

Ainslie Cruickshank, Toronto Star request

From: "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>
To: "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Cc: "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>
Date: Fri, 18 Aug 2017 12:12:14 -0400
Attachments: Final Remarks - Economic Club of Canada - Feb 24 2017.pdf (219.72 kB)

Hey guys, below is what we shared with Ainslie Cruickshank at the Toronto Star. She's now asked when the LTEP is set to be released. Suggesting response is "later this year", but I'd also propose talking with her on background about the Independent Electricity Operator System's (IESO's) Ontario Planning Outlook (OPO) – and let her know IESO isn't forecasting a need for domestic electricity capacity until the 2023 - 2025 timeframe. ISEO is responsible for identifying need and would work backwards to launch a procurement for new electricity capacity. For her reference, I'd propose sharing remarks the Minister delivered earlier this year in Ottawa. In his remarks, he talks about market renewal and the use of technology agnostic capacity auctions (pages 9 to 11) for procuring new electricity capacity when needed. She's onto a different story now, but hoping to pass this along to her in the next hour or so. Let me know if this works. Thanks!

1) Are there any plans to launch a new RFQ process for wind energy developments in the future?

Ontario's electricity sector is now over 90 per cent emissions-free, which includes about 4,800 megawatts (MW) of wind power online – enough electricity to power approximately 1.4 million homes each year. As confirmed by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) in the Ontario Planning Outlook (OPO), Ontario has a strong supply of reliable power for the foreseeable future and there is no need to procure a large amount of additional power at this time.

Given this strong energy position, on September 27, 2016, Ontario suspended the second round of the Large Renewable Procurement (LRP II) process and the Energy-from-Waste Standard Offer Program, halting the procurement of over 1,000 MW of solar, wind, hydroelectric, bioenergy and energy from waste projects.

The long-term energy planning process will ensure that there is an adequate supply of clean, reliable power to meet the needs of the province. We are currently developing the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP), using feedback received during the comprehensive LTEP engagement process, which took place from October 2016 to January 2017.

2) Is the ministry considering amending the community engagement process to ensure great community involvement at earlier stages in wind energy development?

Our government recognizes that sound, prudent long-term energy planning is essential to a clean, reliable and affordable energy future. When communities expressed concerns to us about the procurement process for large renewable energy projects, we listened.

In 2014, the competitive Large Renewable Procurement (LRP) process replaced the Large Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program for future renewable energy projects.

As a cornerstone of the first round of the LRP process (LRP I), mandatory engagement requirements facilitated early relationship-building between project developers and local communities.

LRP I proponents were required to engage with municipalities and take into account local needs and considerations before proposals were submitted.

On March 10, 2016 the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) released a list of 16 contracts that were offered under LRP I, representing almost 455 megawatts (MW) of energy generation capacity. Of the

16 contracted LRP I projects, more than 80 per cent included participation from one or more Indigenous communities, including five projects with more than 50 per cent Indigenous participation. In addition, 75 per cent of the successful LRP I projects included support from local municipalities in their applications.

We know that when municipalities play an active role in the renewable energy development process, they help to ensure that renewable energy projects meet local needs.

Large-scale wind energy projects in Ontario are subject to the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) regulation, which includes minimum setbacks for wind energy projects, environmental studies and community consultation requirements.

Renewable energy developers are required to consult with the public, municipalities and Indigenous communities as part of the Renewable Energy Approval process (Ontario Regulation 359/09).

Developers must inform the local municipality about the proposed project, hold at least two public meetings during the planning stages to hear any local concerns and document all municipal feedback received as part of the application process.

In advance of those public meetings, developers must make any studies or reports related to the project available for review. If the developer is not able to provide all of the required information, they must explain why. In addition, developers must describe and document efforts to address any issues raised during the municipal consultation.

For more information on the REA process, please contact the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC).

3) Would the Ministry consider mandatory community ownership of wind energy developments and requirements that the community be involved in project planning, including siting, from the earliest stages?

As a cornerstone of the first round of the LRP process (LRP I), mandatory engagement requirements facilitated early relationship-building between project developers and local communities.

LRP I proponents were required to engage with municipalities and take into account local needs and considerations before proposals were submitted.

While municipal and community support was a significant factor in the evaluation of LRP I project proposals, it was not a mandatory requirement.

As noted above, the IESO has confirmed in the OPO that Ontario has a strong supply of reliable power for the foreseeable future and there is no need to procure a large amount of additional power at this time.

