and because the American companies were willing sellers.

"With several Canadian utility peers deciding to acquire assets south of the border, we would not be surprised if Hydro One were to make an acquisition in the U.S." said Laurentian Bank Securities analyst

Mona Nazir in a recent report that also said the company could pull the trigger on a deal later this year or in 2018.

The Hydro One executive team - several of whom were recruited from U.S. utilities - were paving the road for a potential deal this week at a JPMorgan conference in New York. Mr. Schmidt told the crowd that Hydro One had a top-grade single-A credit rating and could shoulder more debt than U.S. peers while maintaining this coveted rating, and also use an acquisition to take advantage of the U.S. tax regime.

“There’s quite a number of metrics that make it look favourable,” Mr. Schmidt said in discussing a potential takeover.

He also said Hydro One would be a disciplined buyer and “any opportunity we see at home or beyond our borders needs to be accretive on every measure in the first 12 months of operation,” a criteria applied to every one of the 24 takeovers Mr. Schmidt authored while running Viterra.

With an enterprise value of $24-billion, investment bankers who work with Hydro One predict the company will make a $2-billion to $7-billion acquisition as an opening foray into the United States - anything smaller doesn’t move the dial financially, anything larger is likely to spook investors.

If Hydro One decides to acquire an electrical transmission or distribution business - the sectors it owns in Ontario - it makes sense to buy a network that’s linked to its existing grid, which is directly connected to U.S. networks in New York, Michigan and Minnesota. However, there’s a school of thought that says investors would be well-served by seeing the company move into new sectors, where returns remain predictable due to government regulation, but there’s additional growth potential.

“We believe Hydro One is closer to making acquisitions outside of Ontario, including the possibility of new business lines,” said a recent report from CIBC Capital Markets analysts Robert Catellier and Ian Woodward. “We would view the diversification as beneficial, notwithstanding our view that Ontario is a relatively attractive jurisdiction. Diversification into other utility lines, such as gas distribution, could also be attractive in providing larger growth opportunities while not greatly changing the character of the company’s operations.”

To date, Mr. Schmidt has telegraphed he’s interested in snagging a U.S. utility, but steered clear of referring to specific sectors. When Hydro One executives start talking up the virtues of wires or pipes that run to American homes, we’ll know they’ve zeroed in on a target, and that a deal is imminent.

Hydro One sell-off didn't come from shadows

Toronto Star
Thu Jun 29 2017
Page: A10
Section: News
Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Privatizing Hydro One ranks as the biggest miscalculation of Kathleen Wynne’s time as premier.

It violated fundamental axioms of politics - notably the perils of public opposition and public confusion.

But - and this is important - it didn’t break the basic laws of the land.

An ongoing court challenge, bankrolled by one of Ontario‘s biggest unions, seeks to declare the privatization of Hydro One an act of misfeasance. CUPE argues the partial sale was wrongful, illegal conduct by an elected government favouring its financial friends.

On its face, the court case seems doomed to fail, equal parts frivolous and foolish. It makes little sense legally, factually, politically, fiscally.

CUPE’s underlying goal is not so much a courtroom triumph as a victory in the court of public opinion. In reality, publicity stunts make for good politics but bad law.

After a few legal skirmishes this month, Justice P.J. Cavanagh will rule soon whether the case should proceed. It shouldn’t, because the real judgment belongs to voters in next summer’s Ontario election.

As it did in the election of 2014.

Oddly, the core of CUPE’s claim against the Liberal government is that Wynne lacked an electoral mandate to sell off part of Hydro One and that it secretly lined the pockets of bankers along the way. It’s an argument that appeals to the dark suspicions people harbour about politicians today, but it is pure revisionist history.

Voters must distinguish between paranoia and paying attention. The idea that Wynne’s Liberals never hinted at privatization is a provable fiction invented by the most vocal opponents of the plan - who inexplicably lost their tongue in the campaign of 2014.

Three weeks before her Liberal minority government was defeated by the NDP that year, Wynne announced an outside panel of experts headed by then-TD Bank CEO Ed Clark to examine the ownership of government assets, notably Hydro One.

“We own these assets, the people of Ontario. Selling them off . . . is bad news,” warned NDP energy critic Peter Tabuns at the time. “We aren’t supporting privatization.”

