Ministry of Energy Top Issues - September 21, 2017

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Date: Thu, 21 Sep 2017 07:01:24 -0400

Good morning,

Here's what's making news:

- Ontario Hydro Fees Targeted; Firm launches constitutional challenge – National Post, pg. FP8
- An unconstitutional tax?' Ontario electricity fee targeted by rail company's legal challenge – Ottawa Citizen
- 7 Nations opposes plan; Want Ontario to extend consultation period and more oversight over its proposed benefits -- Cornwall Standard Freeholder, pg. A1
- CUPE fighting hydro sale – Toronto Sun, pg. A6
- Ontario offers 150 MW of small-scale renewables under FIT -- pv magazine International
- IESO Releases Final Round of Contract Offers under Ontario's Feed-in Tariff Program – Canada Newswire
- Uxbridge council reiterates stance on nuclear waste -- Uxbridge Times Journal, pg. 1
- Ottawa waits to get answers on whether it will pay for pipeline tests -- Times & Transcript, pg. A5
- Business outreach; Ontario Energy Minister meets with Kenora chamber of commerce -- Lake of the Woods Enterprise, pg. A14
- Arran-Elderslie council briefs | In support of the Green Energy Act – Hanover Post
- City of Guelph tackling buckthorn problem on Silvercreek trail – Guelph Mercury
- OPG Way Trail unveiled by the Kincardine Trails Association -- Kincardine News, pg. A3
- Low turnout for BESS -- Cornwall Standard Freeholder, pg. A1

Ontario Hydro Fees Targeted; Firm launches constitutional challenge

National Post

Thu Sep 21 2017

Page: FP8

Section: Financial Post Investing

Byline: Geoff Zochodne

A Canadian manufacturer of railroad freight cars has launched a constitutional challenge aimed at the legitimacy of an Ontario energy fee estimated to have cost the province's electricity customers $37 billion in less than a decade.

The so-called global adjustment fees are at the heart of a lawsuit filed by Hamilton-based National Steel Car Ltd. against Ontario's Ministry of the Attorney General, Minister of Energy and the province's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), which manages the power grid and sets the rate that local electricity utilities use to charge customers.

The global adjustment charge is chiefly used to cover the difference between the province's market price for power and the price guaranteed to hydroelectric, natural gas, nuclear, solar and wind generators through their regulated payments or contracts with the government, as well as the cost of conservation programs. All electricity customers in Ontario pay global adjustment, which can be a separate line or included in the commodity portion of their bill.

But the August lawsuit filed by National Steel Car (NSC) believes the revenue the IESO collects for the global adjustment, from the company "and others," should be declared "an unconstitutional tax, not a valid regulatory charge."

The company gives numerous reasons, including that the global adjustment allegedly "redistributes wealth from the consumers of electricity in Ontario to, among others, the generators of renewable electricity."

The company's Ontario Superior Court of Justice application also says the fee is "an indirect tax imposed by a regulatory body to fund the Ontario government's policy initiatives," such as creating jobs, but one that wasn't enacted by the provincial legislature.

The reason the firm is pursuing the claim is because "they want to stay in business," said Jerome Morse of Morse Shannon LLP, who is representing National.

Morse said National compensates its 1,500 employees much better than competitors in Mexico and the U.S., where, he added, power is being piped in at a rate that can be more than 10 times cheaper.

"So how do you stay in business when you're paying these hourly rates to your employees and this government tags you with this type of expense that is now, because of the global adjustment since 2008, your third-biggest input cost?" Morse said in a phone interview. "They have materials, they have labour, and they're paying this tax that the government chooses to call a global adjustment."

If it is a tax, NSC's lawsuit says global adjustment should be invalid, because it breaks an Ontario law requiring the government to hold a referendum before it introduces a new tax. No such referendum occurred, the lawsuit says, contravening the Taxpayer Protection Act, a law brought in by former premier Mike Harris'Progressive Conservative government in 1999.

