

ENERGY media calls

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Hi all,

See below for today's media calls. Vito Piliéci was following up on his line of questioning with IESO regarding FIT contract oversight. They took the lead in cooperation with Hydro One, and we provided a high-level supportive statement. Let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Colin

Minister's Office: 1 inquiry

Topic: OFHP bill inserts

Reporter & Outlet: Canadian Press

Response type: Minister's spokesperson

Questions:

What was this OIC for? Was it designed to put ads out there? What was the rationale for this?

Response:

The NDP are trying to distract from the fact that they voted against families, small businesses and farms saving 25% on their hydro bills.

Unlike them, our government has a responsibility to communicate information about programs that affect Ontarians' daily lives, which includes important changes to electricity bills.

Utilities regularly inform their customers about important developments such as when the Ontario Energy Board updates time-of-use rates, or updates to programs like the Ontario Electricity Support Program. It has also been standard practice for the Province to require utilities to include additional on-bill messaging that's important to electricity consumers through regulation, including changes like the the Debt Retirement Charge. An Order In Council is part of the process when passing regulations. We are simply following standard practice.

We continue to hear from people in Ontario who want to understand the Fair Hydro Plan, and how it affects their monthly hydro bill. This is important information for both households and businesses, and we will continue to provide clear, helpful answers whenever possible.

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Agencies: 1 inquiry

Agency: IESO

Topic: FIT projects in Blind River

Reporter & Outlet: Vito Pilioci, Ottawa Citizen

Response type: IESO spokesperson

Questions:

Clarification on the IESO's role in monitoring generation output and what type of monitoring is in place to ensure generators at the local distribution level are not over-generating.

Who is responsible for monitoring that the green energy producers with FIT/MicroFIT contracts are being paid according to their contracts and not overpaid (due to surplus energy generation)?

Responses:

IESO response:

- The IESO monitors the amount of electricity delivered to the high-voltage bulk transmission system; output for transmission-connected generation is directly metered by the IESO.
- The IESO provides oversight of FIT projects by managing the contract to ensure that the project is developed according to the terms of the contract.
- Local distribution companies (LDC), in this case Hydro One, monitor the amount of electricity that is produced in their low-voltage local distribution system.
- Each project is individually metered and financially compensated for its output by the LDC. The LDC informs the IESO of the aggregate output from all FIT facilities in their service territory and the IESO financially compensates the LDC.
- To ensure compliance with the contract, the IESO, with the help of an independent auditor, will conduct random inspections each year. As part of the inspection process, auditors will inspect the facility and review all relevant records for the purposes of verifying that a supplier is in compliance with the contract. This includes reviewing the generation data, the electrical diagrams, and the facility in person.
- The supplier can only generate what their contract capacity allows. If there is any anomaly with the generation output, the LDC would notify the IESO. Also, as part of the inspection process, the generation data is reviewed to ensure there are no anomalies.
- The IESO has reviewed the generation data from its more than 400 random

inspections and has not had a FIT project that has been paid for more than its contracted generation.

Statement by Minister of Energy spokesperson:

Ontario benefits from 90 per cent emissions-free electricity generated by a diverse supply of generation sources; including wind, solar, nuclear, hydro-electricity, and bioenergy. The rapid growth of the clean tech and renewable energy sectors in this province has attracted billions of dollars in investment to Ontario and led to the creation of thousands of new jobs.

We have confidence in both the Independent System Operator (IESO) and the Ontario Energy Board to ensure that our renewables contracts are being managed appropriately. The IESO ensures that projects are constructed within the proper parameters, and local utilities ensure that those contracts are operated within the terms of their contract. The OEB has additional oversight over utilities, and ensures that contracts are being operated according to the terms of their license.

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