But New Democrats concluded that there were more votes to be snatched from the Liberals by focusing on gas plant criminalization than hydro privatization. They miscalculated.

Wynne won the election, but fell into the trap of brand confusion. Many voters felt betrayed by a politician whom they assumed was more or less of the left, but left them behind at the altar of privatization.

Beyond the damage to her personal reputation, what really hurt Wynne was widespread confusion over Hydro One’s corporate brand: Most Ontarians conflate it with the old Ontario Hydro, which has a long and legendary history in the province as the face of publicly owned power. But that legacy Crown corporation was long ago carved up by the Tories as a precursor to privatization - split into Ontario Power Generation (OPG), which generates nuclear and hydro electricity; and Hydro One, essentially a transmission company that owns the wires, poles and some local distribution companies.

The biggest contradiction in this tangled tale of transmission wires is the opposition’s claim that privatization will raise prices. That’s like arguing that natural gas prices can be held hostage by privately owned Enbridge. Energy utilities are regulated by the Ontario Energy Board, which has the last word on prices.

The Liberals sold off Hydro One despite internal polling showing a lack of public support, wrongly calculating that it would generate only passing opposition after the inattention of the last election. They were banking on the sale proceeds to meet a 2014 election promise to balance the budget by 2017 - which they did, but at great political cost.

The NDP’s Andrea Horwath has made the most of the sale - reviving her own flagging leadership after the last election. Luckily for her, the party’s implausible promise to buy back all of Hydro One - paying far more for the shares than the province earned for them - has escaped attention until now, though she will surely be called to account for it on the campaign trail.

Even the Progressive Conservatives, who first conjured up privatization of the venerable Ontario Hydro two decades ago, now earnestly claim to oppose the partial sale of Hydro One. It is a breathtaking about-face, considering that they wanted to unload hydro assets as recently as the 2011 election campaign.

I’ve always argued against the privatization of Hydro One - but on public policy, not political grounds. Politics, however, has its own rhythm and rationale.

Politicians take positions, make calculations, win elections, lose campaigns. Selling off Hydro One was wrong-headed, but the truth is that Wynne won the last election after telling people she might do it. And as we are reminded after every election, voters, too, have the right to change their minds.

That’s politics, for better or for worse. Best that lawyers and judges keep their distance.

Hydro One seeking five years of rate increases | Ontario Energy Board in early stages of reviewing rate increase request

Sudbury.com
2017-06-28
Byline: Matt Durnan
Original Web Location

Representatives from both the Ontario Energy Board and Hydro One were in Sudbury on June 28 to discuss a Hydro One's application to increase distribution rates over the next five years.

Contained in Hydro One's request are increases that will impact hydro bills for the next five years, starting with an increase of $2.79 per month as of January 2018.

This is not to be confused with having your bill increase by nearly $3 every month from there on, but rather the average customer who uses 750 kWh per month, their delivery cost each month in 2018 will be $2.79 higher than in 2017.

The recently passed Fair Hydro Act, 2017 would result in customers actually seeing the total bill amount come down despite a delivery charge increase, however, the Fair Hydro Act credits are only slated to be in effect for four years.

Hydro One's proposed plan would see the average hydro delivery charge go up by nearly $13 between 2018 - 2022, and in the final year of the proposed increases, the Fair Hydro Act will no longer be in place, resulting in what could be some staggering spikes in people's hydro costs.

Oded Hubert, vice president of regulatory affairs with Hydro One was at the public meeting at the Parkside Centre on Wednesday evening to explain the reasoning behind the proposed increases.

"About 25 per cent of our poles are at or nearing the end of their lifespan," said Hubert. "280,000 of our 1.6 million poles are at or beyond their expected service life as of this year and another 120,000 will reach their expected life within the next five years."

Hydro One will not be replacing all of the poles, and as Hubert said, "when a pole hits 62 years of use, it doesn't just fall over," but the company still has to monitor them and do condition testing to ensure that they can efficiently deliver power.

The Ontario Energy Board has just begun reviewing Hydro One's rate application and the review will take roughly a year. In the meantime, the OEB is holding public meetings around the province to get feedback from customers, stakeholders, and other interested parties.