From: Berry, James (ENERGY)
Sent: August-17-17 6:18 PM
To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Cc: Campbell, David (ENERGY); Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Subject: ENERGY Media Calls | Thursday Aug. 17

Hi all –

Below is the statement sent to gallery regarding the Ontario Superior Court of Justice decision in CUPE's claim against the Province, followed by two other Energy inquiries and one agency call.

"We are pleased that the court accepted Ontario's position and dismissed CUPE's claim, which we have always maintained had no merit. This matter is currently still subject to an appeal period, and as a result it would be inappropriate to comment further on the decision.

Our government is focused on building Ontario up and helping people in their everyday lives, and broadening the ownership of Hydro One is a crucial part of that plan. It allows us to invest \$4 billion in critical infrastructure across the province – including GO Regional Express Rail, light rail transit,

improvements to roads and bridges, natural gas network expansion in rural and northern communities and the Ring of Fire – without raising taxes, increasing debt, or recklessly cutting public services. These new infrastructure projects will lead to new jobs, new investments, and will boost economic activity.

Broadening the ownership of Hydro One has also led to an improved organization – we're already seeing the benefits of a renewed, better run utility. Hydro One has ended the practice of security deposits for new customers, and has increased choice by introducing new e-billing options and billing cycles. The company was also the first utility in the province to voluntarily ban winter disconnections. Hydro One has already reduced operational costs by \$60 million, and we look forward to continued improvements in service and cost management."

Ministry: 2 inquiries

Topic: Wind project planning

Reporter & Outlet: Ainslie Cruickshank, Toronto Star

Response Type: Ministry spokesperson

Questions:

I'm working on a story following up on the attached academic paper which suggests more community involvement in wind project planning could lead to less confrontational development and calls for mandatory community ownership of projects going forward.

I wondered if it would be possible to get a statement from the Ministry or Minister Thibeault in response to the following questions:

- 1) Are there any plans to launch a new RFQ process for wind energy developments in the future?
- 2) Is the ministry considering amending the community engagement process to ensure great community involvement at earlier stages in wind energy development?
- 3) Would the Ministry consider mandatory community ownership of wind energy developments and requirements that the community be involved in project planning, including siting, from the earliest stages?

Response:

TBD, will provide tomorrow morning. Deadline midday Friday, August 18.

Topic: Status of East-West Tie transmission project

Reporter & Outlet: Andrew Coffman Smith, S&P Global Market Intelligence

Response Type: Ministry spokesperson

Questions: I'm an energy reporter with S&P Global. I'm trying to locate a Aug. 4 letter from the energy minister to ISO regarding NextBridge's new East-West Tie Line. Could you forward me this letter? Feel free to also provide a statement regarding the project and its costs.

Response:

Shared attached letter from Minister Thibeault to IESO

Agencies: 1 inquiry

Agency : IESO

Topic: Solar eclipse

Reporter & Outlet: Shawn McCarthy, Globe and Mail

Response Type: IESO spokesperson

Questions:

1. Does IESO expect to face any issues from the eclipse's impact on solar generation in the province?
2. Will natural gas generators have to offset any temporary loss of power?
3. Will there be issues of powering down/up from solar generators?
4. How many utility-scale solar generation facilities there are in Ont, and what is its max capacity?

Response:

- This is a unique event because it is the first solar eclipse since large amounts of solar generation have been installed across North America.
- Although Ontario is not on the path of the total eclipse, the eclipse may block up to 70 percent of the sun across Ontario, which may result in some potential impacts to the power grid. The eclipse is expected to take place during peak hours for electricity use.
- Although we are anticipating a decline in the amount of solar power during the eclipse, the system will remain reliable and we expect no issues. We have been tracking this event for some time and have the benefit of knowing exactly when the eclipse will be happening.
- To make sure we're prepared for the eclipse:
 - We've communicated the event widely to our Ontario electricity sector partners.
 - We'll have flexible generators ready to respond to the potential reduction in output from our solar facilities.
 - We'll make sure we have space on our transmission system to increase power transfers should a need arise, including ability to support our neighbours to the south as they'll be impacted more than us.

On his Q about solar facilities, we told him that Ontario has about 2,300 MW of solar generation, which is roughly the same amount of power needed to meet peak summer electricity demand for Ottawa and Brampton combined. If it is a sunny day on August 21, solar generation will be providing about 10 percent of Ontario's electricity supply. Of that 2,300 MW, 2,000 MW are located on local distribution networks across the province.

We also advised that we added a new page to our website today to provide more information about this event: <http://www.ieso.ca/en/corporate-ieso/media/also-of-interest/2017-solar-eclipse> and that we also be tweeting on Monday on how the control room is responding to the eclipse.