If it's unconstitutional or invalid, National doesn't want the global adjustment charged to them or others, the lawsuit said. The manufacturer also wants to be repaid some or all of the global adjustment it coughed up between July 31, 2015, and July 31, 2017.

While its claims have yet to be proven in court, the lawsuit comes as the global adjustment portion of an Ontario power bill has increased steadily in recent years, helping inflate the cost of electricity for consumers as demand declines.

Ontario's auditor general reported in 2015 that electricity costs increased and the global adjustment fees skyrocketed from 2006 to 2014, with customers paying a total of $37 billion in global adjustment over the period. The auditor also estimated consumers would fork over another $133 billion in global adjustment fees from 2015 to 2032.

The rise followed the Ontario Liberal government's investments in energy infrastructure and its signing of contracts for more costly sources of power. The rate owed to those energy companies can be higher than the market rate, helping create the need for the global adjustment to cover the difference.

In 2016, for example, the average Ontario energy price was 1.66 cents per kilowatt hour, according to IESO data, while the average global adjustment fee was 9.66 cents. In 2008, that same ratio was 5.17 to 0.61. Ontario has curtailed its renewable energy procurement, but National's claim goes hard at green power programs begun in 2009 under then-premier Dalton McGuinty, especially "feedin-tariff" contracts.

"Since the FIT program pays generators of renewable electricity at rates far in excess of market rates to realize the policy initiatives funded by the Global Adjustment, the behaviour of the consumers of electricity in Ontario who pay for the cost of these policy initiatives is not affected," said the lawsuit.

A 2016 Hydro-Québec study also showed large-scale power consumers in Toronto and Ottawa pay the highest prices among Canadian cities, and some of the highest prices in North America.

Ontario's Liberal government enacted a plan this spring to lower household hydro bills by an average of 25 per cent, partly by reducing the amount of global adjustment they'll pay. The province also expanded a conservation program that can lower costs for industrial consumers, although some companies enjoy a bigger advantage, National alleged in its suit.

The provincial government said it is reviewing the "applicant's materials" and it "would be inappropriate to comment further" as the matter was before the court. A spokesperson for the IESO also said they can't comment as the matter is before the court.

Morse said they are trying to get the case heard in March.

An unconstitutional tax?' Ontario electricity fee targeted by rail company's legal challenge

Ottawa Citizen
2017-09-21
Byline: GEOFF ZOCHODNE, FINANCIAL POST

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7 Nations opposes plan; Want Ontario to extend consulation period and more oversight over its proposed benefits

Cornwall Standard Freeholder

Thu Sep 21 2017

Page: A1 / Front

Section: News

Byline: Alan S. Hale

The Seven Nations of Canada, a group that represents Akwesasne's small Iroquois minority, has come out against the Chiefs of Ontario's plan to buy a 2.5 per cent stake in Hydro One using money loaned to it by the provincial government.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) has until the end of the month to decide if it will buy into the plan which Grand Chief Abram Benedict helped negotiate. But the Seven Nations are calling the proposal's looming deadline a "shotgun wedding."

"It's short notice without enough community consultation," said Tamra Cook, a Seven Nations member. "I think the best thing to do would be to tell the Ontario government to put it off. What's the rush?" Although the Standard-Freeholder did not report about the deal to by the Hydro One shares until this month, the MCA has actually been holding public consultation meeting inside Akwesasne about the proposal since at least June, and the negotiations to get to this point have been ongoing for years.

The deal being offered to all of the member First Nations of the Chiefs of Ontario is that the provincial government would give them 15 million shares the Liberals have decided to sell on the private market.

Not only are the shares technically being sold to the First Nations at 75 per cent of their market value, but the communities don't need to put any money up front. Instead, they will be able to pay off the $268-million price tag over the next 25 years as though they had received a loan to buy the shares. The interest being charged will be only marginally higher than the rate Ontario gets when it borrows money.

The Chiefs of Ontario have also devised a corporate structure that would shield the First Nations from liability if for some reason they default on that loan.