"Because hydro companies are non-competitive monopolies, the OEB's role is to be a proxy competition and put downward pressure on these companies to monitor price, reliability and quality service," said Kristi Sebalj, senior legal counsel, OEB.

"We also need to balance that with ensuring that we have a financially viable energy sector."

When applications for rate increases like this come in, the OEB audits the requests to ensure that companies like Hydro One are doing everything possible to be more efficient and keep improving.

Sudbury was the eighth of nine stops in the series of public meetings, but Sebalj urged those in attendance to stay up to date and stay in contact with the OEB with any questions or concerns they have regarding Hydro One's application.

Why your electrical bill won't drop even though the city got a huge dividend from Hydro Ottawa

metronews.ca
Wed Jun 28 2017
Section: METRO NEWS | NEWS | OTTAWA

Byline: Alex Abdelwahab - Metro
In 2016, Hydro Ottawa's net income was $34.8 million.

As the utility's only shareholder, the City of Ottawa received a record dividend: $20.6 million.

But why not reduce the rates for residents?

It's a question River Ward Coun. Riley Brockington said he often hears from constituents.

"Being a public entity, it really shouldn't be in the business of making a significant profit," he said.

Hydro Ottawa's chairman, Jim Durrell, told council on Wednesday that both the rates and the utility's regulated rate of return are set by the Ontario Energy Board. This is meant to ensure the utility covers its operating costs and that the appropriate amount of money is reinvested in infrastructure.

Given such a policy, Durrell said, the surplus money would not go have gone back to ratepayers even if the city hadn't taken the dividend.

Energy debate heats up

The Sudbury Star
2017-06-28
Byline: Keith Dempsey
Original Web Location

Energy minister and Liberal MPP Glen Thibeault did not attend the Ontario Energy Board hearing in Sudbury on Wednesday, but he did have a rebuttal to Vic Fedeli, the Tory MPP for Nipissing (North Bay).

When reached by The Star prior to Wednesday's hearing, Fedeli said Thibeault needed to justify why he won't direct the Ontario Energy Board to reject an application from Hydro One for a $141-per-year hydro rate hike.

"That is particularly unfair for hard-working families," Fedeli said.

Fedeli is also upset Hydro One gave their CEO a nearly $4-million raise.

"How can you justify giving him a raise to four-and-a-half million dollars in a year and then come to us for a rate increase?" Fedeli said. "And when you consider the fact that Hydro Quebec and BC Hydro pay their CEOs in the $400,000 range, that makes it even more upsetting for Ontario families."

Thibeault, for his part, wasn't available for an interview, but did offer a statement in reply.

"While I'm in Milton and Kingston talking about our Fair Hydro Plan today (Wednesday) and tomorrow (Thursday), the Conservatives continue to willfully misinform the public about the Ontario Energy Board's rate application process," Thibeault said in a statement. "It's hard to take (Ontario PC leader) Patrick Brown and Vic Fedeli's grandstanding seriously when it's been more than three months since the Conservatives said they were going to share their plan on reducing electricity rates – we're still waiting."

He said Fedeli's focus on the OEB hearing "is simply a distraction from the fact that the Conservatives have not presented a single credible idea on how to help Ontarians. The icing on the cake is that Patrick Brown, Vic Fedeli and the Conservatives voted against our Fair Hydro Plan – a plan that is delivering a 25-per-cent-on-average reduction for families and small businesses in Sudbury and across the province beginning July 1."

When Fedeli was asked what the Tory plan is to reduce rates, he told The Star the prime issue, as he worded it, is to stop signing contracts for power that isn't needed.

"That's the first thing you gotta do," Fedeli said. "When you're in a hole, the first thing you should do is stop digging. Here we are, just this week, the government announced 500 megawatts more of wind power is going on line, so on some days we make 30,000 megawatts, on some days we only use as low as 16,000 megawatts. Here we are with the government exacerbating the very problem that got us there. The fact that we're making power we don't need, which means now we're paying the States and Quebec to take that power every night. That's what we have to stop doing."

Thibeault replied by saying in a statement that distribution rates for 800,000 households will be coming down.

