

ENERGY media calls

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Date: Mon, 29 May 2017 18:08:34 -0400

Hi all,

Please see below for today's media calls.

Best,
Colin

Minister's Office: 3 inquiries

Topic : FHP bill inserts

Reporter & Outlet : Darren MacDonald, Sudbury.com

Response Type : Minister's spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

I was hoping to get a response from the minister on the NDP release today regarding the fair hydro plan messaging being included in hydro bills?

Response:

Our Fair Hydro Plan Act, if passed, would provide an average of 25 per cent off bills for all residential households and as many as half a million small businesses and farms with any increases being held to the rate of inflation for four years. Through our proposed plan, low-income Ontarians and those living in eligible rural and Northern communities would see savings of up to 40 to 50 per cent. The NDP have not managed to come forward with a credible plan to reduce hydro rates, and so they're quick to distract in any way they can.

Worse still, after months of claiming to support electricity rate relief, last week the NDP confirmed they would actually repeal Ontario's Fair Hydro Act. This would deny rate relief for Ontario families, farms and small businesses, and abandon the most vulnerable consumers who need help the most.

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, the eight per cent rebate equivalent to the provincial portion of the HST, and updates to programs like the Ontario Electricity Support Program. We are simply following standard practice.

Topic : Constance Lake First Nation Agreement

Reporter & Outlet : Carl Clutche, Thunder Bay Chronicle

Response Type : Minister's spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

According to Chief Allen, the band was supposed to receive about \$60K or more per year over the last 20 years, but did not. Do you know why that is?

Also, how much did the station cost to build, who owns it now, and how much does the province receive in revenue?

Response:

TBD

Topic : Constance Lake First Nation Agreement

Reporter & Outlet : Beverly Andrews, Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN)

Response Type : Minister's spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

Could you provide some specific benefits the Constance Lake First Nation will gain from this new agreement? Is it available for public to view?

What does this agreement mean for other FNs that may have a power generating stations in their territory?

Response:

TBD

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Ministry: 2 inquiries

Topic : Constance Lake First Nation Agreement

Reporter & Outlet : Caroline Bourdua, CBC Radio Canada

Response Type : Ministry spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

1. The First Nation has been a partner in the project for over 20 years, but has not received any benefits to date. What do they mean by that?
2. What is the agreement about... how much money will Constance Lake FN get with this agreement and for how long is the agreement?
3. Does this replace the contracts for green energy that were cancelled by the province because with solar and wind power, it was too expensive?
4. How many FN do benefit from such agreement like Constance Lake?

Response:

TBD

Topic : Rate reduction – rural/low income communities

Reporter & Outlet : Chris Reynolds, QP Briefing

Response Type : Ministry spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

Can a ratepayer receive an up to 50 per cent reduction on their electricity bill only if they're both in an eligible rural community and lower-income? Or, could a ratepayer receive that reduction qualifying as just one or the other?

Response:

TBD

Agencies: 2 inquiries

Agency: OEB

Topic : Pending decision re: shifting load from Burlington Hydro to Hydro One

Reporter & Outlet : John Bkila, Burlington Post

Response Type : OEB spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

1. Is this switch indeed taking place? If so, how many customers would be affected?
2. Why is this switch happening?
3. Is there a meeting being planned by the OEB taking place on June 15 to make this decision? Do you know if the affected residents were notified by mail or phone?
4. The residents seem to think the switch over, if it occurs, will increase their hydro service costs by 42 per cent — is there a reason why there would be an increase in their rates? Would it be by that much?

Response:

(pending approval)

- Response to Q1.
 - o The OEB received the application Monday afternoon. It now has to be reviewed and a decision made. We cannot answer that question until the review and decision-making process are completed.
- Response to Q2.
 - o Based on an initial review of the information we have received, 110 customers are potentially impacted by this application.
- Response to Remaining Qs.
 - o The OEB just received the application Monday afternoon. Once we have reviewed the application we will have more information to share.

Topic : Transformer Station Upgrade (Runnymede)

Reporter & Outlet : Chris Glover, CBC Toronto

Response Type : OEB spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

Background

Hydro One Networks Inc. asked the Ontario Energy Board for permission to upgrade approximately 10 kilometres of 115 kilovolt electricity transmission line and related facilities and to expand the Runnymede Transformer Station. Hydro One Networks Inc.'s application says that the project will connect the Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown Light Railway Transit system, supply the growing demand for electricity and increase the reliability of service in the west end of the City of Toronto.

Questions

1. What environmental studies were needed for this project to gain approvals?
2. Did Hydro One provide OEB with the level of Electronic Magnetic Fields that the

upgrade would release?

Response:

(pending approval)

1. The environmental assessment and the EMF are not within the scope of OEB's approval for projects of this type (approval to construct electricity transmission system components such as transmission lines and Transformer Stations).

Both are within the Ministry's of Environment and Climate Change jurisdiction.

2. The OEB approved Hydro One's application based on its findings that the West Toronto Transmission Enhancement Project is needed; it is the best alternative to address the need; and it has no adverse impacts on consumers with respect to price, reliability and quality of service.

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