When asked why they would oppose the community getting effectively free shares that would produce dividends for First Nations across Ontario, they gave a few reasons. The first of which is they do not feel the money from the shares will be managed competently or free of corruption.

Cook argued that the MCA has a poor track record when it comes to transparently managing community trusts. She pointed specifically to Community Settlement Trust set up to invest money from an agreement with Ontario Power Generation.

"Why are they spending $340,000 in administration fees," she asked. "Why is the community still suffering when it pays out this much money."

The MCA would not be the one managing the money from the Hydro One deal, however. The Chiefs of Ontario will be setting up corporations that it would oversee to do that, although their structure will be based on those used by the MCA to manage its casino revenues.

Seven Nations is also worried about the potential for nepotism and corruption, especially when it comes to people given jobs at the corporations.

"That's a scary thought. When you see someone who benefits personally from an agreement, and it's not the collective … we've got a problem. We're concerned is whether one of the chiefs will offer to cover someone's ass if they sell this to their community," said George Adams, another Seven Nations member.

The deal can only go forward if 106 First Nations in Ontario decide to accept it this fall. This does not include the Seven Nations of Canada, which is not recognized by the MCA and is not a member of the Chiefs of Ontario.

CUPE fighting hydro sale

Toronto Sun
2017-09-21
Byline: Liz Braun | Section: News | Page: A6

Premier Kathleen Wynne: CUPE is coming for you, and they're loaded for bear.

The union of public employees, some 260,000 strong, will take further legal action against Wynne over the sale of Hydro One.

A court recently dismissed CUPE's lawsuit which targeted the sale, with a judge branding it an attack on a core policy decision taken by the government.

Lawyers for the province had argued the government did nothing unlawful and there was no basis for the challenge.

CUPE will announce Thursday that its lawyers will appeal that court's decision, the Toronto Sun has learned.

CUPE alleges that the controversial sale of Hydro One was, "motivated by improper and ulterior purposes," and, rather than benefiting the people of Ontario, has actually cost them money - while lining the pockets of political cronies on Bay St. and funnelling money into the Liberal party's coffers.

The hugely unpopular partial sale of Hydro One was billed as a way to help Wynne find the $29 billion she needs for transit and transportation in the province, as well as a way to pay down Hydro One's debt.

According to CUPE, that's bunk.

It would have been cheaper to issue bonds to pay for infrastructure improvements, according to CUPE. The Financial Accountability Office of Ontario says the sale of Hydro One will end up worsening the province's financial situation to the tune of $500 million a year.

CUPE claims that the firms retained to effect the sale of Hydro One shares were paid more than $75 million for their services.

Ontario offers 150 MW of small-scale renewables under FIT round

pv magazine International
2017-09-21
Byline: EMILIANO BELLINI

Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has offered contracts for 150 MW of distributed-generation renewables capacity in the final round of the FIT program, which is commonly known as FIT 5.

The IESO said that solar had the largest share, with PV developers securing 382 of the 390 assigned contracts. The remaining contacts were offered to seven on-farm biogas projects and one municipal landfill gas project. Most of the selected PV power projects have a capacity of 500 kW, which was the size limit imposed by the procurement process.

"These FIT 5 contract offers come from a broad cross-section of Ontarians, including indigenous communities, community groups, municipalities, farmers and small businesses," said JoAnne Butler, the IESO's Vice-President of Market and Resource Development.

According to the IESO, 144 assigned contracts, or 57.8 MW of capacity, are related to projects with indigenous participation, while projects with community participation have a combined capacity of 33.2 MW. The authority has also selected 94 projects, or 35.6 MW of capacity, with municipal or public sector participation.

IESO stressed that the bidding round offered a bid-down price option, where applicants could earn priority points by offering a price lower than the standard price schedule. More than 86% of applicants applied for price reductions, it said.

Under FIT 4 program, which was concluded in July 2016, the IESO awarded long-term contracts to 241 MW of renewable energy projects, including 232 MW of solar projects.