The province's move will bring savings "as high as 40 to 50 per cent," Thibeault said. "This includes eligible rural and Northern Hydro One customers in communities like Wanup. Under the Fair Hydro Plan, distribution rates for these customers will no longer be directly impacted by Hydro One's rate applications, even if approved by the OEB."

Energy minister in Milton to discuss impending hydro bill cut

Milton Canadian Champion
Wed Jun 28 2017
Page: 1
Section: News

Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault spent the several hours in Milton Wednesday (June 28) to spread the word about the hydro bill reduction set to take effect this weekend.

The provincial politician was joined by Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris in speaking about the previously announced Fair Hydro Plan, which is being implemented in steps.

The pair first visited Milton Hydro and then attended a Milton Chamber of Commerce lunch event at the Teatro Conference and Event Centre, informing those in attendance that as of July 1, Milton households will see an average 25 per cent reduction on their hydro bills as a result of the plan.

"It was through the advocacy of our individual MPPs like Indira, who were bringing forward the concerns of their constituents to myself and the Premier, that we realized we had to act more," Thibeault told the Champion. "There were many people saying, 'I'm concerned about the price of electricity, what's the government going to do about it?' That's when we went to work and we've come forward with the Fair Hydro Plan."

In addition to residential hydro customers, the minister said the 25 per cent reduction - which includes the eight per cent rebate that was introduced in January - will also benefit 500,000 small businesses and farms across the province.

The plan will hold rate increases to the rate of inflation for four years.

"Many Ontarians are concerned about the price they pay for electricity and the impact it has on their household budget," said Naidoo-Harris. "Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan will significantly lower the monthly hydro bills of all residential consumers and help the most vulnerable."

Thibeault went on to explain the Liberal government's rationale behind overhauling the province's electricity generation, transmission and distribution system at a cost of $50 billion - a price tag that has driven hydro rates.

It all started after the blackout of 2003.

"This happened because of decades of underinvestment in the energy system by governments of all stripes and all colours," he said.

So the government began investing in "green" energy and chose to close coal plants, he said.

"Ontario's elimination of coal remains the single largest climate change initiative undertaken in North America," he said, explaining that it's equivalent to taking seven million cars off the road.

The measures helped reduce smog days from 53 in 2005 to none last year, noted Thibeault.

“That’s improving the health care of all Ontarians, especially children and our elderly who are most impacted by air pollution,” he said.

While the overhaul has come at a hefty cost, the minister said it’s all worth it when he gets to meet children like 10-year-old Matthew, who suffers from asthma and often couldn’t venture outside to play or even to school due to air quality making his condition worse.

The boy recently went to Queen’s Park to thank politicians for the changes they’ve made to the province’s energy system, telling them that he hasn’t had visit to the hospital in over a year.

“That’s when you go, ‘We’ve made the right decision,’” he said. “We’ve changed his life for the better, and that’s why you get into politics.”

He went on to acknowledge that hydro costs “did increase too much, too fast,” so that’s when the government decided to launch the Fair Hydro Plan and 25 per cent reduction.

“We know this was the relief families here in Milton were asking for,” he said. “It’s a promise that our government is delivering on.”

To accomplish this, he said the government is refinancing the global adjustment - a tool that pays for the electricity system upgrades - and setting a new term that stretches payments out over 30 years, instead of the original plan of 20 years.

“Over time it will cost more and it will take longer to pay off, but it will be fairer because it doesn’t ask one generation, our generation, of electricity ratepayers alone to pay the freight for everyone before and after,” he said. “There’s no question that these changes were the right thing to do.”

At the chamber lunch, Thibeault fielded a mix of technical and general questions on energy and encouraged those in attendance to contact Milton Hydro to discuss further savings that could be offered through the Save on Energy program.

This summer, the Province will also launch an affordability fund for customers who don’t qualify for low-income conservation programs and are unable to make energy-efficient improvements to their home without financial assistance.

Hydro Ottawa bosses losing sleep over electricity politics

Ottawa Sun
2017-06-28
Byline: ON WILLING

The “politically charged environment” in the province over electricity keeps Hydro Ottawa bosses up at night, according to the company’s chairman.

Jim Durrell, making the utility’s annual presentation to city council, said the political climate in Ontario could create volatility in providing the hydro service.

