

ECO Report | Reactive Statement

From: "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>
To: "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>
Cc: "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)" <kevin.denheijer@ontario.ca>, "Milner, Anna (MOECC)" <anna.milner@ontario.ca>, "Whittington, Margot (MOECC)" <margot.whittington@ontario.ca>
Date: Mon, 09 Apr 2018 17:17:28 -0400
Attachments: ENERGY Response - Conservation Report 2018 + policy edits April 9 2018 MO clean.docx (27.97 kB)

Hi Forge,

We've crafted a reactive statement to use following the Environmental Commissioner's report tomorrow, which you can see below. Including MOECC to see if there's anything they would like to add. We're happy to take the lead on this.

I've also attached a response from our officials and policy division which can be posted to the Commissioner's website along with the report. We're suggesting that MOECC have a look to see if they want to add anything, and wrap that into an official government response.

Let us know if you have any questions. Happy to chat.

Colin

Colin Nekolaichuk | Senior Communications Advisor
Office of the Hon. Glenn Thibeault | Minister of Energy
T: 416-325-2690 C: 647-504-4928
colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca

ECO Commissioner's Report – Reactive Statement

I would like to thank the Environmental Commissioner for her report. As with any report from an independent office of the legislature, we will carefully review the comments and recommendations.

The Commissioner points out in her report that “replacing coal-fired electricity with renewable energy, nuclear, conservation, and natural gas has cleaned the air, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and increased electrical grid capacity and resilience.” This has “dramatically reduced Ontario’s greenhouse gas emissions, and has improved air quality and public health”, according to the Commissioner.

This confirms that Ontario is taking a leading role in the global fight against climate change, while maintaining a robust, reliable electricity system. In 2017, our electricity system was over 95 per cent free of emissions that cause climate change.

This didn't happen overnight – nearly \$70 billion has been invested to modernize the system since 2003, which the report acknowledges. While Ontarians now benefit from a clean and reliable system, the report re-confirms that Ontario's families and small businesses also pay less on average here than in many other jurisdictions thanks to our Fair Hydro Plan. Families in cities like New York, Boston, and San Francisco pay more than double the average Ontario bill, and consumers in Charlottetown, Regina, Halifax and Moncton are paying more than the Ontario average.

The report also highlights the success of Ontario's energy conservation programs. As we plan for Ontario's energy needs for the next 20 years, conservation will be the first resource considered, as it continues to be one of the most effective tools in electricity planning, generally saving two dollars for every dollar spent.

In the development of the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan the Ministry of Energy worked closely with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to ensure the continued consideration of Ontario's emissions reduction targets. In that spirit, Ontario remains committed to an electricity system that includes renewable energy generation and conservation, and supports the goals of the Province's Climate Change Action Plan.