Projects ranging from 10-500 kW in capacity are eligible for the program, which IESO describes as a FIT. Ontario has three programs for renewable energy procurement: The Large Renewables Procurement (LRP), an auction system for projects above 500 kW, the MicroFIT, which resembles a European FIT and is restricted to projects below 10 kW, and the regular FIT, which appears to be a hybrid of the two.

Ontario is also supporting renewable energy distributed generation through net metering, for which new rules were introduced in July of this year. The most relevant aspect of the new rules is the elimination of ceiling of 500 kW for solar and renewable energy power projects installed under the scheme. The new rules will also allow power system owners to use storage systems when paired with renewable energy generation.

IESO Releases Final Round of Contract Offers under Ontario's Feed-in Tariff Program

Canada Newswire
2017-09-20

TORONTO, Sept. 20, 2017 /CNW/ - Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) announced today that it will offer 390 contracts representing about 150 megawatts (MW) of small-scale renewable generation. Results of the procurement show strong participation, more than 80 percent, from Indigenous, community, municipal and public sector entities. These contracts conclude the most recent procurement under the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Program, known as FIT 5.

Contracts will be offered for 382 solar photovoltaic projects, as well as for seven on-farm biogas projects and one municipal landfill gas project. Once completed, these projects could provide enough renewable energy to power approximately 19,000 homes. The complete list of FIT 5 contract offers is available here.

"These FIT 5 contract offers come from a broad cross-section of Ontarians, including Indigenous communities, community groups, municipalities, farmers and small businesses," says JoAnne Butler, the IESO's Vice-President, Market and Resource Development. "As we reach the completion of the FIT procurement model, we look forward to working with generators to explore the role of innovative distributed energy resources and market-based approaches to meet Ontario's future energy needs. "

Over 35 percent of the contracts that will be offered have Indigenous project participation, and about half of the projects have Indigenous site hosts. Below is a summary of Indigenous, community and municipal or public sector participation:

144 projects (57.83 MW) with Indigenous participation

79 projects (33.20 MW) with community participation

94 projects (35.64 MW) with municipal or public sector participation

Both FIT 5 and the previous FIT procurement round included a bid-down price option, where applicants could earn priority points for offering a price lower than the standard price schedule. Under FIT 5, more than 86 percent of successful applicants applied for a price reduction.

Uxbridge council reiterates stance on nuclear waste

Uxbridge Times Journal
Tue Sep 19 2017
Page: 1
Section: News

UXBRIDGE - Councillors are still looking for clear answers on radioactive nuclear waste routes.

At a meeting on Sept. 18 councillors discussed a letter from Ontario Power Generation (OPG) received in response to questions on the routes taken by trucks carrying radioactive nuclear waste to a permanent storage site in Kincardine.

“The routes taken currently by OPG‘s radioactive material transportation vehicles for any one particular shipment are confidential,” the letter reads.

“However, the routes selected typically follow along Ontario’s well-travelled public highways and the 400 series highways from Darlington and Pickering to the Bruce site, and back. Some of the roads taken would include highways 20, 9, 10, 80 and highways 400, 401, 410 and 407.”

Coun. Pat Molloy suggested a followup letter asking specifically whether the route travels through Uxbridge, which was supported by fellow councillors.

“It’s interesting they don’t tell us they don’t come through Uxbridge,” Molloy said.

“I don’t know if we can ask them specifically, they’re saying it’s confidential, but I want to emphasize they really didn’t answer our question. I’m concerned, I don’t want them coming through our town.”

Ottawa waits to get answers on whether it will pay for pipeline tests

Times & Transcript
Thu Sep 21 2017
Page: A5
Byline: Adam Huras

OTTAWA ? The Trudeau government says it's still waiting on both the National Energy Board and TransCanada to decide whether it wants Ottawa to pay for and complete the new regulatory hurdles that Energy East is facing.

The federal Liberals said they're willing to study the upstream and downstream greenhouse gas emissions that the energy board has made part of its review of the project, in efforts to relinquish TransCanada of that financial burden.