Durrell warned against any political plan that “sells short-term votes” when the long-term pain could be “substantial” for hydro companies.

The next provincial election is in June 2018.

Hydro Ottawa’s presentation at council was the annual shareholder meeting. The City of Ottawa is Hydro Ottawa’s sole shareholder.

In its annual report, the utility says its customer satisfaction rate took a hit in 2016, likely because of the Ontario-wide discussion about hydro prices. The satisfaction rate was 81 per cent last year, compared to 87 per cent in 2015.

Hydro Ottawa has hired a “chief customer officer,” beefed up its hours in the contact centre and increased its social media use. The utility also released a smartphone app this year.

Hydro Ottawa had a big year financially. It ended 2016 with $34.8 million in net income.

After crunching the numbers, Hydro Ottawa sent the city a $20.6-million dividend in April 2017, the highest dividend the city has ever received from its hydro asset. The dividend comes from the revenue on the utility's capital investments, not the regulated rates on electricity bills.

Durrell said the utility's LED streetlight project in Ottawa has been successful and it wants to offer the service to other municipalities. That would generate revenue for the utility, he said.

Council reappointed Durrell, the former mayor, as chair of Hydro Ottawa's two boards of directors, Hydro Ottawa Holding Inc. (the umbrella company) and Hydro Ottawa Ltd. (the distribution company). Council also appointed Cyril Leeder, the former president of the Ottawa Senators, to the boards for three years.

Hydro Ottawa distributes electricity to about 328,000 customers in Ottawa and Casselman.

Central Huron, White River cut from nuclear fuel DGR studies, Huron- Kinloss and South Bruce remain

Kincardine News
Thu Jun 29 2017
Page: A10
Section: News
Byline: Rob Gowan
Source: Kincardine News
Two Bruce County municipalities remain in the running as potential sites to store Canada's used nuclear fuel.

Huron-Kinloss and South Bruce are both still on the list in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's selection process for a deep geological repository, after it was announced that two other potential sites - the Municipality of Central Huron and the Township of White River -had been removed.

“As we work toward identifying a single preferred site, we need to increasingly focus on specific locations that have strong potential to meet safety requirements and a foundation for sustained interest in exploring the project,” Dr. Mahrez Belfadhel, vice-president of site selection, said in a news release. “Central Huron and White River have each made a significant contribution on behalf of Canadians to this project, and their continued leadership will be invaluable as we work together to plan next steps in their region.”

With the elimination of Central Huron from the list, Huron-Kinloss and South Bruce are the only remaining communities in southwestern Ontario.

Marie Wilson, regional communications manager for Southwestern Ontario for the NWMO, said the decisions to rule communities out are difficult because all have the potential to be host to the project, but the objective of the site selection is to arrive at one location.

“We have definitely seen interest in the project and we really appreciate the leadership that has been shown by Central Huron and all the communities involved in the process, but we haven't been able to expand that interest or learning to the level we really want to have to make sure we have sufficient confidence to go ahead with geotechnical studies, which would be the next step,” said Wilson.

“It was just about not being able to get that strong foundation of compelling, sustained interest.”

The other communities still being explored as potential sites include Hornpayne and Manitouwadge, Ignace, Blind River and Elliott Lake, all located in northern Ontario.

The NWMO announced that the next activities for Huron-Kinloss, South Bruce and Hornepayne and Manitouwadge will involve planning for more geological studies and having conversations about visioning and partnership. Engagement is continuing with the interested communities, potentially affected First Nation and Metis communities, and surrounding communities.

Studies are continuing to be conducted in areas around Ignace, Blind River and Elliott Lake, the NWMO has said.

South Bruce Mayor Robert Buckle said Friday's announcement means that if the NWMO decides to select a southern Ontario community for the proposed DGR, it will be a Bruce County community.

"It is going to have a huge economical effect in our area, a huge effect all over," said Buckle. Outreach to gather input continues through the municipality's community liaison committee, public open houses and at special events, Buckle said. The NWMO also has storefronts in Ripley and Teeswater where they provide information to the public.

"South Bruce is a willing community to look at the plan to do something with the nuclear waste for the long term," said Buckle.

The project is a huge amount of work that will need co-operation from many municipalities, as well as Metis and First Nations, but Buckle commended the NWMO for taking the lead.

"I am really glad the NWMO is moving forward with a safe long-term plan for this used nuclear fuel," said Buckle. "Something has to be done and you must commend them for stepping forward to do something about it."

The NWMO was created in 2002 by Canada's nuclear electricity producers and is tasked with implementing the country's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

Wilson said they have timelines for planning purposes, but the process is community driven and everything that is done will be in consultation with the affected communities, First Nations and Metis.

They hope to have a preferred site selected by 2023, and are hoping to have regulatory approvals by 2032, with detailed design and construction to follow.

The current timeline would have the repository in operation and receive its first shipment of used fuel by about 2043.

Continued opposition; EDP Renewables moves through steps for large wind farm as many in community continue to fight

Cornwall Standard Freeholder
Thu Jun 29 2017
Page: A3
Section: News
Byline: Rachel Faber
Source: Standard-Freeholder
A renewable energy project, aimed at building between 27 and 34 new wind turbines in North Stormont, faces ongoing opposition from locals who will live close to the towers.

At an open-house style meeting Tuesday, the company that won the contract for the project, EDP Renewables Canada, welcomed people to come by and learn about the project and to ask questions.

Talk of the project began in 2011, and the first information session of this kind was held in May 2015. In a couple months time, the project will be brought to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to review, with a goal of having construction start in the first quarter of 2019.

Since the first public meeting in 2015, citizens like Margaret Benke have been trying to stop the project, due primarily to noise and health concerns, she said.

"As soon as I heard about it I thought, 'I've gotta do something,'" said Benke.

Residents also have environmental concerns, said Benke, as a lot of farm vegetation needs to be dug up to make way for the structures. However, all wind turbines will be placed on the land of willing farmers that have entered into rental contracts with EDP Renewables.

“We live too close together, this is a highly populated area,” said Benke with concern over how living conditions will change for people who live close to the proposed turbines, “It has been frustrating, there’s no question, because there are so many reasons not to do it.”

Though Benke and other protesters cite concern over health effects caused by wind turbines, a study was conducted by Health Canada and Statistics Canada that revealed, though turbines may result in annoyed residents, there have been no changes in quality of life and no direct link to any illnesses that residents reported.

North Stormont residents Carole and John Pirnat are also opposing the project, due to fears that the turbine proximity will de-value their home by up to 30 per cent.

“In other areas the property value has gone down… our house is only 10 years old,” said John, who will live less than a kilometre away from the proposed turbines.

He said he went to the meeting Tuesday to ask more questions and hopefully get some answers.

Tom LoTurco, director of development for EDPR Canada, said the project has been open to discussion since 2015, and throughout the project there will be a lot of different ways that residents can communicate with a community liaison.

“We have some very supportive people and some that are concerned. They want to understand property values and hydro bills. We address all of that,” he said.

As well, LoTurco noted that the turbines will provide jobs and stimulation to the local economy, as 67 per cent of of expenditures for the project will be spent within 50 miles of the site.

“There is a silent majority of people who support the project, we just don’t hear from them as much,” said LoTurco.

Ontario Energy Board Approves Gas Rate Hikes

Source: CKVR
Jun 28, 2017 6: 18 PM

Anchor: Natural gas rates will be going up, just as a promised reduction in hydro costs kicks in next month. The Ontario Energy Board has approved a rate hike for Enbridge, natural resources gas, and union gas, effective Saturday. The increase means the average customer will pay between $25 and $40 more per year.

Wasaga Distribution Decision Date Set | Wasaga Beach council will make a decision on whether to sell Wasaga Distribution a little sooner than expected.

Bayshore Broadcasting News Centre
2017-06-28
Byline: Catherine Thompson

Wasaga Beach council will make a decision on whether to sell Wasaga Distribution a little sooner than expected.

At last night's meeting, council decided to hold a special meeting at the RecPlex on July 18.

Originally, council was going to hold a special Committee of the Whole meeting on that day to consider public input and then hold a council meeting for a decision on July 25th.

But last night, councillors decided there was enough public input to make a decision in three weeks.

Results of the town's telephone survey is to be posted on the town website today.

The information from the town's online questionnaire will be given to council shortly after the deadline of July 4th closes.