Premier Brian Gallant has said that the cost and uncertainty around the review is one of roadblocks that has caused the pipeline proponent to reconsider if it wants to continue on with the project.

"We are awaiting a response to our offer to the National Energy Board and TransCanada to undertake the upstream and downstream GHG assessments to avoid added cost constraints for the proponent," Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr's press secretary Alex Deslongchamps told the Telegraph-Journal.

Both TransCanada and National Energy Board officials have declined to say if they will accept the offer.

It's the job of the energy board to regulate the construction and operation of oil and natural gas pipelines crossing provincial borders. That includes assessing proposed pipelines and then making a recommendation to the federal government as to whether the project should go ahead.

The National Energy Board in August expanded the scope of Energy East's review, saying it will, for the first time ever, consider indirect greenhouse gas emissions in evaluating a pipeline.

Energy board spokeswoman Sarah Kiley said the board broadened the scope of its review of the Energy East and Eastern Mainline projects due to "increasing public interest" in greenhouse gas emissions and the federal government's interest in assessing upstream emissions associated with major pipelines.

That recently resulted in TransCanada filing a letter to the energy board asking for a 30-day suspension for the project so it can study how the decision on greenhouse gas emissions will affect “costs, schedules and viability.”

Gallant has since written a letter to the federal government asking Ottawa to take on the responsibility of the emissions study.

It remains unclear if the National Energy Board or TransCanada wants the federal government to do that.

The energy board has said it wants intervenors in the process to weigh in during the review process on emissions and their impact.

The letter sent by Gallant to the prime minister, Carr, and Environment Minister McKenna also makes two other requests of the federal government:

“The federal government should publicly issue a statement of principles that will be used to guide cabinet decisions on this and similar projects,” Gallant wrote.

He also added that “the federal government should continue to support industry by responding, in a timely fashion, to any questions of clarification asked by TransCanada during TransCanada‘s review period.”

Deslongchamps said that the Trudeau Liberals have already issued interim principles announced in January 2016.

That included a declaration that “decisions will be based on science, traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples and other relevant evidence,” as well as that “direct and upstream greenhouse gas emissions linked to the projects under review will be assessed.”

There’s also the principle that “no project proponent will be asked to return to the starting line.”

Project reviews were to continue within the existing legislative framework, but the Energy East review was reset, not by Ottawa, but instead by the National Energy Board after original members reviewing the project stepped down amid questions of a potential conflict of interest.

The process was reset and the country's energy regulator has since announced it will now factor in both upstream and downstream greenhouse gas emissions in deciding if TransCanada's Energy East pipeline project should be approved.

Meanwhile, Deslongchamps said that the federal government "will continue to support industry by responding, in a timely fashion, to any questions of clarification asked by TransCanada during the review period."

Business outreach; Ontario Energy Minister meets with Kenora chamber of commerce

Lake of the Woods Enterprise
Thu Sep 21 2017
Page: A14
Section: News
Byline: Kathleen Charlebois

Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault is meeting with local business communities across the region.

The minister was in Kenora where he met with Kenora and District Chamber of Commerce members on Friday, Sept. 15 to talk about changes to the Fair Hydro Plan and supports for small businesses.

"It was a good response," he said. "You've got a very engaged chamber with a lot of very strong businesses talking about the importance of energy in their business costs. Many of them weren't aware of the Save on Energy program, which can save them significant dollars, so [we were] talking about how we can communicate that better as a government, because I think the government needs to do a better job of that."

Under the Fair Hydro Plan, electricity bills for residents and more than 500,000 small businesses and farms have been reduced by 25 per cent as of July 1. However, some small businesses don't receive the reduction if they're considered Class B consumers, but Thibeault said he's discussed other options for businesses looking to reduce their bills, such as the Industry Conservation Initiative for large energy consumers.

Thibeault also said there are eight jurisdictions that receive extra deductions under the Rural Remote Rate Protection Plan, including Hydro One medium and low density customers, but not Kenora Hydro.

For Hydro One customers, there is a “significant reduction on distribution charges “to bring them online with the Ontario average,” he said. “We’re talking a 40 to 50 per cent reduction for people on the Hydro One R2 designation in places like Atikokan or Sioux Lookout because we’ve brought down their distribution charges while there are significant savings that are happening to those type of ratepayers.”

Andrew Scribilo, past president of the Kenora chamber, said Thibeault seemed “very upfront and honest” during the chamber meeting, which was held in a question and answer format.

“It was very open and there didn’t seem to be anything hidden. They do want to make plans in the future [as to] what’s accessible for business, small business and residential customers,” he said.

Scribilo added that the chamber will take a lead on making business owners aware of the incentive programs.

Since the Ontario legislature has returned after the summer break, Thibeault said the most important item for the ministry right now is the Long-Term Energy Plan, which he dubbed a “Thanksgiving turkey.”

“It’s really going to talk about fairness and choice for people,” he said. Public consultations on the plan were held from October to December in 2016, including one in Kenora.

In the meantime, Thibeault said he recommends that “every single business owner and every single resident” contact their local utilities in order to access programs they can qualify for.

Arran-Elderslie council briefs | In support of the Green Energy Act

Hanover Post

2017-09-21

Byline: Eric Elliott | Source: Special To Postmedia

Arran-Elderslie council approved a motion to support the request from Garth Manning as the "last effort" to overturn the Green Energy Act using the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Manning, a retired lawyer, submitted an application for judicial review before the Divisional Court in Ottawa rather than fighting specific wind or solar projects in rural Ontario. Manning said in his letter to council that they are still threatened by residue from the White Pines project with others still on their way in the future. The White Pines project establishes 29 wind turbines to be placed near Prince Edward County, south of Belleville.

The case is currently before Justice Labrosse in Ottawa who cited a lack of municipalities supporting the application, which is why Manning is reaching out for the support of municipalities such as Arran Elderslie in rural Ontario. The municipality of Arran-Elderslie voted at council to move forward with the motion to support the challenge to help equalize the rights of rural Ontario municipalities when compared to suburban areas under the Green Energy Act.

City of Guelph tackling buckthorn problem on Silvercreek trail

Guelph Mercury

2017-09-20

Byline: Jessica Lovell

Tree removal is continuing along a section of city trail that was subject to clear cutting by Hydro One two years ago. But this time, city staff say the plan is to replace the trees that are being removed.

People who frequent the section of Silvercreek Park trail that runs from the west end of Water Street up to Municipal Street under the hydro lines will have noticed an area dotted with tree stumps, where vegetation was recently removed and wood chips scattered in its place.

"We're leaving that big pile or mulch to suppress the growth of the buckthorn for now," said Dave Beaton, the city's supervisor of trails and natural areas.

It is primarily buckthorn, a non-native, invasive shrub, that was removed from the area over the last couple of weeks in what is to be a multi-year plan to rehabilitate and enhance this natural area.

It is along a section of city-maintained trail that has already undergone significant changes over the last couple of years.

In 2015, Hydro One clear cut the area under the hydro corridor out of concerns that the trees could encroach on the power lines. It left the trail, which previously led walkers through an archway of tree cover, completely exposed on its south side.

The following spring, a community planting initiative saw the trees replaced with native shrubs and wildflowers.

The community interest in the area following the clear cutting is part of the reason the city is focusing its rehabilitation efforts on this section of trail, Beaton said.

“The community was really quite traumatized by the (clear-cut),” he said. “They were interested in seeing the health of their forest improved.”

The area under the power lines is turning into a nice meadow, and the area just north of the trail is a section of bush in which city staff recognized some significant species, including some relatively rare black maples, Beaton said.

Unfortunately, “it was being buried in invasive buckthorn,” he said.

The species, which is spread when birds eat the berries and then disperse the seeds in their droppings, can choke out native trees and shrubs, Beaton said.

“It suppresses the growth of the other trees,” he said, explaining it has the effect of poisoning the soil for other trees.

In the area along the Silvercreek trail, the buckthorn plants, which would normally be referred to as shrubs, had grown to treelike proportions. So their removal is noticeable.

And the area won’t be replanted right away, Beaton said.

“We have to get rid of the buckthorn and have it be gone for a little bit before we can plant back into it,” he said.

That is partly to ensure that the seeds, which remain viable in the soil for years, don’t start to sprout.

“There are a nearly infinite number of buckthorn seeds in that area,” Beaton said, noting that the city is working to eradicate it without using chemical means.

There is also still more buckthorn to be removed from the area in the coming years. People can check out a map showing where the removals will be taking place online at guelph.ca/living/environment/trees/silvercreek-park-rehabilitation .

Eventually, the area will get some new plantings, and these will include native trees and shrubs, in order to replace the bush area that was removed with something similar, rather than more meadow, Beaton said.

“The hope is, within three to five years, this will be, once again, a beautiful biodiverse area,” he said.

OPG Way Trail unveiled by the Kincardine Trails Association

Kincardine News

Thu Sep 21 2017

Page: A3

Section: News

Byline: Ryan Berry

Source: Kincardine News

The Kincardine Trails Association has established a new path with the OPG way.

Another piece of the trail initiative is complete and sits on the dividing line between the Municipality of Kincardine and the Municipality of Huron-Kinloss.

“Working on the dividing line is going to take cooperation between the two municipalities, and there was total co-operation,” said Brad Kirkconnell of the Kincardine Trails Association.

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) funded the project with $15,000 hence the name of the new trail.

Brad Kirkconnell complimented the Municipality of Kincardine for their work and also thanked the neighbours to the trail who have been cutting the grass for the Kincardine Trails Association.

“This is exciting, our cooperation with Huron-Kinloss is not too hard,” said Mayor Anne Eadie.

“One of the biggest compliments I get from locals and visitors is about our trails,” she added.

The Kincardine Trails Association continues it’s trail extension initiatives and continues to look for funding.

Low turnout for BESS

Cornwall Standard Freeholder

Thu Sep 21 2017

Page: A1 / Front

Section: News

Byline: Lois Ann Baker

A public meeting to answer questions about Ontario Power Generator’s proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) brought out only a small handful of residents.

Shawn Bremner gave a presentation on the proposal and used the opportunity to inform the public of the project.

“It’s part of the ISO RFP, it’s a requirement to have public meetings to let people know what is going on in the neighbourhood,” he said. “This is part of OPG‘s corporate citizenship. It’s what we do, try to keep our neighbours and the public informed.”

Bremner said the impact on the citizens of Cornwall would be almost nil. The battery itself would not be manufactured in the area as there aren’t any manufacturers in Canada who make them.

“There will be a small amount of civil construction work basically at the site and some electrical work,” he said. “Once it’s up and operating, it’s pretty much maintenance-free.”

The proposed battery energy storage system will store electricity to be used if needed.

“The system has its loads and it has its supply and either can change rapidly,” said Bremner. “The ISO controls the whole system. What they want is this regulation service. If supply is higher than demand then the battery will store power. It demand goes up and supply can’t go up quick enough it will supply power. It will push power onto the grid to match demand as instantaneously as they can.”

Bremner said so far OPG has not had any resistance to having one of these systems located in any community as they are pretty innocuous.

“A system like this, because there is no harmful emissions, there is no use of water, no fuels, there isn’t an environmental assessment type process required for a system like this,” he said. “There are only building permits, noise permits and things like that you have to meet. The system is so inert.”

OPG is hoping this proposed facility wins a contract as it would provide greener electricity - most if not all of its top-up would come from the nearby Moses-Saunders dam and it could meet any shortterm demand spike without the generating greenhouse gases a natural-gas fired facility would.

Characteristics of the BESS include storing energy from the grid, the ability to ramp up to full capacity rapidly, the ability to be connected both behind and in front of the meter and is automatically operated.

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